

THE FINAL DRAFT INTERNATIONAL SCREENWRITING COMPETITION

TITLE: Daughter of RA

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ENTRY #565* ANALYST: Malinda M.

PREMISE: The heiress to Pharaoh's throne must fight against conspirators to preserve her right to the throne and the prosperity of Egypt.

COMMENTS: It is 1504 B.C. and PHARAOH THUTMOSE is on his deathbed. As his dying wish, he leaves his throne to his younger child and daughter, HATSHEPSUT, much to the dismay of his oldest son, THUTMOSE II. Believing he is the rightful heir to the throne, he plots with the high priest, MENKAR, to take the throne from his half sister by marrying her and making her a queen rather than a pharaoh. Hatshepsut is wise beyond her fourteen years, however, and uses her wisdom and power for the betterment of Egypt, while disgracing her husband along the way. In the meantime, Menkar has his own selfish intentions of taking the throne for himself. Once Thutmose succumbs to illness, Menkar plans to kill Hatshepsut, but his plans are thwarted. With the help of her trusted scribe (and secret lover), SENENMUT, Hatshepsut exposes Menkar for the rogue he is and takes her rightful place as Pharaoh, creating a prosperous Egypt during her twenty-year reign.

"Daughter of RA" is a captivating story pitting good against evil in which good triumphs victoriously. From the onset, the reader is drawn to the vibrant characters and feels sympathy for what Hatshepsut and Senenmut must endure for the good of Egypt. They are characters of conviction and though they are clearly attracted to one another (and succumb to their desires a couple of times), they know their status in life and do not dare sacrifice the future of Egypt by uniting royal blood with that of a commoner. While it is not directly addressed, it is assumed that the birth of Hatshepsut's daughter is the result of a tryst between Hatshepsut and Senenmut. Only after her daughter's untimely death does Senenmut discover that the child he thought for years was his own is in fact, the daughter of Pharaoh. Even the typical evil characters of Menkar and Thutmose are described so well that while the reader roots for their demise, he still secretly craves to see what these villains will do next.

The dialogue is simple enough to follow, yet captivating and descriptive. All of the characters' words are straightforward and get to the heart of the matter without any extraneous conversation. The dialogue is complemented by the coinciding action of the scene so that the reader relies on its coupling for the scene's full effect. The events of the story flow well from one scene to the next that even if a plot point is temporarily left unaddressed, the reader is never left confused by it since it will be dealt with at the appropriate time within the script. There are many little twists and turns within the story to hold the reader's attention and keep the reader guessing what will happen next. This is illustrated in the fate of Hatshepsut's daughter, PRINCESS NEFERURE, as well as when Hatshepsut's attendant, MAYA, seemingly makes an attempt on her majesty's life. No conflict is left unresolved in this script, and every plot point is neatly tied up by the story's conclusion without looking "pre-packaged".

E=Excellent/VG=VeryGood/G=Good/F=Fair/P=Poor

Premise: E

Structure: E

Dialogue: VG

Characters: E

B/O Potential: E

