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## ECHOES OF THE DESERT



Long ago, after Osiris was betrayed and destroyed by his brother Set, his spirit didn't fade. Before his godly body could be lost forever, Osiris poured his soul into a warrior named Shi'ek, a guardian of the sands, chosen to protect what remained of him.

Shi'ek met Kyra, a fierce Medjay sworn to protect the Pharaohs. Their mission was loyalty. Their fate became love. But when the gods called, Shi'ek disappeared. Kyra was left behind, carrying twin children.

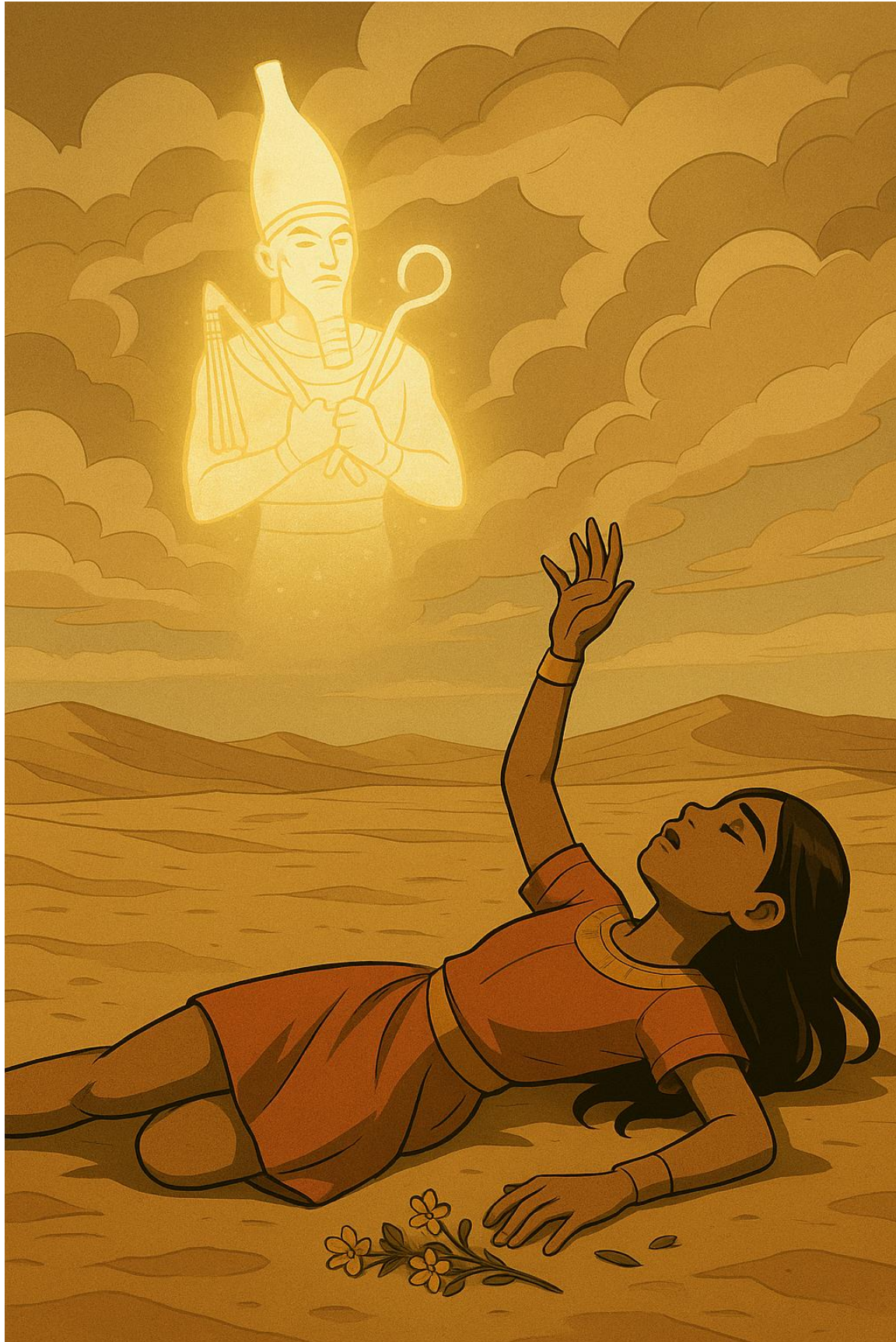
Fourteen seasons passed. Amun and Aya lived quietly at the edge of the desert, raised by Kyra. But something stirred. One day, Aya fainted at school after seeing a glowing figure in the sky, her father... becoming Osiris.

Miles away, Amun was sandboarding when he tripped over something in the dunes. A relic. The moment he touched it, storm clouds cracked above. In his mind, he saw Set and Osiris locked in battle.

Kyra rushed to retrieve Aya. At home, Amun waited at the door, still shaken. "I saw something too," he told her. Kyra replied, "When your sister wakes up, I'll explain everything."



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Later that night, Kyra sat with them by candlelight. "You are not ordinary," she began. "Your father... was Shi'ek. A man who carried the soul of Osiris. He vanished because the gods called him home. But his blood lives in you."

Suddenly, the sky outside shifted. A rumble shook the earth. The dark face of Setekh appeared in the clouds. Cloaked Sand Knights charged through the dunes. Kyra drew her blade. "Go. Out the back. I'll hold them off."

The twins ran. Behind them, Kyra fought like a storm, taking out three knights before she was captured. The Sand Lieutenant summoned a griffin. From the dunes, the twins watched as their mother was chained.



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Kyra closed her eyes and whispered, "Go to the Ancient Lands... and Osiris."

The twins crossed dunes for hours, following Aya's senses. They reached a glowing pyramid bathed in green-gold light. Inside, deep below the earth, they found a staff.

When they touched it, visions flooded them, Shi'ek... then Osiris. Their veins pulsed with ancient power. But before they could breathe, the griffin swooped into the chamber.

Amun stepped forward. "We're not afraid of you. The power of Osiris!" Flames burst from his hands. He hurled a fireball at the beast.





The twins escaped out the side, but the griffin followed, soaring overhead. Aya stopped. The sand around her swirled. Her eyes glowed. "Enough!" She blasted it with a storm of sand, sending it crashing.

They stood, catching their breath. Aya looked down at her glowing hands. "What are we?"

Amun grinned. "We're gods! This is awesome, we can do whatever we want!"

Aya turned sharply. "No, stupid. We must save Mom first. And our father would want us to walk the righteous path."

Amun nodded. "Okay, okay. Settle down. Let's go save Mom."







As they continued walking, Aya sensed something. In a small, ruined tomb, they found a scroll. She read it aloud, and a small glowing sphinx appeared.

"I can take you to her," the sphinx said. "But first, you must race me."

Amun laughed. "You're on."

The sphinx smiled. "Not just me. My sand dragon."

The sand exploded. A massive sand dragon rose from the dunes. Aya summoned a sandboard beneath them. The race began, wind howled, the dragon roared.



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Down the dunes they went, side by side with the towering beast. It roared, but the twins never slowed. With hearts full of fire, they soared off a ridge, landing on the dragon's back.

The sphinx bowed. "You've won. Now ride."

They flew through the desert sky, approaching the Sand Knight encampment. Below, Kyra stood chained. The dragon crashed down into the center of the camp.



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Amun leapt down, fire in hand. Aya followed with swirling sand. Guards flew backward. Chains shattered. Kyra rose, proud.

"You found it," she said. "You found who you are."

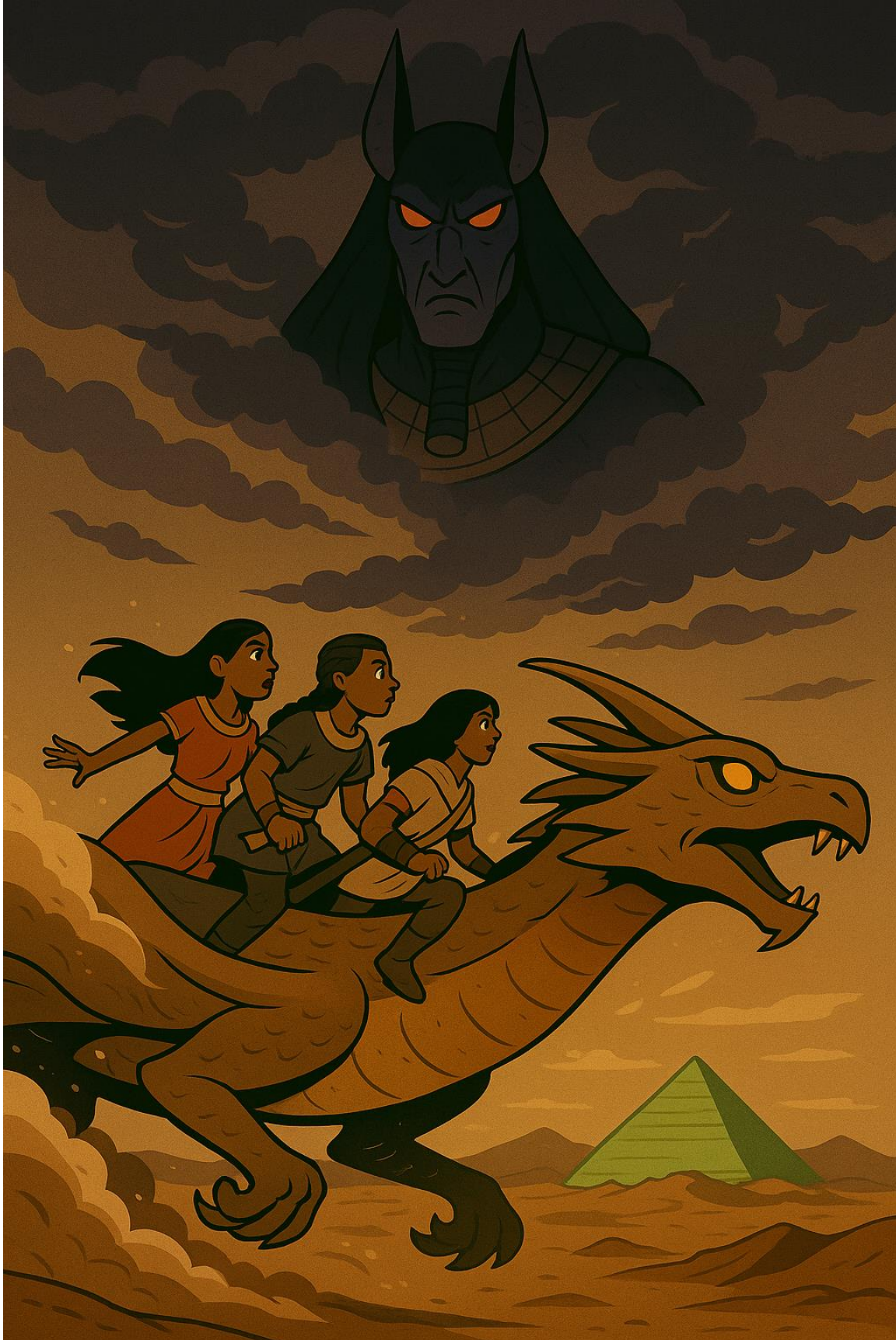
As they escaped the crumbling camp, Setekh's face appeared again in the sky. This time not as a threat, but a promise.

He would return.

But so would they.



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