

AN EGYPTIAN MISHAP

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. EGYPTIAN PYRAMID - ROOM

Weak artificial light flickers illuminating bare limestone walls.

A long shadow moves up and down - it belongs to a CAT grooming itself on a dusty floor.

AMMON'S VOICE (O.S.)
Give it up, my friend.

The Cat stops, as if considering. Then goes back to grooming.

AMMON'S VOICE (O.S.)
Where did I stop...

Paper rustles. The Cat gives itself a scratch behind ear and strides across the room where a mummy AMMON unrolls seemingly endless yellow papyrus. Stops at last.

He places the scripture on a flat boulder. The Cat jumps up and walks on the papyrus.

AMMON
Move aside.

He shoves the curious Cat off the boulder.

He pulls bandages off his hands, revealing bony fingers with beef jerky skin. Those hands place a small clay cup filled with yellow oil on the boulder.

He takes a small piece of coal and grinds it with a dagger. Adds to oil, mixes.

AMMON
Once young, once full of life, and
now, a lonely creature that's
almost dead. Time's running out for
you, my friend. Just like this ink.

The Cat meows in disagreement.

He dips a small stick in "ink" and lays a first Egyptian hieroglyph. It looks satisfying to him. He scribbles many more in skillful manner.

Suddenly a working hammer ECHOES afar. The stick in his hands freezes half way through writing.

AMMON
That must be Anubis!

The Mummy drops his stick and crawls into his sarcophagus.

The Cat meows, scaring him. He mumbles something. The hammer bangs a few times and stops. Silence. Ammon trembles in fear.

AMMON
He's emerging from the underworld
to punish us.

He gets out and crawls to another sarcophagus with a female face painted on the lid. Opens, peeks in. Another mummy ASMATARTA rests there motionless.

AMMON
Asmatarta, my love --

An explosion shakes the ground. The wall collapses. Smoke. Clouds of dust. Ammon climbs back into his sarcophagus, terrified.

OMAR (O.S.)
Should be here.

Sound of shovels at work. The Cat meows.

OMAR (O.S.)
Did you hear that?

Silence.

Sounds of rocks being moved. Scraping.

OMAR's face (20) peeks in through a hole. He looks like an Egyptian local.

OMAR
What's this, a cat?

KARIM (O.S.)
Are you out of your mind?
The burial site is
thousands years old.

INT. EGYPTIAN PYRAMID - OUTSIDE THE ROOM

Omar backs out. KARIM (25) points at a sign on the wall.

KARIM
What if it's true?

Omar laughs.

OMAR

They always mention curse or disease, to scare people off. An old trick.

KARIM

You go in first then.

They push a big rock aside and climb in.

INT. EGYPTIAN PYRAMID - ROOM

Karim grimaces.

KARIM

Did they put a dead skunk in here?

Omar chuckles.

OMAR

I didn't expect spring flowers.

He gives Karim a scarf to wrap around his face. Puts on one on himself too.

Omar feels his way in the dark towards the tomb. He turns on his flashlight. The gray wall is covered in bands of hieroglyphs.

KARIM

Look at this.

He points at symbols.

KARIM

In my book it says it's a secretive chamber that is protected by --

OMAR

Yeah, I told you, they make up these stories to keep people away. We must be close.

The flashlight moves around the room. There is a chest in the corner.

OMAR

So I'm not leaving until I find gold.

Omar moves towards the chest.

Karim sees the sarcophagus with the female face on it. He opens it with caution. The flashlight runs across the Mummy's face. He pokes around the mummy with a stick.

OMAR
See anything?

KARIM
No gold.

OMAR
No gold here either.

He shuts the chest.

They hear noise. Turn.

The Cat sits in front of them and grooms itself.

Omar and Karim are terrified. Karim steps towards the exit, scared. The Cat leaps to block the way out.

AMMON (O.S.)
Leaving so soon?

The guys stare at the Cat.

OMAR
(to the cat)
We, we just --

Ammon steps out of the shadow.

AMMON
I hadn't talked to a human in a long time. Be my guests. Please.

Omar and Karim are about to pass out scared.

AMMON
I overheard you are in search of gold?

Omar and Karim don't move, gawk at the Mummy.

AMMON
I can show you where to find it.
But I will ask something in return.

Ammon gestures inviting to another room. Karim is frozen in shock. Omar is terrified, but manages to follow.

KARIM
W - wait.

Omar looks at him, his temptation struggles with his fear.

Ammon opens the door. He lights up a handmade lantern. Omar's eyes widen.

Karim shakes his head in disapproval. Ammon gestures for Karim to come, he bows down.

Ancient books, beautiful murals, chests and tall pots and vases.

Karim steps back. The Cat meows - Karim stepped on his tail. Karim runs out, scared.

Omar doesn't care about Karim, enchanted by the treasures.

Omar's hand gets in his pocket and feels something. A knife handle peeks out of his pocket a bit. He steps further into the secret room.

INT. SECRET ROOM

Labyrinth of carefully stacked ancient papyruses, further - shiny gold masks and armor, Egyptian Pharaoh amazing treasures.

Omar's eyes light up when he sees jewelry overflowing a chest, another one is full of gold coins. Ammon leads ahead, showing around.

AMMON

You can take anything you want. You can take *everything*.

Omar is carried away with the rich scene of endless treasures. Ammon keeps showing the way.

Omar rushes from one treasure to another, looks in awe as he grabs objects and exclaims.

The further Ammon walks the more his posture straightens, each step is more confident. Now his feet step firm. The strips of gray linen unwrap and slide off his body, fall to the floor.

Ammon looks at his hands. Beef jerky skin melts and transforms, gets lighter and younger.

His hands touch his now full hair. His cheeks plump up and fill with glow. His eyes sparkle. He sprints out of the labyrinth.

INT. EGYPTIAN PYRAMID - ROOM

Ammon opens the sarcophagus where a beautiful woman sleeps, he touches her face lovingly.

AMMON

Asmatarta, my love...

She wakes up, looks around. The Cat rubs against her hand, purring. He looks like a fluffy kitten now. She looks at Ammon.

ASMATARTA

It happened?

Tears of happiness run down her face. She hugs him.

INT. SECRET ROOM

OMAR (O.S.)

(echoes)

Hey, where are you? Hey!

Silence.

Karim's piercing scream.

His reflection in one of the gold vases: he has become a mummy.

FADE OUT.