

MUMMY IIT

by

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Sommers Company
Alphaville

Second Draft
August 19, 2005

NOTE: Dialogue in *italics* is in Chinese with English subtitles.

FADE IN:

THE UNIVERSAL PICTURES GLOBE

morphs into a glinting red sphere. PULL BACK TO REVEAL it's the eye of a malevolent-looking dragon that is carved into a massive door. A FEMALE NARRATOR, with a lilting Chinese accent, begins...

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Twenty-two centuries ago, China was forged out of the will of one man, its First Emperor, Qin Shihuang.

The doors swing open and EMPEROR QIN SHIHUANG is carried in. He's sitting on a jewel-encrusted jade throne which is lugged by 30 MONGOLIAN EUNUCHS. He is dressed in an extravagant crimson-and-black robe and his face registers only the blank coldness of a dictator. He's just entered...

EXT. PALACE - DAY

A vast walled city comprised of a complex of pavilions, pagodas and ornamental gardens. The Emperor's army fills the monumental courtyard in front of the main palace pavilion. The 100,000 WARRIORS stand in perfectly ordered phalanxes.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

His thirst for power was unquenchable and his army was a merciless killing machine. He vowed not to rest until he had conquered the entire world.

As the Emperor is paraded past, the soldiers bow on one knee.

EXT. RIVER OF SPIRITS - DAY

TIGHT ON: A HUMAN SKULL as it is CRUSHED under the weight of a massive stone. PULL BACK to reveal an ancient construction site stretching as far as the eye can see.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He forced his vanquished enemies to construct a great wall which he built over the blighted River of Spirits.

THOUSANDS OF SLAVES haul blocks into place over a snaking dry riverbed that is thickly carpeted with skeletons and skulls.

KEEP PULLING UP over the partially completed Great Wall of China as the image MORPHS into a 20x20 map of the ancient world. It sits on the floor of...

INT. WAR ROOM - NIGHT

The Emperor stands with his Generals, flanked by his devoted eunuch, FU. A magnificent embroidered dragon tapestry shimmers on the wall behind him.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

As the years wore on, the Emperor realized that the world was too big to conquer in his lifetime.

Frustrated, the Emperor grabs a sword and sweeps off the model battalions that are spread out across the map.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He had to overcome the one enemy that no man had defeated -- death itself.

INT. THRONE ROOM - PALACE - NIGHT

The Emperor watches as a motley crowd of GRIZZLED MEN, WILD-HAIRED HAGS and BESPECTACLED SCHOLARS are escorted in.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He summoned all the mystics, alchemists and wizards in his kingdom and commanded them to find the answer to eternal life.

CAMERA RESTS ON the face of a SHRIVELED OLD SHAMAN as he reacts to the request with fearful trepidation.

MATCH CUT TO:

THE SHAMAN'S FACE. PULL BACK TO REVEAL his head is now pickled in a jar on a shelf. It's just one of a thousand jars containing the heads of other mystics in...

INT. ANCIENT LABORATORY - DAY

The Emperor stands in the middle of this dungeon-like chamber surrounded by smoking vats and billowing vials.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

They taught him mastery of the five elements -- fire, water, earth, metal and stone -- but the mystery of immortality still eluded him.

The Emperor conjures a blue flame in his palm.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Emperor had almost given up hope when he learned of a priestess named Zohora who was versed in the secret languages of antiquity.

EXT. PALACE GATES - DAY

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He sent Sun Tzu, his most trusted General, to find her.

The towering doors open and a BATTERY OF WARRIORS canters out on horseback. They are lead by a General, whose striking good looks are etched with nobility. This is SUN TZU.

EXT. BAMBOO FOREST - DAY

Sun Tzu and his men creep toward the stone temple that is nestled among the impossibly tall bamboo trees. A twig SNAPS. He turns and swings up his sword to the throat of a serene beauty, ZOHORA, just as she sweeps up a sword to his. As their eyes meet, there is an instant electric attraction.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Zohora holds on to Sun Tzu as they gallop down a track which runs parallel to the Great Wall. Sun Tzu turns and rides towards the Emperor's palace, which looms in the distance.

INT. THRONE ROOM - PALACE - DAY

Sun Tzu presents Zohora to the Emperor, who is clearly struck by her beauty.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Emperor gave Zohora access to his vast library.

INT. SCROLL ROOM - PALACE - DAY

Zohora sits at a circular desk in the middle of this colossal bookshelf-filled chamber, poring over boxes of scrolls.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

She spent her days studying the ancient texts and her nights...

INT. SUN TZU QUARTERS - NIGHT

Zohora and Sun Tzu are entwined in a passionate embrace.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 ... wrapped in Sun Tzu's arms.

THE CAMERA FINDS the Emperor watching through a window. As his eyes glint with jealousy...

INT. SCROLL ROOM - PALACE - NIGHT

Zohora empties a box of documents onto the table and unrolls a dusty papyrus. It is written in hieratic and features images of Horus and Anubis. As she translates the text, her face fires with excitement.

INT. SUN TZU QUARTERS - NIGHT

Zohora bursts in holding the papyrus.

ZOHORA
The answer! I found it!

EMPEROR
I never doubted you would.

She spins and finds the Emperor in the doorway. She masks her shock and respectfully bows her head.

ZOHORA
My Lord.

He lifts her chin with his finger.

EMPEROR
Where is it?

ZOHORA
Written in a book hidden in the land of the Pharaohs.

Two Eunuchs step out holding Sun Tzu, who's been beaten.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 He ordered Sun Tzu to retrieve the book.

Zohora drops to her knees in front of Sun Tzu and begs.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 But Zohora pleaded that she should go in his place. Egyptian tombs are deadly traps and, without knowledge of their hieroglyphics, he would face certain death.

The Emperor considers her request, unsheathes a dragon-hilted dagger which he holds to Sun Tzu's heart.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Emperor gave her ninety moons
to return or he would execute her
lover.

Sun Tzu and Zohora exchange desperate glances.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Zohora headed west...

Zohora rides like the wind. She spurs her horse up over a dune, revealing the GREAT PYRAMIDS OF GIZA flickering like a mirage. She powers into the blistering heat.

EXT. HAMUNAPTRA - NIGHT

NARRATOR (V.O.)

... to the city of Hamunaptra,
resting place of Imhotep and
sanctuary of the fabled Book of the
Dead.

TWO MUMIA are sitting by a campfire, guarding the entrance, when -- PHHHT! PHHHT! Two bamboo blow-darts hit their necks. As they slump, unconscious, Zohora is revealed. She searches their pockets and retrieves the PUZZLE BOX KEY (from the first "Mummy" movie). As she flowers it open...

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. ANUBIS' CHAMBER - NIGHT

The impression on the front of the black Book of the Dead. Zohora twists the key and the latches snap open one by one.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Not wishing to incur the wrath of
the great god Anubis, Zohora
fashioned a copy of the sacred text
in terra cotta.

Under Anubis' watchful gaze, Zohora mixes a thick clay.

EXT. HAMUNAPTRA - DAWN

Everything is washed in golden light. Zohora wraps her copy of the Book in a blanket and places it in her saddlebag.

EXT. ZOHORA'S RIDE - NIGHT/DAY

NARRATOR (V.O.)

She rode day and night, determined
no harm would come to Sun Tzu.

Zohora rides across the desert, immune to the scorching sun.
Silhouetted against the moon, she plows across the Himalayas.
Her face is a mask of determination as she races along the
Great Wall, sending WORKERS scattering.

EXT. PALACE - DAY

NARRATOR (V.O.)

She returned to the palace on the
eve of the eighty-ninth day.

A snowstorm swirls as Zohora bursts through the gates and
rides past the legions of warriors who are training in the
massive courtyard.

INT. THRONE ROOM - DAY

Zohora kneels at the Emperor's feet and holds up the copy of
the Book of the Dead. He beams as he runs his hand across
its surface.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Emperor was so pleased that he
rewarded Zohora with a gift.

The Emperor's Eunuch, Fu, steps forward, holding a lavishly
carved lapis box. Zohora tentatively opens the lid and reels
back when she sees SUN TZU'S HEAD. His glassy eyes stare up.

EMPEROR

*Now I will rule the earth as a god
with you by my side.*

The Emperor grins lecherously.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He ordered her to read from the
Book and make him immortal. But
she refused.

Enraged, the Emperor plunges the dragon-hilted dagger into
her side. As she drops to her knees, the Book falls open and
Zohora WHISPERS an ancient Egyptian incantation.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Instead of granting him everlasting life, Zohora used the Book to curse the Emperor and his beloved army.

The Emperor utters a BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM. He tears open his robe, looks at his chest as his skin becomes translucent. Fu and the Eunuchs flee as the Emperor's heart starts to pump

BLACK BLOOD.

The poison courses through the Emperor's body from the inside out. Black veins viper up his arms, legs and neck and fissure across the whites of his eyeballs. The ooze seeps out of his pores, coating his flesh and clothes. Like molten clay, it sheets across his face, sealing his lips and tongue and silencing his agonized cry. When he's fully coated,

ULTRA-BRIGHT RODS OF WHITE LIGHT

needle out of his body. The Emperor jerks upright and his arms swing to his sides as the light fuses his bones and SUPERHEATS the clay shell, hardening it in seconds. When the light dies, the Emperor has been transformed into

A TERRA COTTA MUMMY.

A VOLLEY OF BANSHEE SCREAMS echoes from outside. Zohora peers out as the terra cotta curse washes over the Emperor's warriors like a wave. Their horses SHRIEK as they succumb to the unholy curse, too. Finally, they are all wracked by the blinding spindles of light and are violently snapped to permanent attention as their bodies are entombed in clay.

EXT. PALACE - NIGHT

Snow whips as the wounded Zohora gallops across the courtyard, clutching the Book. Tears freeze on her cheeks as she passes the rows of terra cotta soldiers who stand like a clockwork army. She rides into the whiteness.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

She rode off into the night and was never seen again.

Snow PINGS off the warriors as CAMERA SWEEPS UP OVER their heads and INTO the window of...

INT. THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

PUSH IN ON the Emperor's expressionless face.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Eunuchs buried the Emperor in a crypt below the courtyard. As for his warriors, the palace became their tomb.

PUSH into his lifeless eyes.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The people believed that if the Emperor awoke, he would raise his army and finish his crusade to enslave the world.

KEEP PUSHING until THE SCREEN IS ENGULFED IN BLACKNESS and the only sound is EERIE WHISTLING SILENCE.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

For two millennia, they laid forgotten under the sands of time until...

SUPERIMPOSED across the SCREEN are the words: **CHINA - 1940.**

A shaft of light cuts through the blackness and

A YOUNG MAN

rappels into view. This is ALEX O'CONNELL. He's 18 now, with floppy blond hair and an English accent. He's inherited his father's good looks and his mother's academic intellect.

LILY

Alex, you see anything?

He peers up at LILY CHEN, who's staring through a hole in the roof of the cavern 50 feet above. Lily's about Alex's age and her mysterious beauty is matched by a razor-sharp mind.

ALEX

Not yet, but I know the palace is down here. It has to be.

LILY

That's what you said about the other nine caverns.

ALEX

This is the one, Lily. I'm going deeper.

LILY

I don't think that's a good idea.

ALEX

Trust me, I was rappelling into tombs before I could walk. I'm a pro.

As he loosens the clamp, the rope slides free and Alex is sent plunging into the darkness. Lily reacts as Alex's rope rapidly uncoils at her feet. She SHOUTS into the abyss.

LILY

ALEX! ALEX!

Alex scorches his palms as he desperately tries to reattach his harness to the rope. Finally, he pounds his fist into the head of the clamp, causing its teeth to lock back into place. As the rope jerks him to a stop, he instinctively snatches his glasses out of the air as they tumble free.

LILY

Alex, are you okay?

ALEX

I'm hanging in there.

He pulls out a flare-stick and cracks it open. He holds it out as he slowly twists himself around and comes face to face with a FEARSOME TERRA COTTA WARRIOR. Alex grins.

ALEX

Lily, radio Willoughby, tell him I found it.

INT. TOMB OF THE TERRA COTTA WARRIORS - DAY

Time has turned the palace courtyard into a vast subterranean vault. Warriors are lined shoulder to shoulder. Lily supervises a CHINESE CREW who are illuminating the giant space with torches. Alex waits for an OVERWEIGHT ENGLISHMAN, in a white linen suit, who is awkwardly clambering off a rope ladder. This is SIR COLIN WILLOUGHBY.

WILLOUGHBY

My colleagues at the Bembridge Society thought I was crazy to put my faith and money in an O'Connell. But I knew you could do it, Alex.

ALEX

Thank you, Sir Colin. That means a great deal coming from you.

Willoughby pulls a magnifying glass from his pocket and rudely brushes past Lily as he crosses to admire a warrior.

WILLOUGHBY

Look at the detail. I wonder how long they took to carve.

LILY

They weren't carved, they were cursed.

WILLOUGHBY

According to whom?

LILY

Chinese legend. The terra cotta warriors have remained poised in time, waiting for their Emperor to return.

WILLOUGHBY

Alex, you should tell your girlfriend not to put so much stock in old folklore.

Alex awkwardly shuffles.

ALEX

Actually, Lily's not my girlfriend. She's a Ph.D. student at Shanghai University. I couldn't have found this tomb without her help.

Willoughby regards Lily, skeptical.

WILLOUGHBY

What's your field of expertise?

LILY

Ancient Chinese history and languages.

Unimpressed, Willoughby turns back to Alex.

WILLOUGHBY

Once you take the Bembridge oath, I trust you'll leave such fairy-tale hokum behind.

ALEX

But only full scholars take the oath.

WILLOUGHBY

You are our youngest associate, now I predict you'll be our youngest scholar. They couldn't deny you after this discovery.

ALEX

Sir Colin, I don't know what to say. That's been my dream ever since I desecrated my first tomb.

Before Alex can correct himself, Willoughby wraps him in a sweaty bear hug.

WILLOUGHBY

You've got a lot of work ahead of you. This place is going to take decades to excavate.

As Willoughby puffs his way down a row of warriors, Alex turns to Lily, grinning like a kid at Christmas.

ALEX

Alex O'Connell, Bembridge Scholar. Wait until my mum hears about this.

LILY

You don't need that pompous ass Willoughby to validate you. It would take him three lifetimes to learn what you already know.

He smiles, looks at her, clearly enchanted.

ALEX

Lily, I was wondering when we get back to Shanghai if maybe we could do something together, you know, that doesn't involve digging holes or climbing down ropes.

LILY

Is that your way of asking me out on a date?

He nods shyly. Although touched, she lets him down gently.

LILY

I'd love to, but I kind of make it a rule not to date colleagues.

ALEX

Of course, absolutely, good thinking. Wouldn't want to blur the lines with all the work we've got ahead of us.

OFF Alex masking his disappointment as she heads away...

CUT TO:

A BRUSH -- flicks the dust from the dragon insignia that embellishes the chest plate of a terra cotta warrior. Alex stands back, confused, as Lily steps to his side.

LILY

Everything okay?

Alex points to three pairs of terra cotta warriors who stand side by side and bear the Emperor's insignia.

ALEX

You have any idea what six of the Emperor's personal bodyguards are doing in the middle of a formation of foot soldiers?

LILY

Maybe they got lost.

ALEX

They would never have left his side.

Alex bends down, sweeps away some dirt, revealing a track-like groove. He looks back at Lily and grins...

ALEX

You want to meet an Emperor?

Alex steps between the first pair of warriors, puts his hands on their chests and pushes them over. The statues slam into the ones behind them, knocking them over like bowling pins. As the third pair topple, they lurch to a stop and a doorway GRINDS OPEN in the floor between the six statues. OFF Alex and Lily's excitement...

INT. CRYPT - DAY

Four stone Chimera, mythical dragon-like tomb guardians, stand in the corners of the chamber as Alex leads Lily and Willoughby down the steps. The trio stares in awe at the Emperor's ornate sarcophagus. It's sitting on a carriage harnessed to a chariot drawn by four bronze horses.

WILLOUGHBY

The final resting place of Emperor Qin Shihuang. You've guaranteed your place in the history books with this one, my boy.

Willoughby steps to the sarcophagus. It's carved out of red jade and is inlaid with the Emperor's dragon insignia.

WILLOUGHBY

I want the sarcophagus taken to the British Embassy in Shanghai for safe keeping immediately.

Alarmed, Lily steps in front of Willoughby.

LILY

No, the Emperor can't leave this chamber!

WILLOUGHBY

I don't remember requesting your opinion on the matter.

LILY

If you move the Emperor, you'll be making a huge mistake.

Willoughby rolls his eyes, turns to Alex.

WILLOUGHBY

I suggest you have a word with your lady friend if you want her to remain on this dig.

Alex waits until Willoughby exits.

ALEX

Lily, we're archaeologists. We don't dig something up to leave it behind. We have to take it back and study it.

LILY

The ancient scrolls say that if the Dragon Emperor awakes, he will lay waste to the entire world.

ALEX

In order to raise a mummy, you need the Book of the Dead. There's only one copy and, trust me, it's buried under the Sahara.

Alex turns away, studies the lid of the sarcophagus.

ALEX
This guy's just terra cotta and
bone. He couldn't hurt a fly.

As his hand brushes over the dragon insignia, Lily sees the
stone Chimeras' mouths snap open.

LILY
GET DOWN!

She dive-tackles Alex and they roll under the chariot just as
ROARING 20-foot jets of flame shoot out of the mouths of the
Chimera. When the inferno ends, Lily looks at Alex.

LILY
I've never seen someone cheat death
so many times.

ALEX
You should meet my parents.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

TITLE SUPERIMPOSED ON SCREEN: **AGRA, INDIA.**

Clouds of billowing steam. As it disperses, RICK AND EVY
O'CONNELL are revealed. They're in the middle of a
passionate kiss. They finally come up for air, look into
each other's eyes, clearly still very much in love.

O'CONNELL
Happy anniversary, Evy.

Evy peers through the view-finder of a Baby Brownie camera.

CLOSE ON: An upside down image of the Taj Mahal.

EVELYN
Remember when Alex climbed that
minaret?

O'CONNELL
Yeah, I bet him a year's allowance
he couldn't do it. Then we dodged
the Indian police for two hours.

He smiles sadly as they make their way through the THRONG.

O'CONNELL

I miss being the fun dad Alex
couldn't wait to hang out with.

EVELYN

Well, somewhere between the tombs
of Egypt and the temples of Persia,
your son grew up.

O'CONNELL

I know and I'm really proud of him.
But the truth is he's closer to you
than he is to me.

EVELYN

If you want to know what he's up
to, why don't you read his letters?

O'CONNELL

Honey, they're in ancient Egyptian
with jokes about obscure pharaohs.

EVELYN

He did inherit my wry sense of
humor.

Rick shakes his head. Evy tries to stay positive.

EVELYN

Look, you need to reconnect with
him in your own way. When you were
his age, what did you like?

O'CONNELL

Girls, guns... girls.

EVELYN

Trust me, your son has no time for
romantic dalliances. He's a
freshman at Yale. I'm sure he's
absorbed in his studies.

O'CONNELL

What are you going to do when Alex
finally does bring somebody home?

EVELYN

I'll be fine... as long as she's a
librarian.

As they reach the entrance, Evy scans the crowd.

EVELYN

Any sign of General Okumura?

Rick points to an ASIAN MAN with aristocratic features. This is GENERAL OKUMURA. He's climbing into a bicycle rickshaw.

O'CONNELL

Looks like he's doing some sightseeing.

As they clamber into a rickshaw and follow...

EXT. RICKSHAW - DAY

Rick and Evy trundle through the sweltering odyssey of decrepit traffic, market stalls and cows.

O'CONNELL

I still can't believe you talked me into spying for the British Government.

EVELYN

We're in the middle of a war, Rick. I wanted us to do our part. Besides, I've talked you into worse.

O'CONNELL

You don't even know why you're following him?

EVELYN

The Home Office said the less we know the safer we are. We're just supposed to observe his movements and report back.

O'CONNELL

Lucky your husband likes to live dangerously.

EVELYN

Rick, what did you do?

Rick grins mischievously.

O'CONNELL

Played a little poker with the Defense Minister's brother and let him win occasionally. According to him, Okumura claims to have access to a doomsday weapon.

