

YEAR ONE

Written by

Harold Ramis, Gene Stupnitsky & Lee Eisenberg

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IN THE BEGINNING... 1

BLACK an infinite void but at the center a SINGULARITY, a particle infinitely small and infinitely dense that contains all the potential matter and energy in the universe.

THE BIG BANG

A blinding flash of light as the singularity explodes, particles expanding in all directions until they fill the screen, a shimmering cloud of electromagnetic dust. Then the particles start to attract one another to form atoms, the atoms elements, the elements form molecules, the molecules compounds, the compounds cells, then a cell twitches and a PRIMITIVE DRUM starts booming out a Dolby heartbeat as we witness the rapid evolution of organisms. Then a big fish swims by and is suddenly swallowed whole by

a

much bigger fish, and we rapidly rise from the depths and pull back to reveal--

THE SEA 2

Vast, blue, rolling toward the shore, brilliant sun rising

in

a cloudless azure sky.

A WOMAN emerges from the sea like Aphrodite, strongly

backlit

to obscure her nudity, but we can see she is full-breasted, long-limbed, toned and tanned-- perfection. Then a MAN rises up out of the water beside her, and staggers clumsily in the surf. Even in silhouette we can see he's far from perfect-- short, overweight. They turn to each other and embrace. It's paradise-- for him.

THE WOMAN

(looking deep in his eyes)
I'm so hungry.

THE MAN

(wanting her)
Yeah. Me, too.
The DRUMS get hotter as he closes his eyes and leans in to kiss her, but she turns and walks away.

WOMAN

What should we eat?

THE MAN

Oh, you actually meant you were hungry. I thought-- forget it.

Official White

2.

He follows her.

They walk toward the trees that fringe the beach. When they reach the line of vegetation, the woman, MAYA, kneels, pulls berries from a bush and pops them in her mouth.

there

The man, ZED, grabs a handful of berries and they squat

noshing like Adam and Eve.

THE WOMAN

Mmmm, these are so good.

THE MAN

Mmrrunm, they really are .

When she turns away he spits them out in disgust.

Maya smiles and puts her face very close to his, their lips almost touching.

MAYA

(very sexy)

You know what I'd really like?

ZED

(HOPEFULLY)

What?

MAYA

Some fruit.

ZED

(frustrated, but hanging

IN

)
Yeah, fruit's good.

(he stands up)

You want an apple or a pear?

MAYA

(THINKS)

No.

He scans the nearby trees.

ZED

Orange? Tangerine?

(she shakes her head)

Umm, mango? Kiwi? Peach?

She shakes her head coyly.

He starts darting from tree to tree, hopefully pointing out various options. She follows him.

Official White

3.

ZED

(cont'd)

Plum? Nectarine? Passion fruit?

MAYA

(COQUETTISHLY)

Nuh-uh.

ZED

(fake smile)

Okay, don't tell me-- papaya?

Pomegranate? Lemon? Lime?

Kumquat? Uh, cock? Cockfruit?

MAYA

NOOO--

The game is no longer cute but he still plays along.

ZED

Watermelon? Honeydew? Grapes?

MAYA

NOOO--

ZED

(this is a lot of work to
get laid)
Starfruit, casaba-- tangelo?

MAYA

Nope.

ZED

(he doesn't even like her

ANYMORE)

Okay, I give up. Which fruit do
you want?

MAYA

(POINTS)

That one.

Zed looks. It's a beautiful tree with lush, apple-like red
fruit hanging from it.

ZED

(SCOFFS)

Yeah, right. Okay.

MAYA

Why not?

Official white

4.

ZED

Because that's the fruit we don't eat! It's forbidden.

MAYA

Why not?

ZED

Because we don't! It's a rule! That's the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. You don't eat from that one. Nobody ever has.

MAYA

Why not?

ZED

Stop saying why not! I told you-- it's a rule.

MAYA

So do you always follow the rules?

ZED

No-- yeah-- I don't know. We don't have that many rules. In fact, we only have one rule-- DON'T EAT THAT

FRUIT.

MAYA

Okay, fine. We won't. Forget I mentioned it. I understand if you're afraid--

ZED

I'm not "afraid"--

MAYA

No, really, it's all right. I just thought you might be curious why we can eat everything else that walks, crawls, swims, flies, or grows in the ground, but not that particular fruit. And I thought you might be the kind of man who's willing to take a chance and start thinking for himself, but I guess I was wrong.

She glares defiantly at Zed, then starts to walk away. It's not Paradise anymore. Then like every man that ever lived and will ever live, he caves.

5. Official White

ZED

Okay! Fine! You want to try the Good and Evil fruit, you got it. He rips two ripe fruits from a low-hanging bough and hands her one. They both stare at the fruit.

MAYA

You first.

ZED

No way! It was your idea. You go first.

MAYA

We both bite at the same time. Zed considers for a long moment then decides.

ZED

Okay. Ready? One-- two-- three! Zed chomps down hard and takes a big bite, but Maya fakes

him

out and stops before her teeth break the skin.

ZED

(cont'd)

(with his mouth full)

Got me. That's a good move. I'm going to steal it.

He starts chewing and she watches as he gets his first taste of Good and Evil. Then his face contorts in disgust and he spits it out.

ZED

(cont'd)

(gagging and spitting)

Yuchh! That's horrible. Yecch, ptui! Ughh.

He frantically wipes the inside of his mouth with his fingers, trying to get the terrible taste out.

MAYA

So you're saying it's not good?

ZED

Yes! I'm saying it's not good!
He grabs his belly as his stomach starts to cramp. Then a
loud bowel sound and his eyebrows shoot up.
ZED

(cont'd)

Oh, no--

6.

Official White
He runs for the bushes. Maya's attention gets diverted.

MAYA

(noticing something)
Ooh, banana!

CUT TO:

3

3

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

A TRIBE OF PRIMITIVE CAUCASIANS. Dozens of huts surround a
communal fire pit where WOMEN in loincloths roll flatbread
CO
and cook it on heated rocks. The drums start pounding out a
celebratory rhythm as the HUNTERS enter carrying a DEAD BOAR
on a pole, their faces marked with boar's blood, ritual
signs
in honor of the kill.
The lead hunter MARLAK, is a hulking thug with a bony,
Neanderthal forehead. He cuts off the boar's head and drops
it at Maya's feet.

MARLAK

(blunt grunt)
For you.

MAYA

(forces a grateful smile)
Thank you, Marlak.

4

ZED'S HUT

Zed is lying on a pad of animal hides in front of his hut, his guts still aching. His best friend OH sits next to him sewing skins together, watching the hunters with envy, jealous of the attention they're getting from the women. If Zed is over-confident and reckless, Oh is his polar opposite, nervous and risk-averse, the kind of guy who would apologize if you poked him in the ass with your spear. He may, in fact, be near-sighted and if glasses had been invented he'd be wearing them.

OH**(GRUMBLING)**

Look at them. Hunters think they're so cool. They don't think gathering is dangerous? There are thorns-- bees-- those big stingy ants. I could hunt-- I just don't want to. And what's with the blood on their faces? They think that's sanitary?

Official White

7.

ZED

(miserable with pain)
Do me a favor. Just kill me.

OH

Why did you eat that fruit? It's forbidden. Everybody knows that.

ZED

I couldn't help myself! Maya was just staring at me with those pouty eyes-- and those perky breasts-- opposable thumbs. And how about the name? "The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil"? You don't think that sounds tempting? They should've just called it "The

Tree with the Fruit that Tastes
Like Shit." Then for sure nobody
would eat it.

Zed notices a VILLAGER squatting in the bushes right behind
his dwelling.

ZED

(cont'd)

(shouts testily)

Hey! Squanto! Give me a break,
would ya'! You got the whole
forest!

(to Oh)

Why does everyone have to crap
right behind my hut?

OH

I think, and I could be wrong, that
all the poop makes the ground more
fertile, which in turn, gives the
leaves in the area a softer feel.

It's a vicious circle.

Oh notices a very pretty young woman, EEMA, standing near

the

communal fire with TWO HUNTERS. His heart leaps.

OH

(cont'd)

(calls out eagerly)

Hi, Eema!

Eema turns, sees it's him and gives him a perfunctory wave,
then turns back to the hunters and says something about Oh
that makes them laugh.

Official White

8.

OH

(cont'd)

She doesn't even know I exist.

(LOVE-STRUCK)

I want to lay with her so badly.

ZED

I don't see it. I mean she's cute,
but I don't think I'd lay with her.

OH

Of course not! She's your sister!
It'd be like sleeping with your
mother.

ZED

which was a big mistake. I see
that now. You think it won't be
awkward the next morning but--
trust me, you just want to rip your
eyeballs out.

(shakes off the memory)

Listen, if you want to impress
Eema, tonight at the feast, do the
fertility dance with her, then drag
her back to your hut.

OH

My hut's a mess. And what if she
struggles?

ZED

So you give her a little tap on the
head. Women respond to that--

OH

(SIGHS)

No. She only likes hunters-- not
gatherers.

They look over at Eema, who is now slowly stroking the shaft
of a hunter's spear.

ZED

I wouldn't read too much into that.
She kisses, then tongues the spear tip.

ZED

(cont'd)

Okay, that might mean something.
The hunter Marlak walks by and stops. He's clearly half a
rung lower on the human evolutionary scale.

Official White

MARLAK

You didn't hunt today.

ZED

Yes, Marlak. Very observant. I was indisposed. Got that intestinal thing that's been going around.

Marlak grunts and examines the primitive line drawings on the walls of Zed's hut.

MARLAK

(points at a drawing)
What's that supposed to be?

ZED

It's a bear.

MARLAK

That's not a bear. That's just some lines on a skin.

ZED

(SIGHS)

It's not a real bear. It's a "representation" of a bear. You know, a "picture."

MARLAK

That's stupid.

ZED

Yeah. Like you'd know.

MARLAK

And what's that?
He picks up a skin with another of Zed's drawings on it, one of a big-breasted naked girl. Zed quickly grabs it and holds it upside down.

this

ZED

That-- would be an antelope-- or a deer-- a deerpalope.

MARLAK

(trying to look at it upside down)
It looks like Maya.

10.

Official White

ZED

(hides it away)
How could it be Maya? It's just
some lines on a skin.

MARLAK

Stay away from my woman.

ZED

Your woman? I'm not sure dragging
her into the bushes kicking and
screaming means you have an actual
"thing" going.
Marlak cuffs him hard on the side of the head.

MARLAK

(walking off)
Stay away.

ZED

(calls after him)
Hey! Nice supra-orbital ridge,
fartface!

DISSOLVE TO:

5

5

A ROARING FIRE

The DRUMS kick up another notch as the huge boar roasts on a
spit over a roaring fire.

EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

The tribe is gathered around the big fire pit. The tribe's
SHAMAN, their medicine man and spirit leader, dances around
the fire in a boar's head mask, accessorized with way too
many bones, beads and feathers.
Zed and Oh are sitting near the fire, smoking something in a
long, decorated pipe.

ZED

Hey, Oh? Did it ever occur to you
that there may be more to life than
this?

OH

(taking the pipe from Zed)
Okay, I think somebody's had
enough.

Official White

11.

ZED

No,
I'm serious. We're born into
this world, we hunt, we gather, we
eat, we sleep, we make babies--

OH

You make babies--

ZED

--but why? What's the point?

OH

You always get like this when you
smoke.
Oh takes a big toke on the pipe, chokes, and starts coughing
uncontrollably.

ZED

No. Last night I couldn't sleep,
so I just laid there looking up at
the sky, counting the stars. There
were over seventy. Kinda makes you
think, doesn't it?

OH

(looks up at the sky)
No.

ZED

Really? I've been thinking about
it ever since I ate that fruit.

Don't you ever wonder what's on the other side of the mountains?

OH

There's nothing on the other side of the mountains. Everybody knows that. The world just ends. You'd fall right off the edge.
(makes a sharp gesture)

ZED

But what if it doesn't? What if it just goes on and on forever? Or what if it's round?
(he picks up a round

ROCK))

And if you keep walking you eventually come right back to where you started?
He traces the circumference with his finger.

12. Official White

OH

(SCOFFS)

Oh, yeah, that's plausible.
Zed flings the rock away.

A VILLAGER (O.C.)

Oww!

ZED

(waves apologetically)
Sorry!

OH

(tries to cheer him up
Will you stop with that crazy talk?
We're at a feast. You love feasts.
There's women, there's boar meat,
there's an assortment of berries--
there's women--

Oh looks over at Eema. Zed picks up on it.

ZED

Do it, man! Go dance for her.

OH

You think? They're playing the Jackal Dance. I don't do that one so well.

ZED

Are you kidding? Go! Jackal Dance!

Oh summons his courage, gets up and crosses to where the girls are sitting.

Zed makes subtle eye contact with Maya, waggles his eyebrows and licks his lips. She laughs and looks away.

Oh starts dancing timidly right in front of Eema, subtly jerking his pelvis, trying to be cool.

Eema just stares at him for a moment, then goes back to talking to her friends. Oh looks over at Zed for help.

Zed mimes clonking her on the head.

Oh picks up a wooden club and hits Eema right on the noggin. However, instead of submitting, she gets really pissed, stands up and decks him with one punch.

Official White

13.

Eema glowers at Zed who feigns innocence.

CUT TO:

6

6

THE FIRE PIT - MINUTES LATER

A hunter is slicing off hunks of boar meat for the other tribesmen. Zed pushes through the small crowd waiting for food and goes to the front.

ZED

Excuse me, hunter coming through.

VILLAGERS

Hey! Wait your turn! There's a

line here, buddy!

ZED

For your information I was in line
and I just stepped out to chew some
food for an elderly lady.
Suddenly a SPEAR is thrust inches from his face, stopping
him. It's Marlak, who towers over Zed. His cohort,
ENMEBARAGESI, short and stout, stands beside him.

MARLAK

Enmebaragesi said he saw you in the
garden with Maya.

ZED

Oh, really? And what if I called
Enmebaragesi a liar?

ENMEBARAGESI

I'd kill you.

ZED

if"-- it
Calm down. I said "what
was a hypothetical.
Marlak gets right in Zed's face.

MARLAK

Enmebaragesi doesn't lie.
Villagers gather around them, Maya and Eema among them.
Marlak puts his spear point to Zed's throat.
MARLAK (cont'd)
The truth!

Official White

14.

MAYA

Zed, just admit it. You're just
making it harder on yourself.

ZED

(instantly annoyed)
No, you just made it harder on
myself!

(to Marlak)
Okay, fine, you got me.
(gingerly moves the spear

POINT)

Maya and I lay together on occasion. We're consenting adults and we have an adventurous sexual relationship.

Maya looks shocked, and tries to signal Zed to shut up.

MARLAK

(STUNNED)

You laid with my woman?

ZED

Isn't that what we're talking about?

Maya rolls her eyes.

ENMEBARAGESI

No, I saw you eat the Forbidden Fruit.

ZED

Oh, that! Yeah! I did eat the fruit. I was just kidding about humping Maya.

Marlak knocks Zed to the ground. The DRUMMING stops.

Oh comes running over and gets between Marlak and Zed.

OH

(FORCEFUL)

Hey! What's going on?

Marlak growls at him.

OH

(cont'd)

(quickly looks up at the

SKY)

Oooh, shooting star.

15. Official White

Zed gets to his feet.

ZED

Look, Marlak, this is crazy.
You're two of me. I'm not gonna
fight you over a girl, okay?

Zed starts to walk away but quickly pivots and throws a WILD
HAYMAKER at Marlak who easily ducks it, and it hits an
unsuspecting Enmebaragesi squarely in the nose.

Zed

(cont'd)

(to Enmebaragesi)

And let that be a lesson to your
big friend-

Marlak grabs Zed, lands two solid punches to Zed's mid-
section, and then clocks him with a vicious right that sends
him sprawling to the ground.

MARLAK

(standing over Zed)

Your father was a great hunter, but
you're like-- a girl.

The hunters laugh.

ENMEBARAGESI

Good one, Marlak.

ANOTHER HUNTER

Zing.

MARLAK

Now I kill you.

He's about to spear Zed when suddenly the Shaman screams and
jumps between them. The villagers step back as the Shaman
howls an incantation and shakes his magic rattle at Zed.

SHAMAN

(leaning close to Zed)

We need to talk.

CUT TO:

7

THE CAMPFIRE - MINUTES LATER 7

Zed and the Shaman sit side by side on a log, talking
privately.

16. Official White

The Shaman is covered in skins, feathers, bones, beads, animal teeth, antlers and horns, his hair a mass of long, muddy dreadlocks, his face painted, his cheeks, nose, and ears pierced by shards of bone. But if not for his outlandish getup, zed could be talking to his pastor.

SHAMAN

You really ate the fruit?

ZED

One bite! What's the big deal?

SHAMAN

(halfheartedly shakes a chicken-foot rattle at

HIM)

You don't eat the fruit! That's been the number one rule from the beginning of time. Since the Great Turtle climbed from the sea with the Earth on his back, drank the ocean, pooped out the mountains and the first man fell from the stars.

ZED

I've always had trouble with the Great Turtle Theory-- too many unexplained gaps.

SHAMAN

Whatever. You're screwed now.

ZED

Really? How screwed? Like I knew it was a rule but I'm a little fuzzy on the exact details.

SHAMAN

You're cursed, man, and if you stay here then we'll all be cursed. You have to leave.

ZED

Where am I supposed to go?

SHAMAN

Up to you. From now on you're completely on your own.

ZED

(DEFIANT)

Oh, really?

(MORE)

Official White

17.

ZED

(cont'd)

Am I detecting a little jealousy here because I now have the knowledge of good and evil and you don't? Well, you know what? I say what I did was a good thing-- a very very good thing-- and I'm not leaving. What do you think of that?

A HUMAN SKULL comes flying in from off-camera and lands at his feet.

ZED

(cont'd)

Okay, is that supposed to be funny?

He stands up and we see that the whole tribe is standing around them in a wide circle.

Marlak bangs his spear on the edge of his animal-hide shield,

starting a rhythmical beat. The other hunters join in, keeping the beat, staring at Zed with lethal intent

SHAMAN

(to Zed, re the hunters)

You should probably get going now.

You better take this knife.

He hands him a flint knife with a leather-wrapped handle.

SHAMAN

(cont'd)

And some of the guys got together and they want you to have this bow. He hands him a strong hunter's bow.

ZED

I don't want to seem ungrateful or anything, but you wouldn't happen to have any arrows, would you?

An arrow zips in and sticks in the post next to his head.

SHAMAN

(to Zed)

You'd better get moving.

Zed looks around at his fellow villagers, trying to summon what dignity he has left.

ZED

(DEFIANT)

Okay, but before I go I just want to say something. I know I'm not the greatest hunter--

Official White

18.

VILLAGER (O.S.)

--Or gatherer--

ZED

Yes, or gatherer-- but there's got to be more to life than this--

(to Hunters)

Kinda hard to concentrate with that rhythmic drumming, fellas.

The Hunters keep the insistent beat, their gaze fixed on

Zed.

ZED

(cont'd)

(rolls his eyes; "these guys are hopeless")

Anyways, I'm going away, not because you're forcing me to-- which you are-- but because I choose to. Yes, I ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil-- major misunderstanding on my part-- and believe me I'm not

recommending it unless you're interested in a very powerful laxative-- but it got me thinking about some pretty heavy stuff -- life questions, you know. So I'm out of here, and anyone who wants to join me is welcome.

He looks around the circle and sees Maya. She sees Marlak staring at her and averts her eyes.

ZED

(cont'd)

ANYONE--

Zed looks at Oh, who suddenly becomes very interested in an imaginary piece of loincloth lint.

ZED

(cont'd)

(looks directly at Oh)

I don't know where we're going or when we're going to get there, but I will lead the way--
(he picks up a burning

TORCH)

lighting up the darkness-- pointing us in the right direction, and keeping us entertained with humorous anecdotes from my childhood. Now who's with me?
He enthusiastically thrusts the torch in the air.

Official White

19.

Oh looks at Eema, then at Zed, and lowers his eyes.

ZED

(cont'd)

Okay, then I guess I'll just have to go it alone, which is fine with

ME--

(to Oh)

--better, in fact, because having a partner would just slow me down.

Oh can't look at him.

Zed shakes his head, failing to notice that the torch he's

holding has ignited the roof of the hut next to him.
The Shaman shouts and points at the now blazing roof.
ZED

(cont'd)

Oops!
They all stare as the fire quickly leaps from roof to roof.
ZED

(cont'd)

I know there's a lesson in here
somewhere. Any thoughts?
The villagers scream and run off to try and save their huts.
It's chaos.

MARLAK

(raises his spear, to Zed)
Now you die.
Marlak throws his spear and misses as Zed takes off running
into the forest with the hunters right behind him and the
whole village ablaze.

CUT TO:

8

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT 8

Zed runs for his life through the dense forest.
The hunters chase him, shooting arrows at him on a dead run.
Zed dodges as the arrows zip around him. He veers left, then
right, then trips and tumbles down a muddy embankment.
The hunters stop at the top of the embankment. Marlak
listens for sounds of movement in the forest below, then
silently signals for the hunters to fan out.

Official White

20.

Marlak nimbly makes his way down the embankment, reaches the
bottom and sees something in the moonlight.
It's Zed lying on the ground, badly camouflaged with sticks
and leaves, thinking he can't be seen, but the shape of his
body is clearly discernible. Marlak raises his spear.

MARLAK

I see you.

ZED

(long beat)
No, you don't.

MARLAK

Yes, I do.

ZED

How can you see me if I'm not here?

MARLAK

You're trying to trick me.

ZED

Okay, then tell me this-- who's
standing right behind you?

MARLAK

(nobody's fool)

You think I'm going to turn around
and look, but I'm not.

(pulls his knife)

I'm going to gut you like a pig.

He is about to plunge his knife into Zed when suddenly he is
struck from behind by a heavy tree branch. He falls heavily,
knocked senseless by Oh who is standing over him with the
makeshift club.

Zed sits up and smiles gratefully at Oh.

OH

I guess I'm with you.

ZED

Was it my speech?

OH

No, the fire. I lost everything.

Official White

21.

ZED

But the speech was pretty good,
right? I mean, even I was moved
and I was the one speaking.

OH

Can we talk about this later?

Oh pulls Zed to his feet, and they sneak off into the deep woods.

DISSOLVE TO:

9

EXT. A FOREST PATH - LATER THAT NIGHT 9

CRICKETS. Zed and Oh walk through the moonlit forest.

ZED

This is nice, out here, the two of us.

OH

(SULLEN)

Yeah, it's great.

ZED

Come on, those hunters are idiots. In an hour they'll forget the whole thing.

OH

I don't think they'll forget the fire.

ZED

You know what we should do? You and me should kill the biggest boar ever-- just huge!-- and take it back to the village. Just to show them. And we won't let anyone else eat it. They'll have to watch us eat it.

OH

If it's that huge how would we carry it back?

ZED

(CONSIDERING)

Fine, we'll just start with something small. A squirrel or something.

22.

Official White

OH

Yeah, we'll make everyone watch us eat a squirrel. Will you get real? There's no going back! There's, nothing to go back to! It's just ashes.

ZED

(SCOFFS)

Yeah, like it's so hard to build a new hut. It's just a pile of sticks and dung--

OH

(SCOWLS)

You're a pile of sticks and dung. Suddenly, Zed stops and stands perfectly still.

ZED

(through clenched teeth)
Oh!

OH

What are you doing?
Zed makes a minimal gesture with his head. Oh looks up.
A COUGAR crouches on a tree limb above them, poised to leap.
Oh freezes. They talk like ventriloquists.

ZED

Don't move a muscle.

OH

Will that work?

ZED

(without moving his lips)
I don't know. There's two different opinions on this one. Some say run, some say don't.

OH

What are you going to do?

ZED

I'm going to-- RUN!
He sprints off and the cougar pounces right on oh.

CUT TO:

23. Official White

10
EXT. A FIRE - DAYBREAK 10

like Zed is holding a stick over the fire, cooking what looks

a squirrel or a muskrat.
Oh comes out of the forest carrying a huge armload of sticks and branches. One of Oh's sticks falls, and as he carefully reaches down to grab it, the rest spill out on the ground. Oh sighs. His body is covered with long claw marks.

ZED

You really should put some maggots on those scratches. They look pretty deep.

OH

(BITTER)

I just want to know why you told me not to move, and you ran.

ZED

Because I honestly thought he'd go for me. I thought I was doing you a favor. Apparently not appreciated.

OH

Yeah, big favor.

ZED

You didn't have to come with me, you know. I didn't ask you to come.

OH

Yes, you did! You looked right at me-- twice.

ZED

Yes, that's a technique of public speaking, but I didn't ask you specifically. You chose to come. You gotta take some responsibility for that. And there's no point coming if you're just gonna keep whining about every little-- cougar that attacks you.

(pulls the cooked rodent from the fire)

You want some or not?

24. Official White

OH

(HUFFY)

No, eat your weasel. You deserve it.

He turns his back to Zed, and starts sorting through the pile of sticks.

ZED

You making your own fire?

OH

No, arrows. We're going to need them.

ZED

(perks up)
You're still coming?

OH

(RESIGNED)

Yes.

Zed claps him on the back and hugs him exuberantly. Oh winces in pain.

CUT TO:

11

EXT. HIGHLANDS

- DAY 11

Zed and Oh are hiking uphill, the lush, dense verdure of the forest now thinning to evergreens and mountain heather.

CUT TO:

12

THE MOUNTAINS - LATER 12

Zed and Oh climbing higher now. Finally, they reach the top and look out at the vista.

From their vantage point they can see a high plateau and wooded land stretching far beyond it.

ZED

(GLOATING)

I knew it! Still think you're just gonna fall off the edge of the world?

Official White

25.

OH

(in amazement)

Incredible.

his

He takes a step forward, the rock shelf gives way beneath

feet and he falls a great distance, screaming all the way down, bouncing painfully off the big boulders, then a long, tumbling slide over sharp rocks and gravel to the bottom.

ZED

(WINCES)

Ooh.

-

(then calls out)

I'll go around! Wait for me!

CUT TO:

13

EXT. FOREST - LATER 13

Zed is following a trail downhill through the forest on the other side of the mountains. Oh is limping along behind him, bitten, clawed, cut, scraped and bruised.

ZED

Say what you want, but that was no accident. You don't see a pattern here?

OH

I see a pattern. Every time something terrible can happen to me, it does.

ZED

Yeah, but why? Why'd the cougar go for you and not me? Why did you fall and I didn't? Hard to believe it's all just random. Think about

IT--

J;

avdganly MI , I) ia htintI! f 1 inWROM m 11W, 10
looks around the forest clearing for subtle signs.

ZED

(cont'd)

(sniffing the air)
People-- more than one-- walking--
(he guesses) that way.

OH

(looking around)
You think? There's about a
thousand footprints here.

Official White

26.

He indicates the heavily trampled forest floor.

ZED

(ignores him)

Yes! There!

He drops to one knee and examines something in the bushes.

Zed

(cont'd)

They stopped here to poop. Look.

OH

No, thank you.

ZED

Four men, maybe five. And a child--
or a small women maybe.

OH

(a little disgusted)

Okay.

ZED

(poking at the evidence)

Looks like they had some nuts--
dried fruit-- some kind of green
leafy vegetable--

OH

Okay! Enough! Can we just go?

Maybe we can find where they peed.

14

Then Zed sees light through the trees and creeps 14

stealthily to the tree line. Oh creeps up beside him and
they peer through the bushes.

THREE COWS are grazing in a green pasture. Beyond it, well-
tended fields of growing grain.

signals Zed snaps into stalking mode, ducks down and silently

Oh to be quiet and stay put.

ZED

(WHISPERS)

This one's mine.

He takes his bow, pulls an arrow from his quiver, and slowly
draws the bow, taking deadly aim at one of the cows. He
shoots.

The blunt, pointless arrow hits the cow in the side and
bounces off. The cow looks up.

Official White

27.

ZED

(cont'd)

(to Oh)

We're gonna need some arrowheads.

Zed draws his flint knife, then suddenly bursts out of the forest, dashes toward the cow and leaps on its back.

Oh comes running up as the cow bucks and sends Zed flying.

Lying on the ground, Zed looks up and sees TWO SURPRISED YOUNG FARMERS dressed in simple white woolen tunics staring at him.

FIRST YOUNG FARMER

Did you just shoot my cow?

ZED

(getting painfully to his

FEET)

Yeah, well-- we're hunters.

OH

(covering for himself)

He's a hunter. I'm more of a "maker." I made this loincloth, I do arrows-- I made a shelf unit for my hut--

ZED

What do you guys do?

SECOND YOUNG FARMER

What does it look like? We're farmers.

FIRST YOUNG FARMER

He's a farmer; I'm a herdsman.

SECOND YOUNG FARMER

You're a suck, is what you are.

FIRST YOUNG FARMER

(ignores him)

My brother, Cain. I am called Abel.

CAIN

You are called suck.

ABEL

My brother is angry because God
looked on my sacrifice with favor.

Official White

28.

CAIN

(mimics him)

"God looked on my sacrifice with

FAVOR--"

(to Oh)

Okay, is he a total suck or what?

OH

Well, it's hard to say-- we just

MET--

ABEL

Why are you dragging them into
this? What do they know? They're
morons.

ZED

(OFFENDED)

Hey! Easy!

CAIN

(to Abel)

You think you're so superior to
everyone else.

ABEL

Superior-er than you.

CAIN

Really? Let's see how good you are
at getting your ass kicked.
(shoves him)

ABEL

Yeah? Bring it!
(shoves him back)

ZED

Okay, boys, that's enough. We just want to--

CAIN

(won't let it go)
No! This smug asshole insulted you and I want him to take it back.

ZED

We're not really that insulted--

CAIN

(pushes Abel hard)
Take it back!

29.

Official White

ABEL

(pushes back)
Make me!
Zed steps between them, trying to make peace.

ZED

Boys, boys! You're brothers!
Let's just relax and--
Cain uses the distraction to sneak-punch Abel and the fight is on. They start throwing wild punches, then clinch and wrestle each other to the ground.

OH

Shouldn't we do something?

ZED

Just let them settle it.
Cain picks up a good-size rock and strikes Abel on the head with all his might. Abel falls heavily to the ground and lies there, not moving. Cain stands over him, breathing hard.

ZED

(cont'd)

(SHOCKED)

I guess that settles it.

CAIN

(turns on him sharply,
still holding the bloody

ROCK)

What?!

ZED

Nothing!

Cain stares at Abel, still inert on the ground.

CAIN

He's all right. Probably just

RESTING--

OH

(humoring him)

Probably just tuckered out from the
fight.

CAIN

(looking around nervously)

Yeah.

(MORE)

30.

CAIN

Maybe I should throw some dirt on
him-- keep him warm 'til he wakes
up.

He starts kicking dirt over Abel's body.

CAIN

(getting worried)

This is bad. This is really bad.

We're in serious trouble.

ZED

Hey! What do you mean "we"? I

Official White

(cont'd)

(cont'd)

don't want to play the blame game,
but you're the one who hit him.

CAIN

(turns on them)
You could've stopped me! There's
two of you and only one of me.

ZED

We didn't know you were going to
kill him--

CAIN

You calling me a murderer?
(he clutches the rock)

ZED

Did I say that?

CAIN

It was an accident!
(to Oh)
Right?

OH

Right! You were holding the rock
and he-- accidentally ran into it--
really hard-- with his head.

CAIN

(calming down)
Okay-- yeah-- good. But it might
be better if we don't mention the
"accident" to anyone. People might
get the wrong idea. Understand?

OH

Oh, yeah, people could so easily
misinterpret that.

Official White

31.

ZED

(SHRUGS)

Why even bring it up?

CAIN

(NODS)

I like you guys. You're all right.
Why don't you come with me? Have
supper with the family.

ZED

Unfortunately we already have
dinner plans.

CAIN

I think you should come with me.

OH

(his idea)
why don't we go with you?

CUT TO:

15

EXT. THE FIELD - A LITTLE LATER 15

Cain finishes loading bushels of grain onto an oxcart while
Zed and Oh closely inspect the big, heavy, solid wooden
wheels on the cart.

ZED

What are the big round things for?

CAIN

They're wheels, numbskull. They
make the cart roll.

ZED

(blown away)
Wow! That is like the greatest
invention since the vagina.
Cain whips the oxen and they lumber forward.
Oh screams as the HEAVY WHEELS ROLL OVER HIS FEET.

CUT TO:

16

CLOSE ON ZED AND OH 16

They look really thrilled, wind blowing through their hair,
their hands up like roller-coaster riders.

32. Official White

ZED AND OH

(WHOOPING)

Woooo! Woooo! Yeah!

PULL BACK TO

REVEAL:

THE CART

with
strong
with them riding on it, plodding slowly into a FARMING
HAMLET, a cluster of small, roughly plastered mud houses

thatched roofs.

ADAM, dour, hard-working and long-suffering, but still

and upright, trudges home with a metal scythe over his
shoulder. He could be Max Von Sydow.

ADAM

(hailing Cain)
Cain, my son!

CAIN

Hail, Father.

Cain stops the cart and dismounts with Zed and Oh.

CAIN

(cont'd)

Can these guys stay for supper?

(off Adam's questioning

LOOK)

I bring strangers who would sojourn
with us this night.

lip-
Cain turns to Zed and Oh and furtively mimes an elaborate

sewing gesture, ancient precursor to the modern lip-zipper.

ADAM

Greetings, strangers. I am called
Adam and you are welcome to share
the fruits of our toil.

ZED

Thanks, but I'm kind of staying away from fruit for the time being. Zed gives Cain a subtle, acquiescent nod as Adam ushers them into his crude dwelling.

33.

Official White

17

17

INT. ADAM'S DWELLING - NIGHTFALL

The rude dwelling has a stark, somber, almost Amish feeling to it. Zed and Oh sit at the table sharing a simple meal

youngest

with Adam, Cain and his Adam's wife EVE and h them, Lilith's tunic gaping open to reveal her breasts every time she leans over to put something on the table. Zed and Oh can't take their eyes off her.

ADAM

(to Cain)
Where is thy brother, Abel?

CAIN

(badly overplaying)
Abel? Haven't seen him. I thought he was with you.
(to Zed and Oh)
You guys see him?
They shake their heads and cough nervously.

ZED AND OH

(equally unconvincing)
Nape. Not that I remember. Never seen anybody-- anywhere-- anytime -- ever.

ADAM

(to Cain)

Your sister Lilith said she saw him
in the field with you.

CAIN

I think that was yesterday.

ADAM

No, this day. She said you both
made offerings.

CAIN

That might've been Boaz---

ADAM

No, you and Abel. She said it
looked like you were arguing.

CAIN

Hey, we're brothers, we argue
sometimes- it's not that big a
deal.

34.

Official White

ADAM

And his flock was untended in the

PASTURE--

CAIN

(EXPLODES)

Okay! What am I-- his keeper? Get
off my back, will you?

He smashes his plate against the wall and storms out. An
awkward silence as Zed and Oh exchange guilty looks.

ADAM

I fear the worst for Abel. I am
sorely vexed.

ZED

Yeah, that's got to be pretty
vexing.

A Bergmanesque gloom fills the hovel as Adam muses sullenly on his sorry circumstances.

ADAM

For my sin the ground is cursed.
Thorns and thistles does it sprout
for us, and we are doomed to toil
all the days of our lives. For as
the Lord has commanded, by the
sweat of your brow shall you get
bread to eat until you return to
the ground from which you were
taken. For dust you are, and to
dust shall you return.

ZED

Wow. That's kind of a downer isn't
it?

ADAM

It's the way of the world.

ZED

Boy, I hope not.

ADAM

(rises abruptly)
You are welcome to stay the night
and lay with my daughter Lilith.
Zed looks at the luscious Lilith, then back at Adam.

Official White

35.

ZED

I'm waiting for the punchline.

ADAM

She is without a husband, and as
the Lord has said, thou shalt be
fruitful and multiply.
Lilith nods demurely and exits through a curtain. Zed starts
to follow her out.

OH

Hey! What about me?

ADAM

You may share the bed of my son
Seth.

ZED

Yeah, there you go.
(he exits)
Oh looks at Seth.

SETH

I multiplied with a sheep.
(Oh just stares at him)
My thingie smells like lamb chops.

18

INT. LILITH'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS 18

Zed enters the room. Lilith reclines on a cot with a straw
mattress.

LILITH

(making room on the cot)
My bed is small but you're welcome
to share it. It's the way of my
people.

ZED

(lying down beside her)
And that's a good way to be. In
fact, I'm kind of surprised a
pretty girl like you is sleeping
alone anyway. I would've thought
guys would be lined up at the door.

LILITH

I don't like men.

Official White

36.

ZED

(moving closer)
Maybe you just haven't met the

right one.

LILITH

I like girls.

ZED

(SUAVE)

So we have that in common--

LILITH

(stares at him for a beat)
I'm attracted to women.

ZED

(a beat)
I don't even know what that means.
What does that mean?

LILITH

I like to have sex with other
women.

ZED

(stares at her for a long

MOMENT)

I'm really not getting this.
Lilith shakes her head, turns away from him, and pulls up

her

blanket. Zed shrugs and rolls over to sleep. They lie there
quietly in the dark for a long beat. Then--

Zed

(cont'd)

You're kidding! Whoa! That's
amazing!

19

INT. SETH'S ROOM - SAME TIME 19

Oh is lying next to Seth, wide-awake, trying to stay as far
away from him as possible.

SETH

Oooh, listen to this one.
Seth lifts his knees to his chest and farts a surprisingly
long cadenza.

OH

That's really good.

37. Official White

SETH
Want to see a trick?

OH
Do I have to?

CUT TO:

20
EXT. ADAM'S DWELLING - DAYBREAK 20

In the yard behind the house, Oh is helping Cain as he chops firewood with a metal axe. Oh now wears a tunic like the farmers.

CAIN
It's been the same damn thing my whole life.
(swings the axe-- thwack!)
"Why can't you be more like Abel?"
(thwack!)
"Oh, your sacrifice was good, too, but Abel's was-- wow!"
(thwack!)

OH
(trying to change the

SUBJECT)
Your brother Seth is an interesting guy. Did you know he can put his penis in his mouth?
Adam and Zed come out of his dwelling.
KINSMEN from other dwellings start gathering.

ADAM
Cain!

CAIN
Yeah, hey-- where's everybody going?

ADAM

To look for Abel.

CAIN

(MUTTERS)

Good luck.

ADAM

What did you say?

38. Official White

CAIN

(louder, mock sincerity)

I said good luck. I'm really worried about him.

He turns aside and makes a goofy sarcastic face for Oh's benefit.

ADAM

You're not coming?

CAIN

Yeah, I am. I just have to finish toiling over here, then I'm right behind you.

Adam and the others hurry off, and as soon as they're gone, Cain rushes over and starts harnessing the oxen to the cart.

CAIN

(cont'd)

(to Zed and Oh)

Now listen, I'm getting out of here, and you better come with me.

I have a feeling they're going to try and blame this whole "Abel-killing-thing" on you.

ZED

Why would they blame us?

CAIN

Because when they find him and his head is all bashed in, they're going to start pointing fingers,

and you guys are drifters, so
they'll put two and two together
and that makes--
He stares expectantly at Zed and Oh.
CAIN

(cont'd)

Four! It makes four! Now stop
asking so many questions and hop
on. We gotta get out of here!
He urgently whips the oxen and they climb aboard as the cart
lumbers forward.

CUT TO:

Official White

39.

21

EXT. WHEAT FIELD - MINUTES LATER

21

Adam and the other farmers discover Abel's body.

ADAM

(BITTERLY)

CAIN--

(to the others)

After him!

The farmers shout and race back to the hamlet.

CUT TO:

22

EXT. THE HAMLET - MINUTES LATER

22

Adam and the other farmers jump onto two more ox carts and
set
out after Cain, Zed and Oh.

CUT TO:

23

EXT. CART PATH - LATER

23

Cain's cart lumbers along. He looks back over his shoulder.

CAIN

(urgently, to Zed and Oh)
They're gaining on us!
Zed and Oh look back.

THEIR POV

The other ox carts are a hundred yards back, "chasing" them
at
maybe two miles per hour.
Cain whips his oxen and they step up the pace to 3 MPH.

CAIN

(GLEEFUL)

Hah! They'll never catch us now!
An aerial view shows Cain's cart slowly pulling away from
his
pursuers.
Suddenly a bolt of lightning splits the bright blue sky and
strikes Cain right on the forehead, knocking him back into
the cart. He sits up stunned, with a still-smoking, jagged
burn mark on his forehead.

Official White

40.

CAIN

(cont'd)

(dazed but exhilarated)
Wow! What are the odds of that?!
(feeling the burn mark)
Am I lucky or what?
Zed and Oh exchange doubtful looks and glance nervously at
the sky.

CUT TO:

24

EXT. THE SEASHORE - DAY

24

The ox cart approaches a small trading settlement on the seacoast, a kind of makeshift tent city around a central marketplace. Several dhows are tied up at the shore, camels and pack animals are tethered on the fringes, while TRADERS and MERCHANTS inspect newly arrived goods and haggle over prices.

25

EXT. MARKETPLACE - DAY - LATER 25

Zed, Oh and Cain wander through the crowded market. PEOPLE OF EVERY RACE dressed in all manner of exotic garb buy, sell, and barter goods from distant lands. Zed and oh gawk like a couple of yokels.

ZED

Look at all these people! And this stuff!

Oh approaches a bakery stand and stares hungrily at the bread.

OH

(to the Merchant)

Can I have one of those?

He reaches for a loaf but the MERCHANT strikes his hand with a cane.

OH

(cont'd)

Ow!

MERCHANT

Two silver pieces.

CAIN

(HUNGRY)

We're gonna need some money.

Official White

41.

ZED

Yeah, we're gonna need money.
(an afterthought)

What's money?

They see a crowd at the center of the market gathered around a raised platform.

platform
SLAVES IN SHACKLES are lined up on the raised wooden

while CUSTOMERS examine those waiting to be auctioned. The AUCTIONEER brings up a fnuscular male slave in a loincloth.

ZED

(cont'd)

It's Marlak!

Marlak's hands are bound and he's restrained by a chain attached to a thick leather collar around his neck.

AUCTIONEER

(addresses the crowd)

Next up, an unusual item-- looks like a Caucasian-- he's big, he's strong, he's a good breeder, so I'm going to start at

100 gold minas.

Do I hear

100?

As the bidding starts, Zed spots Maya, his sister Eema, and Enmebaragesi among the chained-up slaves waiting to be sold. Zed and Oh push their way through the crowd and go to them.

ZED

(amazed to see them)

Eema! Maya!

The women embrace him with relief and excitement.

OH

(SHEEPISH)

Hi, Eema.

EEMA

Oh.

ZED

What happened? How did you get here?

42.

Official white

MAYA

Well, after the fire--
(she shoots him an
accusing look))
--the hill tribes raided the
village. The men fought them but
they were too many. They took us
captive, marched us to the sea,
then traded us to the boat people
who brought us here.

OH

(to Eema)
Are you all right? Did they-- rape
you?

EEMA

(SHRUGS)

Just a little.
Zed and Oh look at her curiously.
The SLAVE TRADER sees them talking to Eema and approaches.

SLAVE TRADER

You interested in some slaves?

ZED

(like a prospective buyer)
Yeah, this one looks pretty good--
He starts prodding, poking and squeezing Maya's arm like
he's
buying fruit. Oh takes the opportunity to fondle Eema's
breasts. She punches him.

(cont'd)

Zed
Ooh, feisty! So how does this work
if we want them?
The slave trader notes Zed's peasant clothes.

SLAVE TRADER

You have money?

ZED

(CAGEY)

Well, that depends on what you mean
by money?

SLAVE TRADER

Look, pal, money talks and bullshit walks. I don't have time for looky-loos.

43. Official white
Cain steps up and intercedes.

CAIN

(GRANDLY)

Perhaps I can help.
(confidentially to Zed and

OH)

Let me talk to the guy. Maybe I can make a deal with him. You guys wait here.

Cain puts his arm around the slave trader's shoulder and walks him away.

CAIN

(cont'd)

(to the slave trader)

So what are we lookin' at here?

From a distance, Zed and Oh watch them talking, but can't hear what they're saying.

OH

(to Eema)

What an amazing coincidence--
running into you and Maya and them.

ZED

You still think it's all just a coincidence?

All of us here right
now, at this particular place, at
this particular time?

OH

(THINKS)

I don't know. Why do you think?

ZED

I'm not sure yet, but I'm starting to believe that everything happens for a reason. Like, why did I eat the forbidden fruit?

OH

To get laid?

MAYA

Hey!

ZED

Official White

44.

Okay, that might have been what I was thinking at the time, but what if some omnipotent force put the fruit there because I was supposed to eat it?

OH

which omnipotent force?

ZED

What do you mean "which" omnipotent force? How many omnipotent forces could there be?

OH

I don't know! What's "omnipotent" mean?

ZED

Work with me-- I'm just speculating here. Let's call this force "God"; and let's say this "God" is controlling everything. Maybe God wanted me to have the knowledge of good and evil.

OH

Why would he want that?

MAYA

How do you know God's a "He?"

Zed rolls his eyes.

ZED

Don't you get what I'm saying?
What if we've been chosen?

MAYA

You think we've been chosen by God?

ZED

Well, no offense, but it's possible
that I was chosen and you all just
happened to be there.

OH

Why would God choose you? Why
wouldn't he choose Marlak? He's
stronger.

45.

Official White

ZED

A chosen doesn't need to be strong.
I'm big this way.
(points to his temples)

OH

You do have a fat face.

ZED

Not my face, my brain. It's
enormous. I'm the smartest guy in
the village.

OH

(SCOFFS)

You're not even-- I'm smarter than
you!

ZED

What?!
(to ANOTHER VILLAGER)
Which one of us is smarter?

VILLAGER

You're both idiots!

ZED

Oh yeah, then why are we free and you're chained up?

VILLAGER

Because of you?

CAIN

(calls them over)
Hey! Come here. I think we worked something out.

ZED

(confidently, to Maya)
Sit tight. I'm going to get you out of here. Do you trust me?

MAYA

(HEDGING)

I want to trust you.

ZED

Fair enough.
She gives him an encouraging hug, then Zed and Oh cross to Cain and the slave trader.

46. Official White

(cont'd) ZED

(to Cain)
Good work. What's the deal?
The slave owner smiles.

CUT TO:

26

EXT. SLAVE MARKET - A LITTLE LATER 26

Zed and Oh are dragged onto the platform in shackles and leg

irons.

They see Cain riding off on a donkey. He holds up a bag of coins and waves goodbye.

ZED

I never trusted that guy.

OH

(SARCASTIC

)

Why? Just 'cause he murdered his brother and got hit by lightning? They are pushed to the front of the platform.

SLAVE TRADER

(to the crowd)

All right! Next up is a twofer-- I'm selling them as a pair-- I know they don't look like much-- but I'm starting the bidding at sixty gold minas. Do I hear sixty?

(NOTHING)

Remember, it's two for one here. Do I hear fifty? Anyone? That's only twenty-five apiece, folks.

(NOTHING)

Zed looks out at the crowd, starting to get offended.

SLAVE TRADER (cont'd)

You're breaking my heart here. How about forty? Do I hear forty?

(NOTHING)

ZED

(to Oh)

It's not like I want to be a slave or anything, but this is embarrassing!

Official white

SLAVE TRADER

Thirty-five? Thirty?

ZED

(SHOUTS)

Come on, people! We're a steal at thirty!

OH

They probably don't know how smart you think you are.

Finally, a Bedouin SHEIK raises his giraffe-tail fly whisk and waves it at the slave trader.

SLAVE TRADER

Yes! Sold to Sheikh Hassan for

30

gold minas!

(to Zed and Oh)

Have a good time in the salt mines, boys.

CUT TO:

27

EXT. DESERT - LATER THAT DAY 27

goods

A small CARAVAN OF CAMELS AND DONKEYS loaded with trade

moves across the arid wasteland. The effete SHEIKH rides the lead camel, protected from the blistering sun by a colorful canopy. A FEW ARMED BEDOUIN GUARDS ride alongside.

Bringing up the rear is A LARGE FOUR-WHEELED CART DRAWN BY HORSES, basically a cage on wheels into which TWENTY NEWLY PURCHASED SLAVES have been crammed, jammed together like sardines.

Zed and Oh are in the middle of the body pile, literally cheek by jowl with the other slaves, barely able to move.

I

Eema is right next to Oh, her body pressed tight against his.

Oh shifts around, repositioning his arms and body trying to get more comfortable and give Eema a little space, but he just ends up touching her even more.

OH

(EMBARRASSED)

Excuse me-- I'm sorry--

(his hand gets stuck between her breasts)

That's not good--
He jerks his hand away, elbowing Marlak in the face.

48. Official White

Marlak growls and grabs Oh by the throat, but the struggle forces everyone else to shift which causes even more discomfort.

THE OTHER SLAVES

Ow! Hey! Cut that out!

Zed tries to turn his head to see who's behind him.

ZED

(CONT'D)

(GROUCHY)

Hey, pal! You can take your foot out of my ass anytime now.

(BEAT)

And your foot is still there. If I turn around, you will be sorry.

Zed twists violently and manages a full turn which brings him

face to face and crotch to crotch with Maya.

ZED

(cont'd)

That's better.

MAYA

For you maybe.

ZED

Look, I want you to know I blame myself for everything that happened.

MAYA

So does everybody else.

MARLAK

(over his shoulder)
Get away from my woman!

ZED

(IRRITATED)

I don't think that's going to be possible. And I told you before, she's not "your woman."

MARLAK

I'll kill you!

body
Marlak starts muscling and squirming his way through the pile trying to get to Zed.

THE OTHER SLAVES

Hey! Watch it, jerk!

Official White

49.

It's too cramped to even throw a punch, so Marlak uses a RANDOM SLAVE'S HEAD as a weapon to bang against zed's head repeatedly.

RANDOM SLAVE

(MEEKLY)

Why?

Suddenly Zed feels Marlak's hands around his neck, grabbing him from behind. Zed struggles but Marlak manages to pull him into a full headlock, forcing Zed's face into his hairy armpit.

ZED

(MUFFLED)

Ecchhh!

Oh is vaguely aware of the fight going on but can't move.

OH

(calling to Zed)

Hold on! I'm coming!

Oh tries to maneuver to Zed, but can't move an inch.

OH

(CONT'D)

(cont'd)

If everyone could just move to the right. Please? Thank you in

advance for your cooperation.
(then, giving up hope)
You can do it, Zed! Use his weight
against him!

Marlak now has Zed locked in a lethal choke hold.

28

28

EXT. THE SLAVE WAGON - CONTINUOUS

A BEDOUIN GUARD notices the commotion and bangs the bars of the cage with his staff.

BEDOUIN

(shouts at the slaves)
Knock it off! Don't make me come
in there!

ZED

(MASHED)

I'd like to see you try.
The Bedouin is just about to respond when suddenly A METAL
TIPPED ARROW FLIES IN AND PIERCES HIS THROAT. He drops to
the sand, dead.

Official White

50.

A BATTLE CHARIOT

comes flying over the crest of the wadi followed by TWENTY
ARMORED FOOT SOLDIERS wearing bronze helmets and
breastplates.

The soldiers attack the caravan, slashing and slicing the
Bedouin guards.

Their commander, SARGON, his helmet topped with a
magnificent

plume, rides up in the chariot and with one mighty stroke of
his sword cuts the head off ANOTHER BEDOUIN GUARD.

Marlak reaches through the bars, grabs the fallen Bedouin's
sword and hacks off the lock on the door of the slave wagon.
The door flies open and the slaves tumble, jump and stumble

out onto the ground.
Zed and Oh look around, gawking at the massacre taking
place.

Then Zed sees Marlak, sword in hand, looking for him.

SARGON

(shouts an order)

Take the slaves!

Marlak starts for Zed but two soldiers ride up and throw a
heavy restraining net over him.

Zed grabs oh and takes off running over the nearest sand
dune.

Sargon watches them flee.

A SOLDIER

Sir, shall I pursue them?

SARGON

No. Let the desert have them.

They won't get far.

CUT TO:

29

EXT. THE DESERT - SUNSET 29

The soldiers are camped for the night. The slaves are back
in their cage. Sargon the commander stops to instruct the

GUARD.

51. Official White

SARGON

Tend to the slaves. We leave for
Sodom before daybreak.

GUARD

Yes, sir.

30

30

ZED AND OH

They lie hidden behind a sandy ridge watching from a short distance.

ZED

(WHISPERS)

I wonder who they are. Their hats are really great, aren't they?

OH

Their hats? I'm sorry, but when that one guy cut the other guy's head off, my first thought wasn't, "Gee, what a great hat."

ZED

It wasn't my very first thought, but I'd be lying if I said it wasn't up there.

(WATCHFUL)

Now we just need to figure out a way to rescue Maya and Eema.

OH

How are we going to rescue anybody? They're killers!

ZED

(WILY)

Patience, my friend. Even killers have to sleep sometime. He keeps a sharp, wakeful eye on the enemy camp.

DISSOLVE TO:

31

THE MORNING SUN 31

Zed and Oh fast asleep on the ridge. They slowly wake up.

ZED

(SCRATCHING)

Well, that was refreshing. How'd you sleep?

OH

(YAWNS)

Not that well. I think I was over-tired.

Then Zed suddenly remembers Maya. He looks and sees that the soldiers and slaves are long gone.

ZED

Shit!

He leaps to his feet, looks around desperately, and sees nothing but a vast wasteland in every direction.

OH

Now where do we go?

Zed sniffs the air, puts his ear to the ground, and tastes the sand.

ZED

I have no idea.

CUT TO:

32

ZED AND OH 32

trudging across the desert in the blistering heat, growing weaker, stumbling and falling.

OH

(too weak to move)

Why do I listen to you? Now we're going to starve to death or die of thirst.

ZED

Will you stop being so negative? I got your back, man. Who saved you from those lions when you were a baby? They were going to pounce, had you surrounded. Took the mama lion-- BAM!-- kneed her right in the face. Papa lion comes flying at me-- BAM!-- dropped an elbow, knocked his ass out.

(MORE)

Official White

53.

ZED

(cont'd)

Took his legs-- THWOOM!-- tossed him in the river. And the rest just ran off.

OH

You know, I've asked people about that and no one else seems to remember it.

ZED

Yeah, because nobody else was there. You're lucky I was walking by.

(THEN)

Okay, it's possible I dreamed that-- but who practically raised you after your father was dragged off by those raccoons? Not a dignified death.

OH

(practically delirious)
He was a small man.
Oh collapses face down in the sand.
Pull back to reveal that they are surrounded by hungry jackals, vultures and hyenas.

ZED

We've got to keep moving.
(hauls Oh to his feet)
I've got you, buddy-- just like always.
He puts Oh over his shoulder and stumbles on.

33

EXT. ROCKY HILLSIDE - LATER 33

A MAN in his sixties, tall, full beard, piercing eyes and fierce nose, dressed in a robe and kafiyya, arranges firewood

on a large flat rock. His TEENAGE SON looks around curiously. They are ABRAHAM and ISAAC.

ISAAC

Hey, Dad? We making a burnt offering?

ABRAHAM

Yes, Isaac. As God has commanded me.

54. Official White

ISAAC

(CONFUSED)

I don't see the sheep.

ABRAHAM

The Lord will provide the sheep.
Abraham takes a cord and starts tying Isaac's hands together.

ISAAC

(NERVOUSLY)

Uh-- is this like a magic trick?
Without another word Abraham takes strong hold of Isaac and lifts him up onto the firewood.
ISAAC

(cont'd)

(really scared now)
Okay, if this is because I didn't clean up my tent, you can stop now.
I get it.

Then Abraham pulls a long slaughtering knife from beneath his robe.
ISAAC

(cont'd)

(PANICKED)

All right, this isn't funny anymore!

Abraham raises the knife.

ISAAC

(cont'd)

I'm telling mom!

The knife flashes in the sun as it descends toward the boy.

ZED

(O.C.)

STOP!

Abraham and Isaac both turn to see Zed and Oh step out from behind the rocks. Their clothes are tattered and they are burnt raw by the sun.

ZED

(cont'd)

What are you doing to that kid?

ABRAHAM

(INNOCENTLY)

Nothing.

55.

Official White

ZED

What do you mean, nothing? You were just going to kill him!

ABRAHAM

No, I was going to sacrifice him. There's a difference.

ZED

(indicating Isaac)

Not to him, I'm guessing.

Isaac nods gratefully.

ABRAHAM

By what right do you interfere? Art thou an angel of the Lord?

ZED

(good question)

What do you think?

ABRAHAM

(nods sagely)

Verily, thou wast sent to stay my hand by the Eternal one, blessed be He.

ZED

(NODS)

Whatever you just said.

Oh helps Isaac off the altar stone and unties him.

ISAAC

(confidentially to Oh)

He's nuts! I'm telling you-- he's totally lost it.

ABRAHAM

(to Zed)

I am Abraham, son of Terah of the house of Nahor.

ZED

I am Zed and this is Oh, sons of-- people you wouldn't know.

Official White

56.

ABRAHAM

The tents of my kinsmen lie just beyond. There will you find all that you desire. Come.

CUT TO:

34

EXT. HEBREW ENCAMPMENT

34

tents of Abraham leads Isaac, Zed and Oh past the colorful his people. The camp is alive with activity.

The spacious tent is lit by torches, and a feast is in progress. TWENTY OR THIRTY BEARDED MEN in skullcaps and long robes lounge on cushions or sit cross-legged in a circle on the carpeted floor.

An EGYPTIAN BELLY DANCER shakes her hips for the pleasure of Abraham who occupies the place of honor.

Zed and Oh, now also wearing robes and skullcaps, are sitting

right beside him eating and drinking everything in sight. Isaac sits beside them.

ABRAHAM claps his hands for attention. Zed and Oh look up as the music stops.

ABRAHAM

(to the assembly)
My brothers, let us give thanks
unto God for staying my hand on the
mountain this day.

ISAAC

(humoring him)
Best dad in all the land, everyone!

THE KINSMEN

(a ritual response, in

UNISON)

Praise be to God, hallowed be His
name.

ABRAHAM

And for the bounty which He hath
bestowed unto us.

Official white

57.

THE KINSMEN

(in unison)
He hath increased our wealth and
blessed us with His loving
kindness.

Zed and Oh mutter along, trying to fit in.

ZED AND OH

(a beat late)
--mumble mumble mumble loving
kindness.
Abraham looks at them.

ABRAHAM

Friends, whence comest thou?
Zed and Oh look at each other blankly.

ISAAC

(HELPFULLY)

He wants to know where you're from.

ABRAHAM

(SUSPICIOUS)

Thou comest not from the cities of
the plain? From Sodom or Gomorrah?
Zed perks up at the mention of Sodom, recalling the
destination of the soldiers who took Maya and the others.

ZED

Sodom and Gomorrah? Never been
there. But I've heard of them.

OH

Are they nice?

ABRAHAM

The Lord has cursed them for their
abomination.

ZED

(nods gravely)
i didn't know that. What kind of
abomination are we talking about?

ABRAHAM

They bow down before false Gods and
worship graven images.

Official White

ZED

(clicks his tongue)
Abominable.

ABRAHAM

The men of the city are weak and soft, fat with rich food, intoxicated by strong drink.

ZED

(sounds good to him)
Really. Tell me more.

ABRAHAM

Their women are whores; their shameless lust knows no bounds. They flaunt their flesh without shame and any man may have knowledge of them.

OH

(he's sold)
And where exactly are those cities?

ZED

(off Abraham's stern look)
We just want to know so we can avoid them.

ABRAHAM

(FIERCELY)

Walk not the path of Sodom! For surely will the Lord send his holy fire to destroy the city and all who dwell within, to smite them and all their seed for their iniquity.

ZED

(CONCERNED)

When do you think all this smiting is going to go down? We may have some friends there.

ABRAHAM

(getting up)
Accompany me.
Abraham sweeps out of the tent. Zed and Oh jump to their

feet and follow. Isaac tags along.

59. Official white

36

EXT. THE TENT - CONTINUOUS 36

Abraham walks to the edge of the desert. Torchlight from the camp flickers on his face as he gazes across the desolate moonlit landscape.

ZED

Abraham, I'm a little worried about the city being destroyed.

ABRAHAM

Their fate is sealed. But for my faith and devotion, the self-same God has given unto me the whole of this land, from the Jordan to the Negev, from the river of Egypt to the great Euphrates. This did He grant to me and my seed. He raises his arms and spreads them wide.

ZED

(IMPRESSED)

This is all your land?

ABRAHAM

For eternity.

ISAAC

(SCOFFS)

Yeah, God just forgot to tell anyone else. we're having a war with someone like every five minutes.

ABRAHAM

(scowls at him)

I and my kinsmen have vanquished

our enemies by the mighty hand of
the Lord, praised be He.
Zed and Oh fake their way through a ritual response.

ZED

His name is praise and love his
whole graciousness--

OH

--of his wealthy bounty.
Abraham gets a strange faraway look in his eyes.

60. Official White

ABRAHAM

Therefore, to signify my Covenant
with the One True God, on this
night will I circumcise the flesh
of my foreskin, and of you and
every male who dwells hereby.

ZED

Excuse me?

clear--

OH

I'm not

ISAAC

Here we go again--

ABRAHAM

we will grasp the foreskins of our
penises and cut therefrom the extra
flesh.

ZED

(AGHAST)

I'm not sure I have any extra.

OH

Couldn't we could just get our ears
pierced?

ISAAC

(aside to Zed)

Okay, what did I tell you-- nuts?

ZED

You know, Abe, it's late, and we've all had a lot to drink, and I know this whole foreskin thing sounds like a good idea now, but you may just want to sleep on it. we could always cut 'em off in the morning, but if we do it now, there's just no putting it back on later.

ABRAHAM

No. So it shall be written, so it shall be done.

(to Isaac)

Get my big knife.

Zed and Oh both reflexively cover their crotches.

CUT TO:

61. Official white

37

EXT. THE DESERT - NIGHT 37

Zed and oh stumble over the rocky hills. They hear a PAINED SCREAM from someone being circumcised back at Abraham's camp.

OH

You have any idea where we're going?

ZED

To the city. I have to find Maya.

OH

The city! He said God's going to smite them with holy fire!

ZED

And you're going to listen to him? You think he's more chosen than me?

OH

He seemed to know what he was talking about.

ZED

Yes, and he also wanted to give his dick a little trim.

VOICE

(O.C.)

Hey, wait up!

Zed and Oh turn to see Isaac running towards them.

ISAAC

(out of breath)
I'm coming with you.

ZED

You don't even know where we're going.

ISAAC

You're going to Sodom, right?

ZED

No. Your dad specifically said Sodom and Gomorrah were evil.

ISAAC

Yeah, whatever. If I show you how to get there, will you buy me a bottle of wine?

Official White

62.

ZED

No! I told you, that's not where we're going.

ISAAC

Fine. Then we'll just stand here.

ZED

Fine.
They stand there for less than a beat.
ZED

(cont'd)

Okay, you win. Take us to Sodom.
Isaac takes a couple of steps to the top of a rise and
points
off in the distance.

THEIR POV

Shining in the moonlight, the magnificent city of Sodom set
atop a broad hill surrounded by high walls.

ZED

I knew it was right around here.

ISAAC

Me and my friends sneak in on the
weekends. We hang around, pick up
on the babes, drink some wine, get
wasted on killer hash--

ZED

You shouldn't be smoking either.

ISAAC

Thanks, Grandpa, but I've been
smoking for four harvests, so I
think I'm okay.

They start down toward the city.

CUT TO:

38

EXT. CITY GATES - NIGHT

38

Zed, Oh and Isaac gape at the high masonry walls as they
approach the massive solid wooden gates.

63. Official White

OH

Gee, they're not open. We should probably come back later.

ISAAC

You just have to knock. They always let me in.

(to Oh)

Go ahead.

OH

Me? Why do I have to knock? What if we're waking somebody up? Let's just get out of here.

ZED

Where? Back to the penis-cutter? Besides, Eema and Maya might be in there. You want to get them out before the city's destroyed, don't you?

Isaac impatiently grabs a big rock and starts banging on the door.

ISAAC

(SHOUTING)

Hey! Anybody there? Hello?

Suddenly Zed and Oh are yanked off their feet from behind

and

slammed into the wall by helmeted sentries. Isaac quickly runs away.

SENTRY

(shouts at him)

Halt!

Isaac stops a safe distance away and turns back to taunt the guards.

ISAAC

You gonna make me?

(dancing and dodging like a boxer)

You and what army?

ZED

(shouts to Isaac)

Get help! Tell your father!

ISAAC

(shouts back)

Yeah!

(MORE)

Official White 64.

ISAAC

(cont'd)

Like I'm really gonna tell my
father I came with you to Sodom.
So long, suckers!
He takes off running.

ZED

(to Oh)

I kinda get why his dad wanted to
kill him.

The sentries drag them through a small door cut into a
corner
of the city gates.

CUT TO:

39

INT. GATEHOUSE - CONTINUOUS 39

The sentries shove them into a small guard post and throw
them up against the wall. THREE OTHER GUARDS look up at the
new arrivals.

FIRST GUARD

What's this now?

SENTRY

They were banging on the gate.
Hebrews, from the look of them.

ZED

We're not really Hebrews--
The guard smacks him in the mouth.
ZED

(cont'd)

Okay. Lesson learned. No talking.

SENTRY

Should we wake the Sergeant?

FIRST GUARD

You don't want to do that. He gets pretty mean when you wake him.

OH

Meaner than this?

The sentry grabs Oh's nipple and twists. Oh SCREAMS loudly. The guards freeze at the sound of his scream and look nervously to a closed door at one end of the room.

65. Official White

SERGEANT

(from behind the door,

ROARS)

BLOODY HELL! WHAT'S GOING ON OUT

THERE!

Zed and Oh exchange worried looks. Then the door flies open and the SERGEANT, a huge, angry, sadistic rhino of a man, fills the door frame.

(cont'd) SERGEANT

Who the hell screamed?

They all point at Oh.

(cont'd) SERGEANT

(glowers at him)

I thought it was a woman.

He lumbers over and gets his face very close to Oh's.

(cont'd) SERGEANT

You don't look like a woman, but maybe you want to kiss me anyway.

Is that right? You want to kiss me?

Oh turns away from his foul breath.

him The sergeant grabs Oh by the throat and practically lifts

off the ground.

(cont'd) SERGEANT

By morning you'll be sorry you were born.

OH

Don't have to wait 'til morning.

ZED

Hey! Why don't you pick on someone your own size?

The sergeant drops Oh and turns to Zed.

ZED

(cont'd)

(quickly backpedaling)

Which would be difficult since there are probably very few people around who actually are your size-- He smacks Zed hard on the side of the head.

Official White

66.

SERGEANT

(to another guard)

Get my big stick. I'll deal with the fat one first.

ZED

(INSULTED)

Relatively fat one. I wouldn't be talking about fat, if I were you. Another blow from the sergeant.

ZED

(cont'd)

Right. Enough said.

The sergeant rips open Zed's shirt exposing his back, then steps up behind Oh and does the same. A guard hands him a lethal-looking bat studded with sharp spikes.

SERGEANT

(to Zed and Oh)

Welcome to Sodom.

As he takes a big backswing, Zed and Oh shut their eyes and prepare for the worst.

(O.C.)

VOICE

Stop!

Zed and Oh turn to see Cain at the door, dressed like the other guards in breastplate and helmet.

CAIN

Wait! I know these guys!

ZED AND OH

Cain?

CAIN

Brothers!!

He embraces them. They look confused and doubtful, but relieved.

CUT TO:

40

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT - LATER 40

Cain leads them through the narrow crowded streets. People avoid Cain's gaze and part like the Red Sea to allow him through.

67. Official White

CAIN

You know, you guys are lucky that sergeant is a friend of mine. I let him sodomize me once right after I got here and he's been real nice to me ever since.

OH

(SARCASTIC)

Yeah, thanks for saving us. What are you going to do to us now? Cain stops and looks at them.

CAIN

wait a second. Do I detect a tone

here?

ZED

All right, honestly? You did sell us into slavery.

CAIN

(instantly offended)
Whoa whoa whoa! Hold a grudge much? That was like a fortnight ago.

ZED

That was way less than a fortnight. Half a fortnight, maybe.

CAIN

Give me a break! I was dealing with the death of a close family member and I needed some space. But now I realize that you guys are like my brothers. And it's so rare to find a brother that you love. Right?
He embraces them.

ZED AND OH

(UNEASILY)

Right.

CAIN

(EXUBERANT)

Now, you guys hungry? Watch this.
Cain walks up to a food vendor's stall and stares menacingly at the VENDOR. He raises his fist. The vendor cowers.

Official White

68.

CAIN

(CONT'D)

(cont'd)
(to Vendor)

That's two for flinching.
Cain grabs two lamb kebabs and hands them to Zed and Oh.

CAIN

(cont'd)

That's the kind of love I'm talkin' about.

As they eat hungrily, Zed makes eye contact with a prostitute lounging in a doorway.

ZED

Check out that woman across the street! She's looking at us. The prostitute smiles at them as she sensuously peels a banana, then slides the whole thing unbroken into her mouth.

OH

We are so in! She's eye-knowing us like crazy.

CAIN

You're gonna love Sodom. Trust me. It's crazy. This morning, I almost got a handie behind that pita stand.

OH

Well, I kind of have a girlfriend-- not a girlfriend, yet, but a girl I like, so I shouldn't--

CAIN

Hey, what happens in Sodom, stays in Sodom.

He takes a jug of wine from the stall of a WINE MERCHANT. The merchant just bows obsequiously and keeps his mouth shut.

CAIN

(cont'd)

You know, if you guys are staying you should join the guards. The pay's not great, but there's tons of perks. I'm telling you, it's the only way to go.

Cain grabs a piece of candy from a SMALL CHILD and stuffs it in his mouth. The child starts crying, Cain kicks her in the ass and she runs away.

69. Official White

OH
(to the child)
Sorry.

CAIN
Come on, I'll introduce you to the
captain.

CUT TO:

41
EXT. BARRACKS - NEXT MORNING 41

A military drum roll and the blare of trumpets rouse the
garrison. GUARDSMEN come double-timing out of the barracks
and hurry to line up in formation.
Last to emerge are Zed and Oh who step leisurely out the
door
now dressed as Royal Guards. Zed actually looks dashing, but
Oh's breastplate is too big and his helmet keeps slipping
down over his eyes.

ZED
This is great! How do I look?

OH
You look good, but I think my hat's
too big.
They notice an OFFICER staring at them.
OH

(cont'd)
(to the officer)
Do you happen to know where I could
get a smaller hat?
The officer pops him on the head with a truncheon.

OFFICER

(ROARS)
Line up!
Zed and Oh hustle into line, orders are shouted and the
troop
marches off.

DISSOLVE TO:

42
EXT. CITY STREETS - LATER 42

Zed and Oh are on patrol with Cain in the heart of the city.

70.

Official White

ZED

So is this it? We just walk around?

CAIN

Pretty much. We just look for troublemakers and kick the living shit out of 'em.

ZED

What kind of trouble?

CAIN

If we see a thief or a pickpocket, we just slap him around-- maybe cut off a finger or an ear, or the tip of his nose, lower lip-- anything you can just grab and slice in one fluid motion-- then we take our share of the loot and let him go. Mostly what we worry about are activist types, rabble rousers, getting people all riled up against the King or the Temple Priests. That's death for sure.

ZED

Pretty harsh, isn't it?

CAIN

Harsh times, brother. We're in the middle of a famine. People are starving. If we don't get some rain soon, it could get ugly. (looking forward to it) Then we'll get to start kicking ass big time. He stops to flog a BEGGAR with his hand out.

CAIN

(cont'd)

Beat it, you filthy beggar!

OH

You can't blame people for being hungry.

CAIN

Yeah, well, just remember, it's the palace that pays you, not the people.

Official White

71.

Suddenly, they hear a regal fanfare of approaching trumpets and turn to look.

At the sound of the trumpets EVERYONE IN THE CROWDED SQUARE falls to the ground and prostrates himself. Cain pulls Oh to the ground but Zed is left standing there oblivious as the ROYAL ENTOURAGE approaches.

Oh taps on Zed's leg trying to get his attention, but Zed just ignores it, too transfixed to notice that he's the only one standing.

EIGHT STRONG MALE SLAVES enter the square carrying an ornately decorated litter shaded with a silk canopy. On it is the PRINCESS INANNA, a stunning young woman, richly dressed and bejeweled, with exotic eyes and luscious red lips. A HANDMAIDEN rides along fanning her with a big ostrich plume fan.

Zed sees the Princess and is instantly taken with her beauty.

Princess Inanna glances his way and can't help but notice he's the only person in the square still standing. She gives him a quizzical smile, then turns away imperiously.

As the litter passes, her handmaiden continues to stare at Zed. He doesn't recognize her, but we do. It's Maya, now elaborately costumed and made-up.

Zed gawks at the Princess, then suddenly a ROYAL GUARD knocks

him to the ground and stands on his neck as the rest of the entourage passes.

ZED

(on the ground, excitedly to Oh)
Did you see that girl? I think she

liked me! She looked right at me.

OH

Gee, I wonder why?

The royal guard takes his foot off Zed's neck and they all get back to their feet.

ZED

Who was she?

CAIN

The Princess Inanna. She's totally hot, but don't even think about it.

72.

Official White

ZED

Why not?

CAIN

Because she's royalty and you're scum?

The entire crowd starts moving in the same direction as the royal entourage.

OH

Where's everybody going?

CAIN

To the temple. Let's go.

(starts walking)

You have to see this.

ZED

(FOLLOWING)

Will she be there?

CAIN

Everybody will be there.

CUT TO:

43

EXT. TEMPLE SQUARE - MINUTES LATER 43

At the center of the square is a magnificent temple adorned with elaborate carvings and monumental statues of pagan gods.

Before it is a great altar in front of a HUGE STONE IDOL. The idol's mouth is a gaping fiery furnace. Behind the temple, is a towering ZIGURAT still under construction. A HUNDRED TRUMPETERS AND DRUMMERS blast a solemn fanfare as ORNATELY GARBED PRIESTS ceremoniously climb the stairs to the altar.

ZED AND OH

stare at the spectacle.

44

THE ROYAL PAVILION

44

The Princess Inanna takes her seat near the KING, the QUEEN, the MINISTERS and other NOBLES. Maya stands behind the Princess and continues fanning her. Zed spots the Princess on the pavilion.

73. Official white

ZED

Hey, there she is!
He starts edging toward the royal pavilion.

45

45

THE PAVILION

Under a broad awning, the King and Queen snack from a table covered with platters of exotic fruits and sweetmeats. The King, an imposing man with Shakespearean gravity, wipes his mouth and glances at the Princess Inanna.

KING

The Princess isn't eating?

INANNA

I find it hard to eat when so many

are hungry.

KING

(as if)
Your concern is enviable.

INANNA

(POUTY)

And besides, I'm so fat.
The Queen,
40's, still beautiful, reacts.

QUEEN

(for the hundredth time)
You're not fat--

INANNA

Yes, I am, mother! Those new linen
pants you got me from Egypt make my
ass look just huge.

QUEEN

Well, you can't keep starving
yourself.

INANNA

Why not? Everybody else is
starving-- present company
excluded.

Official White

74.

KING

Careful, Princess. You may be my
step-daughter, but these are
dangerous times and those are
dangerous words. I weep for the
suffering of my people, but the
spirit of rebellion is alive in the
city and if necessary I will crush
it with every means at my disposal.

INANNA

(SARCASTIC)

For the good of the people.

KING

(warning her)

For the good of everyone who enjoys
the favor of the throne.

INANNA

Whatever. I'm just so incredibly
bored.

46

THE TEMPLE DOORS 46

The fanfare climaxes as the great temple doors slowly open and the HIGH PRIEST emerges followed by a retinue of PRIESTESSES and a dozen VESTAL VIRGINS. They walk in solemn silence to ritual positions around the altar.

The High Priest is even more elaborately costumed than the nobles, ridiculously so, standing very tall on high platform shoes, with heavy eye makeup, his hair and beard even oilier than the others. He turns to the altar, raises his hands to the heavens and begins his invocation.

HIGH PRIEST

(intoning pompously)

O El, lord of Heaven and Earth;
Baal, the Sublime; Shapash, goddess
of the sun; Hadad, the storm god,
over-ruling son of Dagon, the
bountiful, god of grain, our
earthly sustenance--

ZED

He makes his way to a position just below the royal pavilion and stares up at the Princess Inanna.
She sees him looking at her but pretends not to notice.

Official white

75.

INANNA

Isn't that the idiot who was
standing up in the street?

Maya sees him, too, and starts fuming.
The High Priest continues.

HIGH PRIEST

We come before you in humble
supplication, invoking your
blessing, the sweet rain which
waters our fields, enriches the
harvest, fills our storehouses,
makes mighty the house of Ish-ka-bi-
baal and the city of Sodom--
The King nods graciously.

HIGH PRIEST

(cont'd)

--and feeds us, your children, with
the bounty of your grace.

PRINCESS INANNA

She glances at Zed again, but this time a slight smile
crosses her lips.

Zed grins back at her.

The Princess whispers something to her handmaiden Maya and
subtly points Zed out to her. Maya nods obediently, glaring
at Zed, and starts fanning the princess a little too
vigorously.

THE ALTAR

HIGH PRIEST

Accept now this humble sacrifice to
the power and glory of your
magnificence.

He starts inspecting the Vestal Virgins, beautiful young
women in diaphanous, almost transparent white gowns.

ZED AND OH

have no idea what's going on. Zed turns to the GUY NEXT TO

HIM.

Official White

76.

ZED

What's happening?

GUY

He's picking a virgin.

CAIN

(LASCIVIOUS)

Oh yeah. Uh huh. Uh huh.

AT THE ALTAR

the High Priest is moving down the line of beautiful young maidens. He comes to one SLUTTY GIRL who seems so obviously not a virgin, he does a double take and kicks her out of the line.

ZED AND OH

watching curiously.

ZED

What do they want a virgin for?

GUY

To throw into the fire.

ZED

(SHOCKED)

Why?

GUY

(like talking to an idiot)
Offering to the Gods. There's a famine going on. If we don't make a good sacrifice, it won't rain. No rain, no harvest. No harvest, no food. Get it?

CAIN

It's pretty self-explanatory.

OH

You throw the virgin in the fire so it'll rain?

GUY

Duh.

ZED

Seems like a waste of a perfectly good virgin to me.

77.

Official white

OH

(CONCERNED)

These virgins-- it's always a girl,
right?

AT THE ALTAR

A great cheer goes up as a girl is chosen. She swoons as the priestesses slip off her vestment and two priests escort her to the fiery mouth of the furnace.

HIGH PRIEST

For the love of the Gods and the
glory of their Creation, the great
dome of Heaven, the green growing
Earth, we commit this maiden to
your Holy Fire.

the

Another great cheer from the crowd as they throw her into
fire.

ZED

(APPALLED)

This is just crazy.
Maya approaches them but Zed and Oh still don't recognize
her.

MAYA

(eyes downcast)
The Princess wishes to see you.

CAIN

(staring at her cleavage)
Her wish is my command.

MAYA

Not you. Him.
(points at Zed)

ZED

Me? Cool.
(then, motioning to Oh)

We're kind of a package deal. Can he come with?

CAIN

The three of us are inseparable. We're like brothers. Cain squeezes both their shoulders and gives Maya an artificial smile.

78. Official White
Maya ignores Cain and points to Zed and Oh.

MAYA

The two of you follow me.

ZED

(to Cain)
I'll try to put in a good word for you.
Cain fumes as Zed and Oh head off with Maya.

CUT TO:

47

47

EXT. PALACE - LATER

A SQUAD OF SENTRIES stands guard at the massive iron palace gates. A CROWD OF BEGGARS is pressed against the gate pleading for food. Zed and Oh approach led by Maya. The guards brutally push the beggars aside and they enter.

48

48

INT. PALACE - COURTYARD -- CONTINUOUS

Maya leads Zed and Oh through the gate and into a beautiful atrium where they are met by a fat bald EUNUCH wearing the royal livery.

MAYA

(to Oh)

This is Zaftig the Eunuch. You go with him.

Oh is led away by the Eunuch as she takes Zed off in the opposite direction.

OH

Can't I go with him?

EUNUCH

Why? Is he your lover?

OH

(laughs at the thought)

Hah! No? That would be weird.

LOVERS--

The Eunuch just shrugs, apparently not that weird to him.

OH

(cont'd)

(COVERING)

So what do you do?

Official White

79.

EUNUCH

I serve the royal family-- little of this, little of that. I've been a palace eunuch since I was nine years old.

OH

You've been living here since you were nine?

(looks around, impressed)

I should look into that. How do you get to be a eunuch?

EUNUCH

(MATTER-OF-FACT)

They cut off your testicles.

OH

(HORRIFIED)

What?! What's up with all the genital mutilation?

EUNUCH

(SHRUGS)

Trust me, after a while you don't even miss them.

OH

(EMPHATIC)

No, I'd miss them-- I'm sure. I hardly got to use them yet. The Eunuch leads him down the corridor.

CUT TO:

49

A SHEEP'S HEART, LIVER AND GUTS 49

land with a wet splat on a polished marble table.

INT. PALACE THRONE ROOM - SAME TIME

The High Priest, an extremely vain, officious, and fussy man, still over-dressed in sacramental drag, pushes back his sleeves and starts examining the entrails as the King and his MINISTERS look on, deeply concerned.

KING

Six sacrifices in the last ten days and still no rain. What do the entrails predict?

Official White

80.

HIGH PRIEST

(nervously poking at the sheep heart)
Well, the liver is streaked with

gray-- that's not a favorable sign--
but the heart looks good. See how
nice and red it is here. That's
always a good omen.

KING

What does it mean?

HIGH PRIEST

Usually it means that the sheep
took very good care of itself,
probably sticking to a high-fiber
diet of grass and hay.

KING

What does it mean for us?

HIGH PRIEST

Well, it could mean either a
surprise visit from a former friend
or sweetheart-- or that you're
going on a long sea voyage!
Wouldn't that be fun?

KING

(SCORNFUL)

How did you become High Priest?

HIGH PRIEST

Because I'm your brother?

PRIME MINISTER

Perhaps it's time for a new High
Priest.

HIGH PRIEST

(his eyes go wide)
Perhaps it's not time for a new
High Priest. Aaaahh!
He dramatically flings his fingers out at the Prime

Minister,

as if wielding the power of the Gods.
Nothing happens.

HIGH PRIEST

(cont'd)

And let that be a warning to you.
Next time, I will hurl a lightning
bolt at your face.

(MORE)

Official White

81.

HIGH PRIEST

(cont'd)

(CONSIDERS)

Or a fire-ball.

PRIME MINISTER

(ignores him)

Majesty, there's talk of revolution
in the streets. Grain and oil are
scarce, prices are high, starving
peasants are pouring into the city
looking for food--

KING

Poverty has a bitter taste, but
it's the flavor they were born to.
It's the will of the Gods.

The Queen and Princess Inanna are lounging on cushioned
divans, listening.

INANNA

(BLASE)

Can the Gods really be so cruel?

QUEEN

I don't think that's cruel. It's
just practical. If everybody was
rich, who'd wait on us?

Maya approaches and whispers something to the Princess.

INANNA

Good. See that he's bathed and
dressed, then bring him to me.

Maya frowns and exits.

INANNA (cont'd)

(to the queen)

This should be amusing.

CUT TO:

Maya leads Zed down a grand hallway. Zed is now wearing a long flowing robe of silk brocade, fine sandals, and jewelry.

His hair has been combed and pulled back into a loose ponytail. He stops to admire himself in a mirror.

ZED

What do you think, ponytail or no ponytail? You know what?

(MORE)

Official White 82.

ZED

(cont'd)

I'll start with the ponytail, see where the night takes me.

Maya rolls her eyes and leads Zed to the entrance of the Great Hall. Cain and another guard are posted at the door.

ZED

(cont'd)

Hey, you made it! What's it like inside?

CAIN

(POINTED)

I wouldn't know.- I'm just a guard because my "brother" didn't pull any strings with his friends in the royal court.

ZED

Look, first of all, we're not actually brothers---

CAIN

Just like Abel. I oughta just bash your head in--

ZED

Hey! You didn't let me finish. As soon as I get in there I'm going to talk to somebody and get you invited, okay?

CAIN

(UNCONVINCED)

Yeah, sure. Have a nice orgy. Cain pulls open the big doors and Zed steps through the portal. Cain tries to steal peeks inside as the heavy doors slam shut.

CUT TO:

51

ZED'S POV

51

A full-scale ORGY is going on in a magnificent hall. As Maya leads him into the room, Zed pulls his hair out of the ponytail.

ZED

Feels like a hair-down kinda scene, don't you think?

Official White

83.

MAYA

As you wish.

(POINTEDLY)

Be sure to try the fruit. Zed looks at her and finally recognizes her.

ZED

Maya?! What are you doing here?

MAYA

I had no choice. I'm a slave, remember?

ZED

I was going to rescue you! Really! In fact, we came here to find you.

MAYA

(not buying it)
Wait here until you're sent for.

ZED

This wasn't my idea, you know.

MAYA

Of course not. You were just chosen again. Maybe after you and the Princess get together you can start thinking about someone beside yourself.

She walks off before he can answer.

Zed shakes his head, looks around the room, then STARTS walking past a row of "LIVING STATUES," semi-nude men and women on pedestals covered head to toe in gold body paint, frozen in heroic postures that show off their beautiful bodies.

Zed looks closely at one beautiful nude "GODDESS", then furtively reaches out and fondles her breast. The goddess slaps his hand, then resumes her pose.

GODDESS

watch it, jerk!

ZED

Hey! You're a real girl! That is so cool.

Official White

84.

He moves down the row of living sculptures, mugging at them, mock humping, and waving his hands in their faces trying to make them move, but they remain frozen.

ZED

(cont'd)

Amazing!

He comes to the LAST STATUE and does a double-take. This one is wearing only a skimpy cloth diaper and is posed like someone waiting for a bus. He is also painted gold, but unlike the others, he has a little potbelly and round shoulders, and can't seem to hold still for very long, shifting his weight uncomfortably and looking around in

obvious embarrassment.

ZED

(cont'd)

(recognizing him)

Oh?

Oh looks down from his pedestal.

OH

(through clenched teeth)

I'm not supposed to talk. I'm a statue.

ZED

Yeah, you look so-- gold. How's it going?

OH

How's it going? I just had my whole body painted by a fat guy with no balls, and believe me, he was very thorough, if you know what I mean. How's it going with you?

ZED

Not bad. Had a little rub and a scrub, now I'm up for some grub.

OH

That sounds nice-- for you.

ZED

Hey! You'll never guess who's here-- Maya! She's working here-- and she looks great! But she's kinda mad at me.

Oh scans the great hall looking for her and spots Zed's sister Eema, his crush, come into the room carrying a tray

of

food.

Official White

85.

OH

There's Eema!

Eema has been beautifully groomed and is now dressed as a household slave. She stops to serve some rowdy OFFICERS who take the opportunity to tease and fondle her. She tries to pull away but Sargon, the general, grabs her arm.

SARGON

Stand still, wench! I want to see what's under that skirt.

As he starts to lift her hem, she drops the whole tray of food on him. His cohorts laugh.

EEMA

I'm sorry! It was an accident.

SARGON

That was no accident!

Sargon grabs her and raises his hand to hit her.

Zed steps in quickly.

ZED

You! Slave girl!

(he pulls her away from

SARGON)

I told you to fetch me more wine!

Apologize to this officer--- now!

EEMA

I'm sorry.

ZED

Now go-- fetch! Wait by that-- skinny statue. I'll deal with you later.

As Eema exits, Zed turns to the officers and shrugs.

ZED

(cont'd)

Slaves-- what are you gonna do?

SARGON

Try using a hot poker. That they understand.

ZED

Ouch. Helpful hint. I will keep that in mind.

Official White

86.

Zed bows, then leaves him and joins Eema who is waiting at Oh's pedestal.

Zed

(cont'd)

What are you doing here?

EEMA

We were sold to the palace. But I won't serve these people! I'd rather die!

ZED

Keep that up and you will.

EEMA

What are you doing here?
(notices his clothes)
Have you joined them?

OH

I haven't joined anything.
(re the gold body paint)
Does this look like fun?
They both look accusingly at Zed.

ZED

Okay, I know what you're thinking, but I'm just checking it out. We kept hearing that this place was so evil, but now that I look around I'm thinking maybe it's not all bad. There's a lot to learn here.

OH

What? Like human sacrifice?

ZED

No! Like the wheel, for instance! That's pretty awesome-- the way it just goes around in a circle. And farming! And metal-- writing, money, pottery-- hot baths. Come on! Back in the village we thought sharpening a stick was a big breakthrough.

EEMA

(to Oh)

What happened to him?

87. Official White

ZED

Look, I think I've been chosen to do something great with my life--

OH

Here we go again--

ZED

--and I don't think it's hunting wild pigs and weaving baskets. Maya returns for Zed.

MAYA

(COOLLY)

She wants to see you-- now.

ZED

I hope you don't think I'm interested in her.

MAYA

(MIFFED)

Why would I think that? Just because you couldn't take your eyes off her--

ZED

I'm just using her, Maya! It's part of my plan. I'm going to get you all out of here as soon as I can.

MAYA

(SKEPTICAL)

What's your plan?

ZED

(not a clue)
It's a secret.

MAYA

(not buying it)
Forget it.
Maya sees A GUARD watching them and reverts to her slave
attitude.
MAYA (cont'd)
(bowing to Zed)
The Princess awaits you.

88. Official White

ZED

And I await her.
(to Oh and Eema)
You two await me.
(then confidentially to
Eema and Oh)
Stay out of trouble. I'll be back.
He exits with Maya.

EEMA

He has no idea what he's doing,
does he?

OH

I don't know. So much has
happened. Sometimes I think--
She walks away.
OH

(cont'd)

(wistfully, to himself)
I love you.

52

THE HIGH PRIEST 52

Lounging on a divan surrounded by YOUNG MEN. Oh walks by
still painted gold.

HIGH PRIEST

(to Oh)
You there! Golden boy! Rub me

lets

with oil.

The High Priest dismisses the young men, then stands and

his rich outer robe fall to the floor. His chest, back and shoulders are incredibly hairy.

OH

I'd rather not, if you don't mind.

I'm not really a slave. I'm a guard.

HIGH PRIEST

Then maybe you'd rather I speak to your commander and have you whipped to within an inch of your life. Or perhaps I whip you myself? How would you like that?

OH

Are those my choices?

89.

Official White

HIGH PRIEST

I'd say so.

The High Priest lies back down. Oh looks around, finds a pitcher filled with precious oil and dribbles some on the High Priest's hairy chest.

OH

How's that?

HIGH PRIEST

More.

OH

(splashes a few more drops on him)

That enough?

HIGH PRIEST

(getting angry)

No! More oil! Much more, you insolent dolt!

Oh pours oil liberally over his chest, back, and shoulders.
HIGH PRIEST

(cont'd)

That's good. Now rub it in.

OH

(APPALLED)

With my hands?

HIGH PRIEST

Do it!

Oh grimaces and starts gingerly massaging the oil into his hairy chest and shoulders.

HIGH PRIEST

(cont'd)

(in ecstasy)

Mmmmm, I love it. The sweet scent of precious oil. The oily-- oiliness.

Eema walks by with a pitcher of wine and sees Oh massaging the High Priest. She gasps.

OH

(EMBARRASSED)

Eema! This isn't what you think.

Official White

90.

EEMA

(FLUSTERED)

No, it's fine. I understand. This really explains a lot about you that I didn't get before.

OH

No, really! I'm just-- rubbing oil on this man.

She exits.

HIGH PRIEST

Mnum imam. I have an idea. Why don't

we go back to my place and see
what's under all that paint?

OH

(DISGUSTED)

Ughh.

CUT TO:

53

INT. PRINCESS'S CHAMBER - NIGHT - MINUTES LATER 53

Maya ushers Zed into the dimly lit room.

MAYA

Good luck.

ZED

MAYA--

She leaves him. A haze of heavily scented incense hangs in
the air.

INANNA (O.S.)

Come to me.

Zed turns and sees the Princess standing on the terrace.

54

EXT. GARDEN TERRACE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 54

Zed steps out onto the moonlit terrace. He crosses to the
balustrade and stands beside the Princess, gazing out over
the twinkling cityscape.

INANNA

Beautiful, isn't it? You can see
Gomorrah just over the hill.

Official White

91.

ZED

I didn't know it was so close.

INANNA

They're called the "twin cities."

ZED

Looks pretty from up here, but some people think God is going to wipe them out because they're so evil.

INANNA

(toying with him)
And what do you think? Am I evil?

ZED

I don't really know you. But you don't look evil.

PRINCESS

Do you find me attractive?

ZED

Well, yeah. I think you're--
incredible.

INANNA

(moving closer)
I have body issues.

ZED

No, you're perfect. Your face,
your hair--
(looking into her eyes)
Your eyes are like the sea.

INANNA

(a beat)
My eyes are brown.

ZED

Well, it's kinda dark. I took a
shot. I know they're big, though--
and wet--
She pulls him close.

ZED

Can I ask you one thing? What
would a girl like you want with a
guy like me?

(cont'd)

Official white

INANNA

I don't know. I just find you-- interesting. They say it's the will of the gods that some men should suffer while others rule-- that we're all just victims of our fate. And I believed that until this morning when I saw you standing up, alone, in the square. And I said to myself, finally here's one man who refuses to bow down to anything--

ZED

UH--

(considers explaining but just lets it go)
Yeah. That's me.

INANNA

Yes, finally a man who has the courage to question the order of things--- a man chosen by the Gods to do something great.

ZED

(EXHILARATED)

That's exactly what I've been thinking! You wouldn't believe the things that have been happening to me lately. I just didn't know why.

INANNA

(gets very, very close)
I know why. To bring you here-- to this place-- to me.

ZED

(SMITTEN)

I couldn't agree more. I'm trying to agree more, but I can't. That's how much I agree.

INANNA

Come.

She takes his hand and leads him away.
A SHADOWY FIGURE watches them from behind a curtain.

CUT TO:

93. Official White

55

55

EXT. THE TEMPLE - NIGHT

We can see torchlight flickering inside the temple and TWO FIGURES moving among the pillars.

56

INT. THE TEMPLE - SAME TIME 56

The High Priest is giving Oh a personal tour of the inner sanctum. Oh is scrubbed and dressed like a junior priest.

HIGH PRIEST

My life is devoted to the service of the Gods and the good of the people. I take nothing for myself. He has a huge gold ring set with precious gems on every finger, and a gold tiara on his head studded with rubies and emeralds.

OH

That's so-- unselfish of you.

HIGH PRIEST

Yes, it is. It's just so-- lonely. Sometimes i hunger for the touch of another human being.

(COY)

Here's a riddle: what has two thumbs and wants another oil rub?
(pointing thumbs at

HIMSELF)

This-guy.

Oh quickly changes the subject.

OH

So where does that hall lead to?

HIGH PRIEST

(his eyes light up)

Come, I'll show you.

He takes Oh's arm and leads him down the hall toward a set
of
incredibly impressive doors covered with cuneiform writing
and arcane religious symbols.

HIGH PRIEST

(cont'd)

Behind those doors is the Holy of
Holies-- the earthly domain of the

(MORE)

94.

Official White

HIGH PRIEST

Gods-- a place so ineffably sacred,
so powerful, that to enter is
instant death for any mortal.

(cont'd)

OH

Wow.

(a long beat)

So who cleans it?

HIGH PRIEST

it needs no cleaning.

OH

No, of course not.

(can't let go of it)

Kind of makes you wonder though--
the guys who built it, did they
just die the minute they finished,
or did the Gods give them a second
to get out?

HIGH PRIEST

(starting to get annoyed)
I assume they finished it, then the
Gods descended.

OH

Yeah, that's probably it.
(another long beat)
So you're saying we can't go in?

HIGH PRIEST

I just told you! To enter is
instant death! Only I can go in
and only once a year after very
elaborate purification rituals and
days of special prayers and
offerings.

OH

(QUICKLY)

Right, right, right.

(BEAT)

What if we just open the doors and
stick our heads in?

HIGH PRIEST

Fine! Enough! I'm sorry I brought
it up. Let's go.
(pushes Oh along)
Move. Move.
He shoos him down the hall.

95. Official White

57

57

TEMPLE - MOMENTS LATER

INT.

Zed and Princess Inanna stealthily enter the temple.

ZED

(looking around nervously)

What are we doing here?

INANNA

I want you to enter the Holy of Holies.

ZED

Yes! Finally. Now you're talking! Should I enter it right here or should we go back to your bedroom? Does the Holy of Holies like to be entered from behind or--?

INANNA

(POINTS)

That's the Holy of Holies-- you have to go in there and talk to the Gods.

ZED

The Gods are in there?

INANNA

So they say, but the only one who ever goes in is the High Priest. They say it's instant death for anyone else to enter.

ZED

Then why am I going in?

INANNA

(IMPATIENT)

Because you were chosen? If the Gods wanted you dead they would have killed you already.

ZED

RIGHT--

INANNA

This is what you've been chosen for! To speak to the Gods and plead with them not to destroy the city. Then come back out and tell me what it's like inside.

96.

Official White

ZED

(mulling it over)
Right-- right. Then again, if the
rules say--

INANNA

Do you always follow the rules?

ZED

What is it with chicks always
wanting guys to break the rules?
You-all have this bad boy complex----
She kisses him fiercely on the lips.

INANNA

Do this for me.

ZED

I'm going in.
He enters the Holy of Holies. A FIGURE darts between the
columns and hides in the shadows. A beam of moonlight
reveals the mark of Cain on his forehead.

CUT TO:

58

INT. HOLY OF HOLIES - CONTINUOUS 58

Zed steps into the chamber and immediately prostrates
himself, face down on the floor, arms outstretched in
supplication. He lies there with his eyes tightly shut,
expecting to be vaporized any second. A long moment passes
in total silence. Then he opens his eyes and looks around
tentatively.

The inner chamber of the Holy of Holies is a bare room with
marble walls lit only by shafts of moonlight from skylights
above.

ZED

(takes a deep breath and
starts improvising)
Thank you, O-- Merciful ones, for--
not like-- killing me, and letting
me receive the, uh, blessing of

your holy-- godliness.
He exhales and closes his eyes again, waiting for some
divine response. Nothing comes.

97. Official White

ZED (cont'd)
(props himself up on his

ELBOWS)

Okay, I don't know the right words--
so I'm just going to say what I
have to say-- if that's all right.
(waits for a response,
gets none, proceeds)

I know I haven't always done the
right thing. Eating the fruit was
bad, I know that-- and the Cain
thing-- and I have done somethings
with women-- I do love the ladies--
well, you probably know all that
because you're watching everything--
(a thought occurs)

Do you really watch everything?
That's got to be a little
disgusting sometimes-- but probably
pretty hot, too--

(QUICKLY)

Not that you would get off on any
of it-- okay, I'm getting off the
subject. Anyways, the word is
you've been considering destroying
this place. So I'm asking you not
to-- as a personal favor.

(NOTHING)

Feel free to jump in anytime. I
could use a little guidance here.
Still no response. He rolls over onto his back.

ZED (cont'd)
Look, I know you think this place
is evil and it kinda is-- I see
that-- but that's not everybody.

There are a lot of good people,
too. So what if there were, like,
fifty really good people? Would
you still destroy the city?

(SILENCE)

Okay, you're right, that may be a
reach. How about twenty? I could
probably get you twenty extremely
good people if I really looked
around.

(SILENCE)

How about five? Five awesome
people-- including myself. I
personally know at least five
people worth saving. Does that
sound good?

(MORE)

98. Official White
ZED
(cont'd)

(NOTHING)

Hello? A little help? Am I
getting warm here? Okay, is it me?
Are you punishing me for stuff I
did?
(an insight)
Or setting me up for what I need to
do. Or both! Or neither?

(NOTHING)

Could you give me some kind of a
sign-- please-- anything?
Zed listens but hears only a profound silence. Then a
revelation. He sits up on the floor.
ZED
(cont'd)
Okay, wait. Is that the sign? The
silence? Is that it?
(waits for confirmation)

It is, isn't it! Just this really silent-- silence.

(PONDERING)

You're not going to tell me what to do; it's up to me to decide what's right and what's wrong-- right? Is that it? You're not going to speak to me-- you're going to speak through me? If that's right, don't say anything.

(listens for a beat)

Okay, I read you loud and clear.

Thank you.

(an afterthought)

Oh, and if things don't work out with Maya would it be okay with you if me and the Princess had a little "carnal knowledge"? Not in an evil way or anything--

(he listens; silence)

Okay! You're right, probably not a good idea. Thank you.

He backs out of the Holy of Holies, bowing all the way.

CUT TO:

59

59

INT. THE TEMPLE - CONTINUOUS

The doors to the Holy of Holies opens and Zed comes backing out, still bowing and muttering. Then he turns and his face falls.

Official White

99.

The High Priest, the King, the Queen, and a dozen Temple Acolytes are staring at him in amazement. Oh stands beside the High Priest dressed just like him.

ZED

I was just looking for the bathroom.

INANNA

(INNOCENTLY)

I told him not to go in.

HIGH PRIEST

(SHRIEKS)

Seize them!

OH

(scared, points at Zed)

Seize him!

The guards arrest Oh as Cain steps up and takes hold of Zed.

CAIN

(SMIRKING)

Should've invited me to the party.

CUT TO:

60

60

INT. DUNGEON - MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

In the dim torchlight, we see Zed hanging spread-eagle five feet off the ground, his arms and legs stretched out wide and

tightly bound to iron rings imbedded in the stone.

Oh is shackled to the wall beside him, hanging upside down.

They hear the faint scream of a man being tortured somewhere deep in the prison.

ZED

I wish I was upside down. Looks fun.

Oh won't talk to him.

ZED

(cont'd)

So this is it? We're not friends anymore? After all I've done for you?

Official White

OH

What have you done for me? I've been attacked by a cougar, I've fallen down a mountain, I almost had the tip of my thingy cut off, I've been greasing up the High Priest all night, and now I'm hanging upside down in a dungeon. And I have to pee real bad. All because of you. You call yourself a friend? Name one good thing you've done for me.

ZED

I've helped you come out of your shell.

OH

(in distress)
I really have to pee--

ZED

Listen, I know I'm not perfect, and I may have made a few wrong turns, but you have to understand-- I'm a chosen. That's a lot of responsibility -- you can't even imagine.

OH

(ANGRY)

The only one who thinks you're chosen is you, so shut up already!

ZED

(STUNG)

Okay, be mad, but I'm going to get us out of here, if it's the last thing I do.

Zed starts frantically yanking on his shackles to no avail.

ZED

(cont'd)

That was just my first idea-- and I'm also accepting ideas.

OH

(SHOUTS)

Guard! I have to pee! Now!
Seriously!
(can't hold it anymore)
Oh, no--

101. Official White

Because he's upside down, the streams runs down his stomach,
over his chest, down his neck, onto his chin and over his
face.

OH

(cont'd)

I hate you.

CUT TO:

61

61

EXT. PUBLIC SQUARE - EARLY MORNING

A curious, jeering MOB is gathering as Zed and Oh, in
shackles, are led by a SQUAD OF GUARDS to a raised platform
in the middle of the square.
The heavy pounding of martial drums silences the crowd. Cain
presides over the execution. He addresses the crowd.

CAIN

For the crimes of blasphemy--
(the crowd grumbles its

DISAPPROVAL)

HERESY--

(grumble, grumble)

CONSPIRACY--

(serious grumbling)

SODOMY--

(admiring oohs and aahs)
And the murder of my brother Abel--

ZED

Oh, come on!

CAIN

Shut up! For these and other crimes they may not actually have done yet but we're pretty sure they were thinking about, the prisoners will be stoned to death.

The crowd roars as GUARDS stationed around the square pull canvas covers off big baskets of rocks and the people rush

to

grab stones to throw.

Zed and Oh instinctively move closer to each other.

PALACE BALCONY

The King, Queen, High Priest and Royal Ministers observe the stoning from their vantage point above the square. Princess Inanna refuses to look.

Official White

102.

KING

Observe, my dear. It seems the least you could do, since it was you who lured him to his death. She reluctantly turns and looks at Zed.

INANNA

I didn't intend for this to happen.

THE SQUARE

The people move in and surround the platform on all sides, baseball-size rocks in their hands.

CAIN

(to Zed and Oh)

Anything to say before the sentence is carried out?

ZED

(to the crowd)

I just want to say this is really messed up--

CAIN

OKAY--

(SHOUTS)

STONE THEM!

The people fling their rocks with all their might.

Zed and Oh duck.

The rocks fly over their heads and hit people in the crowd

on

the opposite sides, several bystanders taking painful hits

in

the head, some falling down unconscious.

Cain notes the impracticality of having people throw rocks from all directions.

CAIN

(cont'd)

Okay! Stop! Halt! Hold it! This isn't working.

ZED

Can I make a suggestion?

CAIN

(IRKED)

What?

Official White

103.

ZED

Why don't you just pick one person to throw?

The crowd thinks that's not a bad idea and murmurs agreement.

ZED

(cont'd)

(pressing the advantage)

In fact, don't you think it would be fair for us to get to pick the person who stones us?

Cain looks doubtful, but the crowd thinks this is eminently

fair.

CROWD

(some eagerly raising
their hands and waving
like school children)
Yes! Ooh, me! Pick me! Me!

ON THE BALCONY

The King grabs Sargon.

KING

(re Cain)
What is that idiot doing?

IN THE SQUARE

Zed spots a good candidate in the crowd.

ZED

We pick him!
Cain points at a BIG GUY, heavily muscled, eagerly waving
his hand.

CAIN

Him?

ZED

No, next to him!
He points at a BOY, about nine years old and not very big.

CAIN

He's just a kid!

Official White

104.

ZED

So? You got something against
kids?
Zed plays the crowd which starts booing in disapproval.
ZED

(cont'd)

This guy hates kids!

CROWD

Yeah! What's he got against kids?
Children are the future! Give the
kid a shot! The kid! The kid!
On the balcony, the King shifts uncomfortably, intimidated

by

the power of the mob. He nods to Sargon who signals to Cain.

CAIN

All right! All right! We'll try
it. Kid! Grab a rock.
The boy picks up a good-size rock.
Zed turns to Oh.

ZED

Good thinking, huh?
They turn to face the boy, ready to dodge when he throws.
The boy winds up and fires a major league fastball that
smacks Oh right on the forehead. The crowd cheers.

ZED

(cont'd)

Holy shit! That kid's got an arm!

OH

(DAZED)

I think he hit me.
The boy fires again.
Oh spins and tries to duck but takes the rock right on the
head.

OH

(cont'd)

Hey! There's two of us!
The crowd cheers and pats the kid on the back.

CAIN

Okay, everybody on this side now!
On the count of three! One-- two--

Official white

105.

ZED

Wait! I have a question for the
King!

The crowd goes silent. All eyes turn and look up to the palace balcony.

ZED

(cont'd)

(shouts to the King)

Why didn't I die in the Holy of Holies?

On the balcony, everyone is totally stopped by his question. One by one they all look to the High Priest who seems to be stumped.

In the square, the crowd starts muttering. Zed seizes the initiative.

ZED

(cont'd)

I entered the Holy of Holies and, lo, I did not die! Why? Because I am chosen by the Gods!

PEOPLE IN THE CROWD

He is chosen! He is the Chosen

One. The Chosen One!

Zed gives Oh a look: "See? I told you."

THE CROWD

(starts chanting)

Spare the Chosen One! Spare the Chosen One! Spare the Chosen One!

OH

And his friend! Don't forget his friend!

On the balcony, the King and his ministers hastily confer with the High Priest.

KING

Could it be? Is he truly chosen?

HIGH PRIEST

I don't-- I suppose it's possible-- I'd have to examine some new

INTESTINES--

KING

Imbecile!

Official White

106.

PRIME MINISTER

Majesty, with respect, whether he's chosen or not is no longer the issue. To kill him now, given the public mood, could inflame the situation enough to prompt a radical "regime change," if you take my meaning.

lean

The King looks grimly at his ministers, all of whom have and hungry looks.
Princess Inanna smiles contemptuously at him.

CUT TO:

62

SARGON

62

addressing the crowd in the square.

SARGON

By order of the King, the sentence has been commuted.
The crowd cheers. Zed and Oh exchange hopeful looks.

CAIN

(PLAINTIVE)

Can't we just stone them a little?

SARGON

It is the judgement of our most merciful King that the prisoners are to be enslaved to toil at hard labor until they die of exhaustion or starvation.

ZED

(exuberant fist pump)
Yes!

CUT TO:

63

EXT. THE ZIGGURAT - DAY 63

Oh is up to his knees in a mud pit, trampling straw into the

thick mud. A Guard cracks a bullwhip which flicks painfully across his shoulders.

107. Official white

OH
Okay, you think that actually makes anybody work harder? It just makes them resent you. Is that what you want?

GUARD
(whips him again)
Faster!

OH
Can I just ask when lunch is?
The whip lashes out again.
Oh glowers at him and steps up the pace.

64
THE BRICK YARD 64

Marlak and Enmebaragesi are stacking bricks when zed approaches.

ZED
(greet's them)
Hey! Boys! Long time no see.
They glance up, but ignore him.
ZED

(cont'd)

Don't tell me you're still mad about Maya. That's so over. I have a thing going with the princess now-- well, almost had a thing. I'm a slave now-- just like you.

MARLAK
No. You're not just like me.

ZED
Okay. We do have our differences-- like about a cup and half of brain

tissue-- but that doesn't mean we
can't work together.
Another GUARD approaches and whacks Marlak with his stick.

GUARD #2

Take those bricks to the top. The
masons are waiting.

108. Official white

Marlak and Enmebaragesi glower at the guard as they pick up
ropes and harness themselves to a cart loaded with bricks.

GUARD #2

(cont'd)

(to Zed)

You! Help them!

He grabs another rope harness off the cart and throws it to
Zed.

ZED

You know, I'd like to, but I did
something to my neck--

(massages his neck)

I must've slept on it funny-- those
dungeon pillows are like rocks--
well, they are rocks-- so I should
probably take it easy or I'll be no
damn good for work tomorrow.

GUARD #2

(strikes him across the
back with his stick)

I said move!

ZED

Okay! But I should tell you, this
isn't really my area. I'm just on
a break from the mud department--

The Guard draws his short sword and raises it over Zed.

GUARD #2

One more word and you die--

ZED

(putting on the harness)

Okay, okay. I'm going.
(to Marlak and

ENMEBARAGESI)

Okay, boys, on the count of three.
One-- two-- three!

Marlak and Enmebaragesi lunge against the ropes, but Zed makes no effort to pull. They glare at him.

ZED

(cont'd)

Learned that from Maya. Good trick, huh? Okay, together this time. Go!

109. Official White

They pull together and the heavy cart starts to move.

CUT TO:

65

EXT. TOP OF THE ZIGGURAT - LATER 65

to Zed, Marlak and Enmebaragesi haul the heavy cart of bricks

the very top of the tower.

TWO BRICKLAYERS are working on the wall. Zed leans against the wall next to them to rest.

ZED

How high you guys think we're going with this?

BRICKLAYER ONE

Up to Heaven, I guess. That's how tall they usually build 'em.

ZED

(looking up)
That's ambitious.

BRICKLAYER TWO

We worked on the Tower of Babel.
Now that was a ziggurat.

BRICKLAYER ONE

Incredible erection.
Zed looks down at his crotch.

ZED

(MODESTLY)

That's nothing. You should see it
when I'm excited.

BRICKLAYER ONE

The tower.

ZED

Oh, right, the tower. Incredible
erection.
(snickers to himself)

BRICKLAYER ONE

See, the Egyptians are working on
an entirely different concept.
Four sides, slanting walls, pointy
top.

110.

Official White

BRICKLAYER TWO

Like a pyramid?

BRICKLAYER ONE

Exactly.

BRICKLAYER TWO

Wow. Far out. Yet timeless in a
way.
A SLAVE CHILD approaches with a water bucket.

SLAVE CHILD

(to Zed)
Want some water?
As the child offers him the ladle, Zed recognizes her.

ZED

You're from the village, aren't

you?
The child nods.
ZED

(cont'd)

I bet you wish you were back there
right now, don't you.
The child nods again.
ZED

(cont'd)

Well, don't give up. You're going
to get home someday.
Marlak kicks Zed from behind, knocking him over.

MARLAK

(standing over him)
Who's going to take her there? The
Chosen One?
Marlak kicks gravel and dirt in Zed's face. Zed just lies
there and takes it, feeling like he's failed everyone.
Then he hears the beating of drums and trumpet fanfares
coming from the temple square below.

CUT TO:

66

EXT. THE MUD PITS - SAME TIME 66

Oh and the other slaves are mustered by the guards.

111.
Official White

GUARD

Get in line! Now! Move!

OH

Where're we going?

GUARD

To watch the sacrifice. The King
demands it.

OH

Is that compulsory? Because I saw
one when I first got here and it

made me a little sick--
The guard's whip catches him across the back.
OH

(cont'd)

Ow! Why don't you try using your
words for a change?

CUT TO:

67

EXT. TEMPLE SQUARE - CONTINUOUS 67

The square is filling up with people. The ROYAL PROCESSION
is moving to the seats of honor to watch the sacrifice.
Cain is now among the Royal Guard having been promoted for
his treachery. He bows and helps the Queen to her seat.

CAIN

(leering seductively)
At your service, my lady. Anytime,
anywhere.

QUEEN

(FLIRTATIOUS)

There's a depraved thought. You're
so delightfully low. Absolute
filth.

CAIN

(SUAVELY)

Thank you, your majesty.
He touches his tongue to the tip of his nose and waggles his
eyebrows.
The King arrives with Sargon to loud booing from the crowd.

Official White

112.

KING

Are they booing me? How dare they!

CAIN

Your Highness, with all due

respect, those were "Woos." They
love you. They were "wooing" you.
The King looks doubtfully at the hostile crowd.

SARGON

All is in readiness, Majesty.

INANNA

(glares at the King)
What now? More virgins to
sacrifice?

KING

Yes, two, followers of the Chosen
One, discovered by this loyal
soldier.
Cain bows to the King.

CAIN

Just doing my duty.

KING

And one more to demonstrate our own
faith and charity.
The King stands and makes a proclamation loud enough for
everyone to hear.
KING

(cont'd)

In supplication to the Gods, for
the love of the People, we offer a
humble sacrifice to the sacred
temple fire-- our own step-
daughter, the Princess Inanna!
The crowd gasps.

KING

(cont'd)

(to Inanna)
For the good of the people.

QUEEN

(stands in protest)
You wouldn't dare!

Official white

KING

Wouldn't I? If you like, I could
arrange for you to join her.

The Queen slowly sits back down.

KING

(cont'd)

(to Inanna)

How long did you think I'd tolerate
your insolence?

(to Sargon)

Burn her.-

Sargon and Cain seize Inanna, but she shrugs them off and
rises with dignity.

INANNA

I'll see you all in Hell.

CUT TO:

68

THE GREAT STONE IDOL

68

The flames are starting to build inside the idol's mouth.

69

EXT. TEMPLE SQUARE - SAME TIME

69

Oh and the slaves are confined behind a barrier, watched by
a

squad of guards, waiting for the ceremony to start.

THE TEMPLE DOORS open slowly, and the High Priest appears
holding a long jewelled staff.

Oh turns to the EDOMITE SLAVE next to him.

OH

(casually name-dropping)

See the High Priest? I know him.

Dear friend of mine.

THE TEMPLE

Now the procession of SACRIFICIAL VIRGINS is led out by the
HIGH PRIESTESS. Maya and Eema are among them, their hands
tied. They look like they've been drugged.

Oh spots Eema and Maya among the virgins.

Official White

114.

OH

(PANICKED)

That's Eema! And Maya! I know them!

EDOMITE SLAVE

(SARCASTIC)

I guess you know everybody, don't you.

Oh shoulders his way right up to the barrier where a BIG GUARD stops him with a spear to his neck.

BIG GUARD

That's far enough, slave.

Oh stops right there, frustrated and frightened.

THE TEMPLE

Inanna is led out last, now also having been drugged.

70

TOP OF THE ZIGGURAT 70

trying Zed, Marlak and the sharp-eyed Enmebaragesi look down, to see what's going on.

ENMEBARAGESI

They're bringing out the women.

ZED

(AMAZED)

How are you seeing that far?

ENMEBARAGESI

I see your sister, Eema--

TOP OF THE ZIGGURAT

ZED

(SQUINTING)

It's Maya!

CUT TO:

71

THE TEMPLE

71

The drums and trumpets kick up the tempo and the High Priest starts leading the virgins to the idol's fiery mouth. Oh pushes against the barrier, restrained by the guard.

115. Official White

OH
We have to do something! Somebody has to stop it.
(turning to the other

SLAVES)
We can't let them do this!
The slaves start to mutter. The guards draw their swords and heft their spears, now on high alert.

CUT TO:

72
TOP OF THE ZIGGURAT 72

Zed looks around desperately, trying to figure out what to do.

ZED
(to Marlak)
I have to get down there.

GUARD #2

(SNORTS)
Over my dead body.

MARLAK
All right.
Without a moment's hesitation, Marlak grabs him and tosses him off the top of the ziggurat. He screams all the way down.

ZED
Wow. Who saw that coming?
Thanks, Marlak.

MARLAK
Now what?

rope Zed looks around quickly, grabs the end of a long coiled
attached to a big pulley, and hands Marlak the other end.

ZED

(looping the rope around
his waist)

Lower me down.

top Without waiting for a response, Zed bravely jumps off the
of the ziggurat holding the rope.

Official White

116.

Marlak looks at the rope in his hands, pulls it a little and
sees that it's not attached to the rope Zed was holding.

CUT TO:

ZED

He's descending rapidly, rappelling off the side of the
ziggurat. He looks up, expecting Marlak to belay him and
slow him down.

ZED

(CALLING)

Any time now, Marlak!

Marlak and Enmebaragesi watch his descent, dumbly interested
in what happens next.

Zed sees he's not slowing down and tries to swing himself
onto one of the upper levels of the ziggurat. However, when
he swings in, he hits a cart loaded with bricks and bounces
off painfully.

THE BRICK CART

The sudden jolt dislodges the wheel chock that was holding
the cart on the sloping ramp of the tower. The cart starts
to roll down the ramp, gathering speed as it careens toward
the edge.

CUT TO:

73

He raises his staff and invokes the Gods.

HIGH PRIEST

We implore the great Gods of heaven
to show us a sign that we may honor
your divine will and be worthy of
your blessing.

CUT TO:

117. Official White

74

THE ZIGGURAT 74

The brick cart explodes through the scaffolding on the side
of the ziggurat and sails into the air.

CUT TO:

THE ROYAL ENCLOSURE

the Everybody turns at the sound of the crash and looks up at
ziggurat.

CUT TO:

THE BRICK PITS

The NASTY GUARD who whipped Oh earlier glances up and is
instantly crushed by a ton of falling bricks.

THE ZIGGURAT

Zed is still descending as the broken scaffolding starts to
give way.

TEMPLE SQUARE

foot The whole crowd watches in amazement as the 250
scaffolding slowly collapses and crashes to the ground,
bringing tons of debris with it, sending up a great cloud of
dust.

THE HIGH PRIEST

He looks shocked.

OH

He seizes the opportunity.

OH

A sign! It's a sign! The Chosen
One comes!

The other slaves and people in the crowd pick up his
excitement.

118. Official White

CROWD

The Chosen One! A sign from the
Gods!

THE HIGH PRIEST

He doesn't quite know how to respond to the growing fervor
of
the crowd.

HIGH PRIEST

Yes! Well and truly, the Gods are
with us--
The crowd drowns him out.

75

THE BASE OF THE ZIGGURAT 75

A guard is standing there staring at the rubble of the
scaffolding as Zed comes screaming down the side of the
ziggurat and lands right on top of him. Zed quickly strips
the unconscious guard of his weapons, starts to run off,
stops, comes back and grabs the guard's helmet, then takes
off running to the temple square.

CUT TO:

76

THE ALTAR

76

The High Priest is getting frantic now.

HIGH PRIEST

Burn them! Now!
He grabs Maya and starts dragging her toward the gaping
mouth

of the idol and the raging fire within. She struggles but is too drugged to put up much resistance. He grabs the sacramental pitcher of oil and starts sloppily anointing her.

(cont'd)
HIGH PRIEST

(RUSHING)

May the balm of this healing oil soothe your journey through the sacred fire!

(DESPERATELY)

Don't fight it! It's the will of the Gods!
Then, a voice from above.

119. Official White

ZED

(SHOUTS)

I don't think so!
Zed is standing atop the idol's head, brandishing a sword and shield.

MAYA

She sees him and starts to revive.

MAYA

Zed!

THE HIGH PRIEST

looks up, unable to hear Zed over the crowd noise.

HIGH PRIEST

(cupping his ear)
What did you say?

ZED

(SHOUTS)

I said, 'I don't think so!'

HIGH PRIEST

(shakes his head)
Still not getting it.
Zed rolls his eyes in frustration and starts tentatively climbing down from the top of the idol. He jumps the last few feet and lands right in front of the fire, blocking the High Priest's way.

ZED

I Said, 'I don't think so.'

HIGH PRIEST

(CONFUSED)

You don't think what?

ZED

Whatever that last thing you said was.

HIGH PRIEST

(THINKS)

I forgot.

(SHOUTS)

Guards!

Official White

120.

Guards rush toward Zed from all sides, but he fights like a demon, slashing, spinning, stabbing, fending off their blows with his shield.
Oh is inspired by Zed's courage.

OH

(to the Edomite slave)
I know him, too.
Oh springs into action, attacking the big guard in front of him. The other slaves see that and start fighting with their guards, a genuine slave revolt.

THE CROWD

of Guards start moving to help their comrades, but the spirit

insurrection takes hold of the crowd and people start grappling with the guards.

A PLATOON OF REINFORCEMENTS comes double-timing into the square.

Suddenly, A STOOPED OLD MAN throws off his cloak and pulls a sword. It's Abraham!

ABRAHAM

Death to the idolators!

their Abraham's small army of HEBREWS reveal themselves, draw

weapons and attack the reinforcements.

The last Hebrew to unrobe is Isaac, who just stands there observing the growing chaos.

ISAAC

(shaking his head)

Just fucking nuts.

77

MARLAK AND ENMEBARAGESI 77

They come running into the battle swinging clubs, randomly bashing heads of soldiers and innocent civilians alike.

Cain sees Marlak and stands his ground.

CAIN

Tough guy, huh? You want a piece of me? Get ready to have your head bashed in!

Official White

121.

As Cain raises his truncheon, Marlak HEAD-BUTTS him.

CAIN

(cont'd)

(nose bleeding, stunned)

Nice move!

He passes out and goes down.

78

THE KING 78

He starts to panic at the full-scale revolt and rises nervously. His ministers surround him, he thinks to protect

him.

KING

I knew I could depend on your
loyalty.

The ministers all draw daggers from their robes and move in
for the kill.

KING

(cont'd)

(MUTTERS)

Assholes.

He falls to their flashing knives.

79

THE TEMPLE 79

Oh fights his way to the temple stairs, runs up and
confronts

a PRIEST who is trying to drag Eema away. He fights with
very little skill but tremendous energy, finally
overwhelming

the guard and grabbing Eema.

OH

(suddenly shy again)

Hello, Eema.

EEMA

(still a little dazed)

Oh?

He stares at her full red lips and big blue eyes.

OH

(suddenly forceful)

Eema, you're my woman! You hear
me?

EEMA

Okay.

122. Official White

OH

Really? It's okay?

He pulls her into an embrace and kisses her hard on the mouth. Then, out of the corner of his eye, Oh sees a guard rushing at him. Oh whirls and falls off the platform, accidentally cutting the guards legs out from under him.

80

THE HIGH PRIEST 80

While Zed is busy with the guards, the High Priest pulls Maya

toward the fire.

Zed sees him, finishes the last of the guards, and starts slowly moving toward the High Priest who starts backing away until he sees Oh moving toward him from the other side. He holds the helpless Maya close to the flames.

HIGH PRIEST

(screaming and crying)
Keep away!

ZED

Let her go.

HIGH PRIEST

(his mascara running)
No! The Gods demand a sacrifice!
And you ruined it!
He wrestles Maya even closer to the fire.

ZED

(trying to keep him calm)
Why don't we just sacrifice
something small-- a rabbit maybe.
Or a duck. That'd be good, don't
you think?

HIGH PRIEST

(SCREAMS)

No! A duck would not be good!

OH

(U.S.)

Then how about this?
The High Priest turns to Oh.
Oh is holding the big sacramental pitcher.
OH

(cont'd)

More oil?

123. Official White
him He splashes the High Priest with a gallon of oil, soaking
platform from head to toe. As the oil hits the High Priest, Zed
dashes across and snatches Maya from his grasp.
The High Priest spins around in a rage, his long robes wrap
around his legs hobbling him, he totters on his high
shoes, loses his balance and gets too close to the idol's
fiery mouth. Totally drenched in oil, he bursts into flame
like a human torch, screams, and staggers right into the
mouth of the furnace.

HIGH PRIEST

(SCREAMS)

Hot!

TEMPLE SQUARE

Everyone goes silent, stunned by the incredible turn of
events. All eyes turn to Zed and Oh, now standing before
them on the center stage of the temple.

ZED AND OH

They look at each other. Someone has to say something.
Finally, Zed clears his throat.

ZED

I'm the, uh, Chosen One, I guess,
and on behalf of, well, the whole
city, I want to thank the High
Priest for his incredible
sacrifice. That was really
something, wasn't it?
He starts clapping, then Oh starts clapping, and soon all
the people in the square are applauding.
At that moment a single drop of rain falls and hits Zed in
the eye. He looks up, a few more drops, then a hard steady
rain starts to fall.
The people all look up in awe, then someone cheers and they
all roar in celebration. Then the rain stops as suddenly as
it started. The cheers die away, and confused, dissatisfied
muttering begins.

ZED

(cont'd)

(jumping in quickly)

People! Friends! Sodomites!
Okay, that was a little confusing,
wasn't it?

(MORE)

Official White 124.

ZED

(cont'd)

Was that a sign from God? Wasn't it a sign? What's the deal? We all want to know. But I'm not sure anybody really knows-- and I'd be real suspicious of people who say they do. If I've learned one thing, it's this: the world and everything in it is a miracle. And what that miracle means is for each and every one of us to figure out for himself. Are the Gods going to destroy us? Maybe-- I don't know-- I guess it's possible. But if we keep going the way we are, they won't have to. We're doing a pretty good job of destroying ourselves. So maybe we should all just go home now, and think about what happened-- and be very, very good to each other. I know I'm going to try.

(raises his hand in salute to the people)

Peace.

The crowd stares at him blankly. Nobody knows what to make of it all. Then Marlak shouts loud enough for all to hear.

MARLAK

All hail the Chosen One!

With that the crowd explodes into rousing cheers.

In the midst of the crowd, Abraham looks around and scowls.

ABRAHAM

What am I? Chopped liver?

At the altar, Maya, revived now, embraces Zed.

MAYA

You're incredible, you know that?

ZED

That's what I've been trying to tell you.

Zed and Maya, Oh and Eema stand there basking in the gratitude of the people as Inanna looks on.

DISSOLVE TO:

Official white
125.

81

EXT. GATES OF THE CITY - A FEW DAYS LATER 81

A caravan is assembling, making ready to leave the city. Marlak, Enmebaragesi, Maya, Eema and the other villagers are there, as well as a great number of freed slaves and Hebrews.

Isaac is checking out Maya's breasts.

ISAAC

Hey, babe. Ever made it with a circumcised guy?

Marlak grunts at him and reaches for his knife.

ISAAC

(cont'd)

(BACKPEDALING)

Is she with you? I did not realize that. Sorry.

Marlak and Maya cross to Zed who is loading a packhorse.

Marlak looks at him for a long moment then punches him hard on the shoulder.

MARLAK

(GRUDGING)

You did good.

Zed waits for more, but nothing comes.

ZED

(rubbing his shoulder)
Well said, Marlak. You really have
a way with words.
They clasp hands.

MARLAK

We'll tell stories about you around
the fire.

ZED

Not much to tell, is there? Just
an average guy who saw his destiny
and had the courage to defy a
powerful empire. No big deal.
Oh is at the front of the caravan, giving orders, but no one
is listening to him. Zed joins him.
ZED

(cont'd)

Everybody ready?

126. Official White

OH

(WORRIED)

Yeah, just about-- I guess so. The
Hebrews are going to lead us to the
sea and we can get boats from
there. We can trade all this stuff
everybody gave us for the trip
home.

(NERVOUS)

I don't think I should be the
leader. Nobody's listening to me.

EEMA

(by his side)
I'll listen to you.
Oh swells up with pride.

OH

(turns to Zed)
Come back to the village sometime.

Zed nods, they shake hands, then they embrace. Stifling a tear, Oh breaks away and whips the lead camel.

OH

(cont'd)

(shouting at camel)

Hee-ya!

(beat, quietly to camel)

Come on. People are watching.

The camel looks at him and slowly lumbers off.

Oh sighs gratefully and signals the caravan to follow.

As the great caravan moves off, Zed is left standing there with nothing but a long staff, and a bundle on the ground beside him to which is tied his sword, shield and helmet.

Maya joins him.

MAYA

Where will you go now?

ZED

Might head down to Egypt. I hear it's a happening kinda place.

MAYA

Are you going alone?

ZED

Not necessarily. You want to come?

Official White

127.

MAYA

I'll get my things.

She gestures off and he sees a small train of camels and horses loaded with a ton of her personal possessions.

MAYA (cont'd)

The Princess gave me a few gifts when she freed us.

ZED

Traveling light, huh? Okay, here we go.

(POINTS)

To the west!

MAYA

(correcting him)
That's west.

ZED

I knew that. Just wanted to see if
you did.

Zed grins and they start walking, passing a small herd of
sheep and goats, tended by VEILED WOMEN, going in the
opposite direction.

As THE LAST OF THE SHEPHERD WOMEN passes, we notice
something

masculine about her build and posture. Zed nods politely to
her, but she averts her eyes and turns away from him.

CAIN

(in a high unconvincing
woman's voice)

Peace--- brother.

zed does a double take at the voice, shrugs, and walks off
with Maya-- as a torrential rain begins to fall.

THE END