

THE FOURTH KING

A Christmas story



Inspired by

"The Other Wiseman" by Henry van Dyke

EXT. SUNSET.

A KING ON HIS MAJESTIC CAMEL is riding over a hill away from a large eastern town in the background.

EXT. SUNSET.

ANOTHER KING ON HIS MAJESTIC CAMEL riding down an icy valley.

EXT. SUNSET.

ANOTHER KING ON HIS MAJESTIC CAMEL makes his way from the seashore into the desert backcountry.

1.CHAMBERLIN Long ago a king came out of the east. Another king came from the north, and another from the south. Their names were Melchior, Balthazar and Caspar. They were following a star to the little town of Bethlehem where a king had been born in a stable. They brought presents with them. Nice ones too, gold, frankincense and marshmallows.

1. EXT. RUINS AT THE EDGE OF THE GREAT DESERT. NIGHT

The three kings meet at the ruins. In the night sky we see a STAR. It is brighter than all the other stars and has a glowing tail.

2.CHAMBERLIN They had agreed to meet at the edge of the great desert. Because one more king was going to join them...

Title:
"THE FOURTH KING"

2. EXT. A TINY CASTLE ON THE EDGE OF THE DESERT. EVENING.

The castle is perched on the edge of another huge desert. Sand has drifted up around the castle walls. The sun is dropping towards the horizon.

4.CHAMBERLIN King Mazzel was the royal highness of a very small kingdom.

3. INT. COURTYARD. DAY.

Mazzel, the fourth King, wears a royal robe and crown. He is sweeping sand in the courtyard.

5.CHAMBERLIN

So small in fact, that he had to
do all the work himself. Only me
and his majestic himness lived
there. And that's me, Chamberlin,
the Royal Camel...

A SMALL CAMEL (Chamberlin) totters down a stairway from the
side balancing teacups on his nose. He is smiling. Mazzel
continues working. Chamberlin jumps across the piles of sand
Mazzel has been sweeping.

6.CHAMBERLIN

I liked living on our own, since
Mazzel- being a king - liked to
look after people and I was the
only people there!

4. INT. ROYAL KITCHEN. EVENING. Mazzel and Chamberlin are
sitting at the table. There is a lit oil lamp on the table
in front of them. Mazzel is lost in thought he plays with
a teacup and slides it to and fro the finely decorated
oriental table. Chamberlin tries desperately to pour them
both a cup of tea from a long oriental teapot. Chamberlin
pours like a human.

7.CHAMBERLIN

We shared everything.

Mazzel gets up from the table. Taking the oil lamp, he goes
to the window. Chamberlin bends down quickly and drinks
Mazzel's tea. Outside the sun is going down.

5. INT. WINDOW WITH LANDSCAPE. EVENING. Mazzel stands at
the window. He is silhouetted against the dying sun.

8.CHAMBERLIN And when
the sun went to bed behind the
mountains, we stayed up
late...because every night, as
soon as the sky was dark, the
stars came out.

Mazzel lights the oil lamp. Chamberlin enters the frame and lowers his head. Mazzel puts the lamp onto Chamberlin's nose.

9.CHAMBERLIN

I know all about stars.

Their lights lit, they turn around and leave through a door.

6. EXT. A BRIDGE LEADING TO THE MAIN TOWER. NIGHT.
The door leads out onto a bridge leading to a castle tower.

The sky behind is dark. Some stars are showing. They cross the bridge and enter the tower

7. INT. WINDING STAIRS IN TOWER. NIGHT. Mazzel mounts the steps inside the tower. Its walls are painted with star maps and constellations. Their oil lamps throw odd shadows around them.

8. EXT. ROOF OF TOWER. NIGHT. They step out onto the roof of the tower under the blazing sky. Chamberlin looks up and squints.

10.CHAMBERLIN They

are my twinkly friends in the sky.

8a. EXT. CHAMBERLINS POV. STARRY SKY
Beautiful starry night sky

8b. EXT. ROOF OF TOWER. NIGHT.
Mazzel and Chamberlin look up at the sky. Then Mazzel puts down his oil lamp and starts to work.

11.CHAMBERLIN

His royal himness King Mazzel, he knew a bit about stars as well.

All around are astronomical statues and devices. The top of the tower is circular. The floor is a star map, with strange stairs and markers at certain points.

12.CHAMBERLIN

Like the other three famous Kings he was a stargazer.

Mazzel walks to a stone column with a beautiful crystal on it. He gazes through it. Chamberlin looks over his shoulder at it.

13.CHAMBERLIN But he
wasn't just doing it for fun. Oh
no, Mazzel was searching the sky
for an extra twinkly star, the
special star that would herald
the birth of the King of
Kings.

PAN UP to the sky as the CHAMBERLIN speaks. The stars in the sky wheel gently against the dark background. CUT BACK DOWN to Chamberlin playing a dot to dot game with the star map on the floor.

14.CHAMBERLIN But I
just liked to watch the stars
and if the sign had never
showed up I wouldn't have
minded...

Mazzel measures something on a map. He places a stone marker on the floor. Then he carries a bizarre observation contraption to the top of one of the stairs. Behind him Chamberlin moves the stone marker with his foot. Mazzel walks by the stone marker studying the chart. Without really looking he moves the marker back to its original position.

15.CHAMBERLIN
...but it was very important to
Mazzel.

Propped up on his observation instrument, Mazzel starts to doze.

Chamberlin drifts away. He walks over to the wall. He squints and looks out at the desert, but he doesn't seem to see much. Then he looks at the sky. Then he looks out at the desert. It stretches away in front of him, vast and unaccountable. He turns to look at Mazzel. He is now fast asleep, still slumped against his instrument. Chamberlin trots over and tucks his cloak a little more warmly around his shoulders. Then he goes back to the wall. Chamberlin rests his head on the wall and lets his ears droop. His eyes are half closed. He looks out across the desert. Suddenly Chamberlin's ears twitch and his eyes widen. He lifts his head.

16.CHAMBERLIN

One night it happened. I reacted
with imperturbability and great
dignity.

Far-off in the desert, something is happening. A strange music fills the air. The music intensifies. Everything starts getting brighter. Now Chamberlin runs over to Mazzel and hides behind him. Mazzel opens his eyes, sleepily at first, then wider as he sees what's happening. He runs over to the wall and looks out at the desert. Chamberlin is terrified and stays close behind him.

9. EXT. THE FAR AWAY DESERT. NIGHT. In the sky beyond a light is appearing. It starts as a small dot, then grows in intensity until it is brighter than all other stars in the sky. Like a small sun it shines over the night desert. The light stretches out over the sand towards the castle. Mazzel and Chamberlin watch the light approaching. Chamberlin is still very nervous. Mazzel leans over the parapet and watches the light as it reaches the castle door. The brightness fades and the light recedes. A bright new star has appeared in the night sky. It hangs low on the horizon and has a tail like a comet.

17.CHAMBERLIN

I'd never seen Mazzel so excited!
It was the star we'd been waiting
for! Lucky for him I had
recognized it immediately.

10. EXT. TOWER ROOF AND BRIDGE. NIGHT. Mazzel throws his arms around Chamberlin and kisses him and starts a little dance. As Chamberlin starts to join in Mazzel charges out the door. Chamberlin scrambles after him. Mazzel, followed by Chamberlin, sprints across the bridge. Suddenly he stops and runs back again. This time Chamberlin leans against the parapet on one elbow and waits.

18.CHAMBERLIN We had
longed for this moment all those
years.

Mazzel runs into the astronomical garden.

19.CHAMBERLIN We packed
gifts for the newborn king. We
took the royal star map, the -

star crystal, and the royal
cloak, our most valuable
possessions!

11. EXT. ASTRONOMICAL GARDEN. NIGHT. Mazzel rolls the star map, throws his cloak over his shoulder and approaches the crystal we saw earlier. He takes it down and it's light plays on his face again.

12. EXT. THE BRIDGE. NIGHT. Mazzel runs back over the bridge towards Chamberlin. He is still leaning against the parapet on one elbow.

20.CHAMBERLIN And
without any further ado...

They vanish from sight and emerge seconds later in the courtyard, still running. Chamberlin is now carrying some luggage. Mazzel jumps onto his back. They run along a ledge leading to a side window beside the main gate to the outside. The main gate is covered in sand and blocked. At the last second, Chamberlin brakes! Mazzel flies into the air and out the window.

21.CHAMBERLIN
...we were on our way.

13. EXT. CASTLE GATE EXTERIOR. NIGHT. Mazzel tumbles onto the sand outside. The window is long and thin and the desert comes up almost to its ledge. Beside the window the castle gate is buried in sand. Mazzel turns as Chamberlin pokes his head through the window behind him. Chamberlin dips one toe in the sand as if it were water. He pulls it out again quickly and shakes his head emphatically. Mazzel disappears around the side of the building. Chamberlin leans out a little and tries to see where he went. Suddenly his eyes widen and he digs in his heels. But it is too late. With a mighty shove, Mazzel pushes him out the window. He lands on all four feet up to his knees in sand. Then Mazzel jumps on his back. Chamberlin pulls one leg out of the sand and shakes it experimentally. Then he follows with the other three. He takes a couple of steps and looks back at the castle longingly. With a little giddy-up, they set off over the desert in the direction of the star. They are finally underway.

22.CHAMBERLIN

Leaving home is a big thing for a camel. Especially as we had never left home before...so what was the rush now.

Apparently... we had arranged to meet the other three kings at the edge of the Great Desert. We would travel on together. Our journey would go down in history as the journey of the four kings.

14. EXT. THE DESERT AND THE STAR. NIGHT. The star shines in the distant sky. Chamberlin and Mazzel bounce along. Mazzel takes out the royal star map and checks it. He begins to hum a little tune. Chamberlin joins in. They hum together Chamberlin hums out of tune but jazzes it up a bit nevertheless and does a fancy step or two. Their little castle is just visible on the edge of the desert. Chamberlin looks back at it and starts to look worried.

23.CHAMBERLIN

We rode on into the night; and even though we were in the middle of nowhere we weren't one bit scared!

Chamberlin is looking back nervously as Mazzel studies his star map. Chamberlin turns around on tiptoes and heads back towards their castle, hoping Mazzel doesn't notice. But Mazzel finally does and stops Chamberlin by gently turning Chamberlin's head towards the star. Mazzel folds up the map. They continue on their way. They ride along the top of a dune. Then they descend the other side, vanishing from sight. As they disappear, a SLIGHT WIND gets up and blows away their footprints.

15. EXT. DESERT WITH SKY. NIGHT. Mazzel and Chamberlin ride along through the dunes. The wind is a little stronger now. Suddenly they come to a sharp drop. Beyond it the land descends onto a flat plain.

24.CHAMBERLIN

We walked and walked. The Great desert can be awfully big and lonely, even for a camel. I was looking forward to seeing the other

camels. We would chew a bit and
swap oasis jokes. It would be
fun.

The ground drops suddenly and Mazzel can see out over the
desert plain. In the distance is a tall column with some
figures grouped around it. Mazzel raises his hand and waves.
Chamberlin waves too. Mazzel's cloak flaps in the breeze.

16. EXT. RUINS. NIGHT.

The three kings sit on their camels. They are waiting beside
the ruins. They are studying the horizon.

25.CHAMBERLIN And
Mazzel would be glad to see
his friends too.

The three kings sit around a low oriental table and check
their sand clocks. One of the kings pours more sand into his
clock. One by one they turn to look at the star.

26.CHAMBERLIN We
hurried to meet the three kings.
Maybe they would have some
pistachios. I do like
pistachios.

17. EXT. THE HILLTOP. NIGHT. Mazzel makes his way down the
hill towards the three Kings.
The wind is stronger now. It whips his cloak about him. He
braces himself as they descend the ridge towards the desert.
A FAINT CRY is heard and Chamberlin turns his head slightly
listening. Mazzel urges him on. But the CRY comes again. Now
Mazzel hears it. Chamberlin turns his head to look at him.

27.CHAMBERLIN
Then I heard a little something

The wind blows more strongly. Mazzel looks out to the temple
ruins, disappearing behind the blowing sand.

28.CHAMBERLIN Maybe it
was just the wind! We were
pressed for time. The other
kings were waiting.

The cry comes again, a bit fainter this time. Mazzel and

Chamberlin turn away from the desert and head uphill back into the heart of the sandstorm.

29.CHAMBERLIN

(subdued)

.. and what about my pistachios?

As they exit the frame, the wind blasts and a curtain of sand descends blotting out the plain and the waiting Kings.

18. EXT. A SANDSTORM. NIGHT. Mazzel and Chamberlin struggle along in a gale of wind. The sandstorm covers everything in a yellow haze. The wind howls around them. They push their way forward, back into the dunes. They hear THE CRY again, louder this time. Suddenly, a little distance away, they see a small shape crouched beside the ruin of a small column. It is a little girl almost covered by the sand. Mazzel dismounts and gathers her up in the royal cloak to protect her from the wind.

30.CHAMBERLIN It was
a little nomad girl. She had
lost her way in the storm.

19. EXT. A LARGE SAND DUNE. SANDSTORM. NIGHT. They struggle up the side of a dune. The girl is wrapped in Mazzel's cloak and Chamberlin is carrying her. Chamberlin is looking worried and scared. Mazzel holds on to Chamberlin's tail and is pulled along behind them.

19a. EXT. A LARGE SAND DUNE. NIGHT.

A MUFFLED SHOUT is heard. Chamberlin stops and turns his head. Mazzel, blown by the wind, keeps trudging onwards and bumps into him. He straightens his crown and looks up. Some figures are coming over the dunes towards them. They are signalling to them. They are desert nomads.

31.CHAMBERLIN

The wind blew even harder. It blew
our footsteps away. We were glad
that we had found her.

And even gladder when her family
found us.

The girl waves at them. The wind dies down a little.

Chamberlin is very relieved to find company. Mazzel reaches the girl down from Chamberlin's back as the first nomad reaches them. She is still wrapped in the royal cloak as he hands her over. The man takes her tenderly and hugs her. Then the old nomad takes off his hat and bows to Mazzel. The man does the same. Behind Mazzel, Chamberlin cocks his front leg and bows in return. The nomads sign Mazzel to go with them. Delighted, Chamberlin trots over to join them.

32.CHAMBERLIN

They invited us for a bite to eat.
Now camels can go for a long time
without eating. Still it would've
been rude to say...

But Mazzel looks at the sky. The star glimmers in the yellow haze above them. Grumbling, Chamberlin trots back.

33.CHAMBERLIN

(amazed and the grumbling)
NO!!?? No ...His Royal Hurrying
Highness was anxious to be on his
way! We had friends waiting and
they couldn't wait forever and so
thanks kindly...

The nomads bow to Mazzel and Chamberlin, turn and leave. The wind drops again. At the top of the dune, the little girl turns and waves to Mazzel and Chamberlin vanishing from sight over a dune. Chamberlin waves back. The star is shining brightly again.

20. EXT. THE FLAT DESERT. NIGHT. Mazzel and Chamberlin trot over the flat desert. The sky is clearing. Up ahead they can see the astronomical ruin where three figures are waiting in the haze. The star shines just beyond it. Mazzel raises his hand and signals. He is very excited. Chamberlin does a little skip and speeds up. The ruin draws closer. As they approach, the last of the haze clears and the waiting figures are revealed as part of the ruin. Chamberlin screeches to a halt.

34.CHAMBERLIN We had
missed them by tiny minutes..
Oh well. Better luck next
time.

21. EXT. RUINS. NIGHT.

They enter the ruins. In the middle of the ruins they find the three king's oriental table with a piece of parchment on it weighted down by three rocks..

35.CHAMBERLIN

They'd left a note.
Sorry we missed you. Don't worry.
You'll catch up easily! We'll be
expecting you. All the best.
Balthazar, Casper and Melchior. Catch
up easily my foot!

Mazzel looks up from the parchment. Three sets of faint footprints lead off into the distance. As he watches the wind blows slightly and covers them. He lets the note flutter from his fingers to the ground. Chamberlin tries to catch it with his mouth. We follow the note as it falls. Just before it reaches the ground, a small gust of wind blows it away.
Cut to:

Mazzel and Chamberlin already galloping away in the distance.

22. EXT. THE GREAT DESERT. NIGHT. Mazzel and Chamberlin are in a hurry now. Mazzel holds onto his crown with one hand as they gallop.

36.CHAMBERLIN

We galloped after the three Kings.
Which means I did all the
galloping of course. The night was
nice and cool, and I kept up a
very good pace. But I started
wondering if we would ever catch
up with our friends.

The desert is turning into small dunes. They plod along wearily. Then suddenly Chamberlin sees something up ahead. He jogs Mazzel.

37.CHAMBERLIN

Then all of a sudden I spied them
up ahead.

From their POV, we see three riders on camelback just about to disappear over a dune ridge up ahead. As fast as they can, Mazzel and Chamberlin race up the dune after them.

25. EXT. SAND DUNE. NIGHT. A second later Mazzel and Chamberlin appear behind the dune. They are out of breath and Mazzel's crown has tilted over his eyes. Then he straightens up his crown and looks. Mazzel is amazed. Chamberlin is delighted then astonished

38.CHAMBERLIN

Except they had multiplied.

FROM THEIR POV we see a long line of camel riders snaking out for miles and miles over the dunes ahead. It is a huge merchant caravan, extending around them in a huge circle. As they look, the lead camel stomps up suddenly behind them. It's rider is forced to brake before he crashes into Mazzel and Chamberlin. This causes a domino effect as they all bump into one another, all the way back down the line. They turn to look at Mazzel.

39.CHAMBERLIN

It wasn't the kings at all. It was
a caravan lost in the desert.

26. EXT. LINE OF CAMEL RIDERS. NIGHT. Mazzel and Chamberlin turn to greet the riders. They are merchants and their camels are laden with baggage and much bigger than Chamberlin. Chamberlin holds his head up high as the riders bow or raise their hats to Mazzel.

40.CHAMBERLIN

They were delighted to see a royal
camel and his majesty.

The merchants plead for help.

41.CHAMBERLIN ...They had
been going around in circles for
years. They begged us to lead
them out of the Great big
Desert. But that would mean an
enormous detour. And we were in a
huge hurry. Maybe we could help
them on the way back.

Chamberlin jumps around and takes a couple of steps back the way the way they came, but Mazzel turns him again. Mazzel looks bothered.

42.CHAMBERLIN

...But Mazzel had a kind heart

MAZZEL sags down in the saddle. Chamberlin, the other camels and the merchants all look saddened that Mazzel can't help them. Then Mazzel urges Chamberlin in front of the caravan and the Merchants all take off their hats and cheer. With a jerk, the caravan starts up again.

26a. EXT. BRIDGE OVER THE DEEP GORGE. NIGHT.

In stately procession, the three Kings cross a curved skinny bridge over the gorge. As the last one reaches the other side, the bridge cracks and collapses behind him. His camel scrabbles a bit to avoid toppling into the gorge, then walks on.

27. EXT. DESERT LANDSCAPE LEADING TO ROCKY HILLS. NIGHT.

Mazzel rides alongside the leader. Chamberlin trotting quickly but very proud of himself, three steps for the other camel's two.

43.CHAMBERLIN It was

good to be with the other
camels... turned out we were
all cousins.

Suddenly the leader points. Up ahead he can see some lights. The riders take off their hats and wave them in the air.

44.CHAMBERLIN Things

were getting nice and cosy when
we saw a town in the distance. I
could already smell a nice hot
bath and a warm meal!

Mazzel smiles. But just then Chamberlin comes to an abrupt halt. The riders come to a halt too. They have come to a stop on the very edge of a ravine. Chamberlin looks down into it .

28. EXT. EDGE OF GORGE. NIGHT. Mazzel and Chamberlin stand on the edge of a very deep gorge. Mazzel looks across to the other side. It is a long way. The remaining

pieces of the bridge that the three kings had crossed are visible.

45.CHAMBERLIN Then all
of a sudden, a gorge cut across
our path. There was no way
around it. Under it. Or over it.
Even Mazzel could see that.

Mazzel makes a jumping motion with his hand indicating they should jump over it. The leader shakes his head vigorously. All the riders shake their heads. Chamberlin shakes his head too. The other camels shake their heads as well. Mazzel starts walking backwards away from it. They watch him go.

46.CHAMBERLIN
We had come a long way. Now it was
time to go home.

Mazzel turns around and starts running at the gorge himself. Chamberlin covers his eyes with his foot in a gesture of helplessness, then starts running after Mazzel. Mid stride he picks him up and charges full-tilt at the ravine.

29. EXT. THE DEEP GORGE. NIGHT. They reach the lip of the gorge, and jump. The merchants open their mouths in amazement. Mazzel claps his hands over his eyes. Chamberlin, feet scrambling as they fly over the gorge, looks down in wonder. As he wonders, he stops scrambling and just sails across the last stretch and with a large dusty THUMP, lands smack dab on the other side.

47.CHAMBERLIN
(sarcastic)It was easy.

30. EXT. THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GORGE. NIGHT.
Chamberlin lands on all four feet and skids to a halt in a cloud of dust. Behind them the merchants break into a round of applause and cheering. Mazzel stands up and brushes himself off. Chamberlin starts bowing. Suddenly he pauses in mid bow. On the other side, the riders have turned around and are leaving. Mazzel is disappointed. Chamberlin can't believe it. He is annoyed. He turns his back and when Mazzel mounts him, starts moving away.

48.CHAMBERLIN My
cousins were backing off. I
couldn't believe it.
That wasn't like camels.

Then suddenly the ground starts to shake. A LOUD GROWING RUMBLE is heard. Mazzel and Chamberlin turn around just as the first riders appear, charging at top speed towards the rocky drop. With a mighty roar the riders leap into the air.

31. EXT. THE GORGE SEEN FROM THE SIDE. NIGHT. The air is full of flying camels. They soar over the gorge and land, some gracefully, others higgledy-piggledy on the other side. Mazzel stands on Chamberlin's hump and cheers.

Soon a big pile of camels has piled up beside him. The leader's camel grabs Mazzel and gives him a big hug. Chamberlin hugs the leader.

31a. EXT. THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GORGE.
The merchants are in a great mood as they head off towards their town shining on the horizon. Mazzel and Chamberlin head in the other direction following the star.

49.CHAMBERLIN Once
again, with food and a warm
bath at hand, the time had come
to...turn down another hospitable
offer. We had to be on our
way...nya...nya...nya... Mazzel gave
the Merchants his royal star
map.

Mazzel hands the royal star map over to the merchants. The wave farewell and are on their way again.

32. EXT. THE ROCKY FOOTHILLS OF A MOUNTAIN RANGE. NIGHT.
Mazzel and Chamberlin climb along a rocky path. Behind them, in the distance the caravan snakes towards the distant town. They continue out of the frame on a road lit by the star.

50.CHAMBERLIN
Our star shone like a candle in a
faraway window.
... It was the bit about faraway
that worried me.

33. EXT. THE MOUNTAIN PATH. HIGH ABOVE A RAVINE. NIGHT. The three Kings on their camels carefully making their way along a precariously narrow and steep ledge.

34. EXT. ROCKY SLOPE LEADING TO MOUNTAINS. NIGHT. Mazzel and Chamberlin ride up the bare rocky road. The mountains are a long way off but look foreboding. The star shines brightly before them.

35. EXT. THE ROCKY DESERT. NIGHT. Mazzel and Chamberlin enter the frame from behind and trot away from the camera in a straight line towards the mountains. The star hangs directly over them.

51. CHAMBERLIN

We rode until we were weary. Then
we rode while we were weary.

Mazzel sags in the saddle. Chamberlin comes slowly to a stop. Chamberlin is fast asleep and makes little snoring sounds.

52. CHAMBERLIN

When Mazzel absolutely could go no
further he stopped for a cup of
tea.

Mazzel takes out the tea things to make tea. He pours the water into the teapot. The water bottle is almost empty. He looks worried but smiles at Chamberlin, snoring on his feet.

36. EXT. ROCKY DESERT WITH DISTANT MOUNTAINS. NIGHT. Mazzel sits cross-legged on Chamberlin. Mazzel is sipping tea. The barren hills is silent. Chamberlin is balancing his cup on his nose again, drinking his tea at the same time. Chamberlin sits down tiredly. Mazzel holds on so as not to fall. Suddenly Chamberlin hears a LITTLE TINKLING NOISE and gets up quickly. After a while he sits down again. The noise is heard again. Chamberlin looks around. He has sat on a plant with a small flower.

53. CHAMBERLIN

What I really needed was a snack...

It is making the small tinkling sound. Chamberlin smiles at the plant, then bends and opens his mouth to eat it. The plant shrinks away from him. Then Mazzel tugs on his neck

and he draws back. Mazzel looks at the plant. It is wilting and withered. Again it tinkles faintly. Mazzel takes the long oriental teapot and sprinkles some drops onto the earth around it. The plant shivers a little and stretches its leaves. Mazzel empties his water bottle around it, then puts out a hand to stroke the leaves. As his hand approaches, a small fruit grows on its twig and drops with a TINKLING SOUND onto Mazzel's palm. He smiles and shakes it. It sounds like a little bell.

54.CHAMBERLIN But
Mazzel really liked
flowers... just not as much
as me.

Mazzel and Chamberlin ride out of the frame towards the mountain. The top of the mountain is white with snow and the star shines just beyond its peak.

55.CHAMBERLIN Camels
can go for weeks without water
sometimes Mazzel could be too
generous.

38. EXT. THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAINS. NIGHT. Mazzel and Chamberlin trot steadily through the foothills of the mountains. The road is steeper now.

39. EXT. A YET STEEPER PATH. NIGHT. The star shines between two peaks. The mountains are intimidating. The surrounding rocks are jagged and sharp. The wind blows and the sky seems darker than before.

40. EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD. NIGHT. The road is very steep. The noise of the wind surrounds them. A distant rock fall, sounding like THUNDER, rumbles up ahead. Chamberlin is very nervous.

56.CHAMBERLIN
It was freezing on the mountain.
The higher we went the colder it
got but Mazzel didn't seem to
notice.

41. EXT.THE MOUNTAIN PATH.HIGH ABOVE A RAVINE. NIGHT. Now Chamberlin is leading/ pulling a tired Mazzel up the steep ledge. The ledge is tiny and dangerous. He is shivering with the cold. They slip in the snow.

They come around the corner of another ledge. A white mist is setting in. The star vanishes as the mist closes in around them. It deadens sound and sight.

41a. EXT. SNOWY MOUNTAINTOP.MIST/CLOUDS.NIGHT

For a short time the mountain peaks are visible. The three kings cross the mountaintops with ease and head down into the valley. The clouds cover everything again.

57.CHAMBERLIN I held
on tightly to him. I was afraid
he would lose sight of me and
get...

42. EXT. THE MIST. NIGHT. Mazzel and Chamberlin
appear, fading in and out. The mist closes around them.

58.CHAMBERLIN
...lost. What would the king of
kings say then?

43. EXT. MOUNTAIN PEAK. NIGHT. We hear Mazzel and
Chamberlin climbing up the mountain.
Suddenly Mazzel's head pokes out of the clouds. He is alone.
The night sky appears. Mazzel looks around in wonder. He has
reached the very top of the mountain. He has climbed out of
the clouds. There is a sea of white at his feet and the
starry sky overhead. Beyond him other peaks are visible.
Suddenly, in the foreground, Chamberlin's head pokes out of
the cloud cover. They are standing on different peaks.

59.CHAMBERLIN The star
filled our hearts with courage
and wonder. Finally I could see
why the four kings had to
follow it.

Brighter than ever, the star shines in the night.
Then, with a scrambling noise, Chamberlin appears beside
Mazzel. Mazzel smiles and jumps on his back. Full of
energy, they set off down the mountain.

44. EXT. THE DESERT. NIGHT.

The three wise Kings are plodding slowly over the desert.
They are fast asleep, nodding in the saddles. PULL BACK to
reveal that they are walking alongside an enormous shadow.

45. EXT. THE FOOTHILLS ON THE OTHER SIDE. NIGHT. With a TUMBLING SLIDING NOISE, Chamberlin and Mazzel slither down the final slope of the mountain. They come to a hectic stop on the level ground, Mazzel clinging to Chamberlin's neck.

60.CHAMBERLIN

We made excellent time coming down
the mountain.

Mazzel's crown is jolted forward. He straightens it and looks up.

47. EXT. A GIANT WALL. NIGHT. A giant wall has blocked their way. It is built of dark ornamented stone and looks very forbidding. High above them the sky is cut off by a sharp dark edge.

Turning around, Mazzel and Chamberlin trot back from the wall until they can see the star over and beyond it. The wall stretches away from them in a slight curve as far as we can see, in both directions.

61.CHAMBERLIN Suddenly

our path was blocked by a giant
wall. There was no way to go but
around it..

They look in opposite directions. Mazzel picks a direction and they start along it.

48. EXT. ALONGSIDE THE WALL. NIGHT. Mazzel looks at the wall as they ride along beside it. Chamberlin on the other hand, looks away nervously. They keep within its shadow and follow around the long curve. The star shines up ahead. Chamberlin trots quickly. Gradually the star slides out from behind it again.

62.CHAMBERLIN But

the wall went on forever. I
tried really hard not to
wonder what was on the other
side...

The desert opens up in front of them. They are almost past and can continue their journey when suddenly, a CLINKING NOISE is heard. It is the sound of iron on stone. Chamberlin brakes. The CLINKING NOISE sounds again. Slowly, they move

on. As they round the curve, a gap in the wall becomes visible. It is a part that hasn't been completed yet.

63.CHAMBERLIN

...we were so very nearly past it
when we found out.

A child is standing in the gap looking at them. Mazzel dismounts and approaches.

49. EXT. THE GAP IN THE WALL. NIGHT. Chamberlin follows. As Mazzel steps through the gap, the wall blocks the star from view.

50.EXT. THE OTHER SIDE. NIGHT. The area behind the wall is lit by torchlight and seems much darker. The gap is littered with blocks and scaffolds.

Other children watch silently. They hold ropes and tools and are obviously working on the wall. Mazzel looks around in amazement. The little child tugs at his hand and stands on tiptoe. Mazzel bends down to listen. Chamberlin puts his ear against Mazzel's other ear (as if he can hear through Mazzel's head). He listens intently and is horrified.

64.CHAMBERLIN

They were slaves said the child.
They were all slaves. They
belonged to a rich man who made
them work on his wall. The wall
protected his... *things*.

Suddenly the children start working again. Some mean looking guards have arrived. They surround Mazzel and Chamberlin. They seize them and carry them off.

DISSOLVE TO THE STAR AGAINST THE BLACK NIGHT SKY.

51.INT. AN ORNATE WINDOW. NIGHT. The star is seen through the window. A bejewelled hand slams the window shut. The hand belongs to a huge, fat, important looking man. He is wearing many luxurious coats, several pairs of golden shoes and three jewelled hats, one on top of the other. He turns and looks at Mazzel and Chamberlin. . He is much bigger than both of them.

65.CHAMBERLIN Mazzel
commanded the rich man to let
the children go but the rich
man only laughed.

65a. RICH MAN
Who are you to command me he
demanded? Your little crown
doesn't make you a king!

52.INT. AN ORNATE ROOM. NIGHT. Mazzel holds himself very
erect, like a king, The man stamps heavily over towards
Mazzel and slaps his crown off.
Chamberlin is terrified.

66.RICH MAN And what
sort of king would be
interested in slaves?

66a.CHAMBERLIN
He didn't scare me...

The rich man wanders over to Chamberlin who shrinks away
from him.

67.CHAMBERLIN
Then Mazzel took out our last gift
for the newborn king. He offered
to exchange it for the children's
freedom.

The man swings around and looks at Mazzel. Mazzel has
reached into his pocket and pulled out the crystal. He holds
it out, bowing his head. The rich man snatches it from him
and looks at it with an evil smile.

68.CHAMBERLIN But it
was only enough to buy our own
freedom. What a cheater!

He waves his hand in dismissal, already half hypnotised by
the beautiful crystal.

53. EXT. THE WALL OUTSIDE. NIGHT. The children watch Mazzel
and Chamberlin as they approach the gap in the wall. The
star and the desert are visible beyond. The guards escort

them. Mazzel looks at some of the children pushing a huge block, much heavier than they are.
The guard makes an impatient motion towards the gap.

69.CHAMBERLIN

We were free to go.

Mazzel turns to Chamberlin and motions him to go... But Chamberlin doesn't hesitate; he turns back towards the children and starts pushing on the block with them. Mazzel joins them too. The guard cracks his whip and everybody gets back to work.

54. EXT. THE WALL. NIGHT. Mazzel, Chamberlin and the children work on the wall. The wall is missing a large V-shaped section. When that is filled it, the wall will be complete.

70.CHAMBERLIN This

was our worst time. We worked
with the children on the
wall..

Mazzel pushes an immense block into place. At the same time he is pulling another one, being pushed by Chamberlin.

71.CHAMBERLIN

..but as we worked, the wall grew,
and the star faded. Yet somehow
Mazzel gave us all hope.

Mazzel sits with Chamberlin and a little girl at the wall, looks down. A little girl has slipped her hand into his to comfort him. Then she shows Mazzel something in her other hand. It is a small wooden toy, a little carved lamb. she gives it to Mazzel. A guard appears behind them and Mazzel puts the lamb into his tunic.

55. EXT. A STONE MAZE BESIDE THE WALL. NIGHT. A guard moves them all through the small doorway of a stone maze erected beside the wall. Once the torchlight is out, it is impossible for the children to escape. The guards lie down to sleep around the maze.

56. INT. IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MAZE. NIGHT. The maze is lit by a single torch.

72.CHAMBERLIN When the
work stopped, Mazzel told the
children the story of our
journey.

The children sit together with Mazzel in the middle. By
torchlight, Mazzel makes a shadow story of his journey on
the wall. Chamberlin helps. CUT TO:

MAZZEL AND CHAMBERLIN AS SHADOWS. They cross a shadow
landscape.

73.CHAMBERLIN
How Chamberlin, the Royal Camel
and King Mazzel had left their
home and crossed mountains and
deserts together with very little
to eat and no hot baths. And how
they had met some children and had
decided to stay with the children
until they were all safe again.
The children liked that ending. So
did I.

57. INT. THE MAZE. NIGHT. The torches burn out, leaving
them in darkness. There is no way out.

74.CHAMBERLIN
In the dark I wasn't scared. I was
very scared!

None of the children sleep. They just sit as if suddenly
frozen. Chamberlin picks up the small girl and moves right
next to Mazzel, pushing him over a bit. A TINKLING NOISE is
heard. Mazzel shifts himself from under Chamberlin and the
TINKLING NOISE sounds a second time. Mazzel reaches into his
pocket and pulls out the fruit from the plant he had
watered. He shakes it gently and it tinkles like a bell. He
examines it carefully. There is a little scratch of light on
its side. Quietly, he cracks it open. Inside are three
luminous star shaped seeds. He holds them in his hand. The
seeds make a soft red light in the darkness around them.
Chamberlin looks at him. Mazzel puts a finger to his lips.

Chamberlin eats the seeds. And they are left in darkness
again.

75.CHAMBERLIN I
thought Mazzel had been saving
it up for me.

Suddenly Chamberlin's nose lights up. He gives enough light
for them to see.

76.CHAMBERLIN The
light helped us find our way
out of the maze.

...Shhhh I can't talk for a moment.

58. EXT. THE MAZE ENTRANCE AND WALL. NIGHT.

They follow Chamberlin out of the maze and tiptoe past the
sleeping guards. They make their way up the stone blocks to
the hole in the middle of the wall. One by one, they crawl
through.

Chamberlin goes through last closing the wall tight.

59. EXT. THE WALL AND THE DESERT. NIGHT. Chamberlin jumps
down from the wall. The outside is brighter than inside.
The night sky is shining above them once more. This part
of the wall is situated on a high dune. Chamberlin
scrambles down the side of the dune after the children
and Mazzel. They are already moving off into the desert.

60. EXT. HILLS. NIGHT.

Mazzel and Chamberlin hurry along with the children.

61. EXT. RIDGE OVERLOOKING SMALL TOWN. NIGHT. The star
shines in the sky. The three kings cross the brow of a
hill and head down to the town (Bethlehem) below.

60. EXT. HILLS. NIGHT.

Mazzel and Chamberlin hurry along with the children.

77.CHAMBERLIN
We decided that the best thing was
to take the children with us to
the King of Kings. They'd be safe
there with Him.

64. EXT. HILLS. NIGHT.

A flock of sheep pour over the hill towards them. The three
shapes are shepherds. They are in a hurry.

78.CHAMBERLIN Suddenly
a flock of sheep appeared. I do
like sheep. They are nice and
woolly. The sheep knew all about
the King of Kings. When I heard
this my heart sang.

The sheep mill around them. Mazzel tries to continue but the
shepherds block his path.

79.CHAMBERLIN But the
shepherds had stopped to warn
us! Something terrible was
happening in the nearby town!

One of the shepherds leans in to Mazzel. He whispers in his
ear.

80.CHAMBERLIN Herod,
the wicked ruler of the land,
had ordered his soldiers to kill
every newborn child.

Chamberlin presses his ear against Mazzel's

81.CHAMBERLIN The King
of Kings, I thought, wait until
he hears of this! He'll show
them! But the shepherd said, he
was exactly the child Herod
wanted to kill.

Mazzel and the shepherds look at each other. The shepherds
lift the children from Chamberlin's back and take them in
their arms.

82.CHAMBERLIN
Somebody had to warn him! Look for
a poor stable on the edge of town.
cried the shepherd. You will find
him there.

And the town, Mazzel shouted, what
was the name of the town?
Bethlehem.

The shepherds point.

Mazzel scrambles onto Chamberlin and the two of them race down the hill as fast as they can. They gallop at top speed down the road towards the town. From their POV we see the valley below with the star shining over the little town.

65. EXT. A LOWLY STABLE. NIGHT. The stable is lit dimly from within. We see the silhouette of a donkey. The three camels of the three kings are standing outside. The three Kings are just leaving the stable when a CRY goes up in the distance. The three kings stop and listen. NOISE comes from the town. The noise is approaching. The camels stiffen and move forward to protect the entrance to the stable. Melchior and Casper do the same. Balthazar goes back inside. He has to bend down to enter the stable.

(MOST SCENES 66 TO 73 WILL BE STAGED IN CERTAIN SILHOUETTE-LIKE MANNER, SOMETHING LIKE A SHADOW PLAY. EXCEPT CLOSE UPS WHICH WILL BE JUST IN A DARK COLOUR PALETTE.)

66. EXT. A TOWN STREET. NIGHT. A group of soldiers run through the streets of Bethlehem.

67. EXT. THE STABLE. NIGHT. Seen in silhouette, a man leads a donkey with a woman on its back quickly away from the stable. They disappear from view. The three Kings watch them go and then follow in a certain distance.

68. EXT. A RIDGE OVERLOOKING BETHLEHEM. NIGHT. Mazzel and Chamberlin gallop furiously along the road leading to Bethlehem.

69. EXT. A DARK ROAD LEADING TO BETHLEHEM. NIGHT. They race along the dark road. SILHOUETTES OF SOLDIERS running on the horizon. Mazzel and Chamberlin try to avoid being seen as they race along the road. The way gets even darker. Suddenly, up ahead, they see somebody coming. Chamberlin comes to a full stop. They are both scared. They back into some ruins.

83. CHAMBERLIN The
night was full of noises. We
saw some people up ahead. They
were very scared.

SFX: A child crying.

Out of the darkness ahead, a man appears leading a donkey bearing a woman and child. He is walking fast and clearly scared. Suddenly he sees Mazzel and stops. They look at each other. Mazzel signals to the family. They hurry over to him and hide. The APPROACHING NOISE OF THE SOLDIERS grows louder. They pull themselves back behind the ruins and disappear.

84.CHAMBERLIN

We showed them a place to hide...

70. EXT. THE ROAD. NIGHT. On the road in front some soldiers appear. They are visible as silhouettes. They pause, looking around. They all stop moving and listen.

71. EXT. THE RUIN. NIGHT. The man holds his wife and child tightly. Nobody moves. Chamberlin looks at the baby. The baby reaches out and touches his nose. The shining stops. Chamberlin freezes. He is so scared. The father tries to disengage the babies grip and it opens it's mouth to cry. Quickly Mazzel reaches into his tunic and pulls out the wooden lamb given to him by the little boy. He gives it to the baby who quiets down. Everyone is relieved. Mazzel peeks out carefully. The road is empty. Then suddenly a CRASHING NOISE is heard beside them. The soldiers are nearly upon them. Chamberlin clamps his foot over his mouth so he won't scream. He is shaking in terror.

85.CHAMBERLIN

The soldiers were getting closer.
Somebody had to save these
people.

The man holds his family tightly. Mazzel looks at the family, then at Chamberlin. The soldiers are getting nearer and nearer. He takes a deep breath and plunges out onto the road.

72. EXT. THE ROAD. NIGHT.

The soldiers stop suddenly as Mazzel erupts out of the ruin. Mazzel stands on the road and looks boldly at the soldiers, making sure they can see him. Then Chamberlin scrambles out from behind the ruin and pushes Mazzel onwards. The soldiers give chase right away.

73. EXT. THE SURROUNDING LAND AND TOWN OUTSKIRTS. NIGHT.
Mazzel and Chamberlin run as fast as they can but the

soldiers are gaining. Chamberlin looks behind as he runs. Then suddenly Mazzel stumbles and falls. Chamberlin wheels around. The soldiers are nearly upon them. He stands over

Mazzel to protect him. Chamberlin is terrified but he doesn't budge. The soldiers approach. At the last second the earth starts shaking and a GREAT NOISE OF MANY THUNDERING CAMELFEEET is heard. The soldiers stop and look up in horror. Bearing down on them are three enormous camels ridden by the three Kings. They thunder towards them scattering the soldiers in all directions. The soldiers flee.. The noise of the camels dies away. Chamberlin looks around in delight. Then he looks around again in dismay. Mazzel is nowhere in sight.

74. EXT. THE TOWN OUTSKIRTS. NIGHT. Chamberlin runs towards the town. There is no light, no open house, no star.

86.CHAMBERLIN

Suddenly I was alone. Where was Mazzel? He would be terrified without me.

The town is a handful of low buildings in the distance. The stable comes into view.

87.CHAMBERLIN I saw

the stable up ahead. At the edge of town.

The stable is dark and empty. Chamberlin enters.

75. INT. THE STABLE. NIGHT.

88.CHAMBERLIN

Mazzel was inside. But the King of Kings was gone. We had arrived too late! We had hurried as fast as we could, but we were too late! Our whole long journey had been in vain!!

Chamberlin looks around sadly inside the stable. Then in the darkness Chamberlin sees Mazzel kneeling in the middle on the floor. He is weeping.. Mazzel's back is turned towards him.

89.CHAMBERLIN And
then, a wonderful thing
happened:

76. INT. THE STABLE. NIGHT TURNING TO DAWN. The sun is rising and the light reflects from the roof above and shines down on Mazzel weeping on the floor. He doesn't notice the light.

The light shines more intensely and Chamberlin goes over to Mazzel and gently lifts Mazzel's head into the light. Mazzel opens his eyes.

90.CHAMBERLIN It was
like a voice inside my head: Do
not be sad King Mazzel, You're
not late, you've been with me
all along. For I was lost and
you showed me the way. I was
thirsty and you gave me water. I
was captive and you set me free.
You were there when I was in
need and I will be with you
forever...

Chamberlin sticks his head into the light and looks up for a long time and smiles. Then tips over onto his back.

91.CHAMBERLIN
Afterwards I thought perhaps I had
imagined the whole thing..

The daylight coming in the stable door and windows. Suddenly a lamb enters the stable bounces on Chamberlin's belly and jumps into Mazzel's arms. Mazzel beams with delight.

77. EXT. THE STABLE. DAY. Mazzel and Chamberlin exit the stable. Outside are more sheep, a lot of sheep , and the children.

92.CHAMBERLIN So that
is the story of the king who
arrived too late. And the Royal
Camel who was nearly
practically on time.

Cross dissolve

78. EXT. MEADOWS. NIGHT

Mazzel is sitting with the sleeping children in the meadow. He wearing a shepherd's turban, a child is wearing his crown. The sheep are asleep as well. A lamb is wearing Chamberlin's crown.

93.CHAMBERLIN

King Mazzel is now a shepherd of children. And I Chamberlin am the most high intrepid royal sheep camel - of all time. I look after the sheep. I keep them warm and woolly.

79. EXT CLOSEUP CHAMBERLIN. NIGHT Chamberlin looks up at the stars.

80. EXT. CHAMBERLINS POV STARRY SKY

94.CHAMBERLIN It
had been a long journey but
finally we were home.

THE END