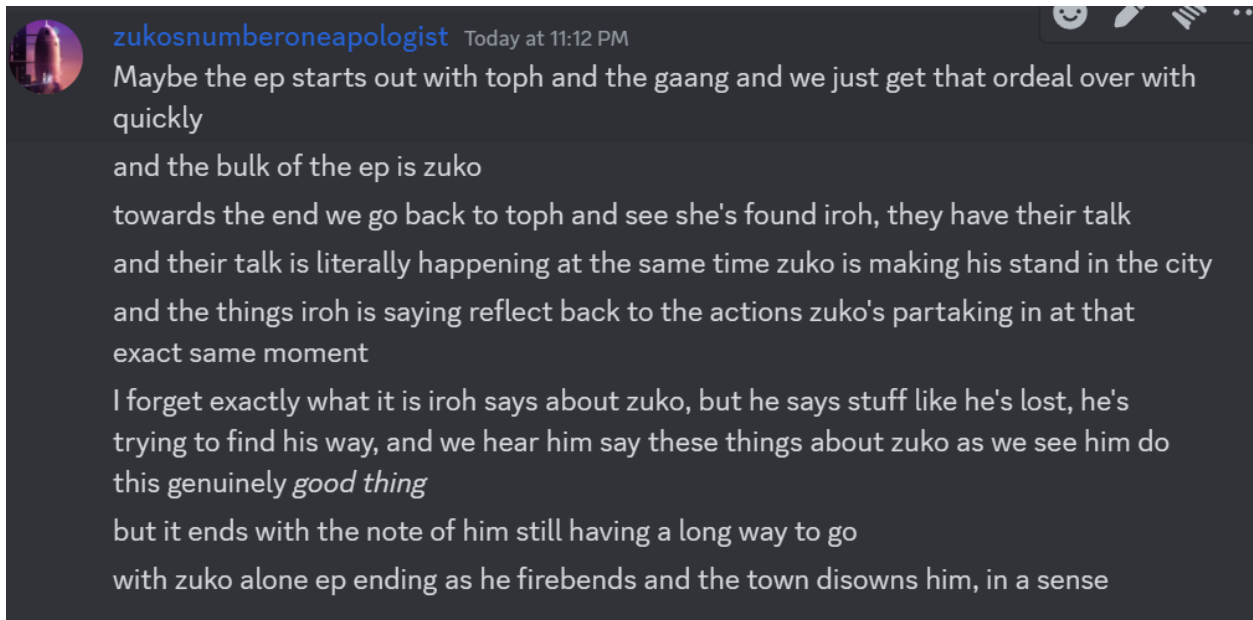


Desert/Swamp:

Idk what your pacing with the eps is @loesnumberonefan but I would assume that both the swamp and desert wouldn't be able to happen, thinking that it'd be kicking off in ep4 and lasting atleast thru the end of ep5 before we get on the precipice of ba sing se. Thinking back more to the swamp, there is a message aang learns there, something intrinsic to that very location and connected to the great tree: the connectedness of the entire world, everyone being of one kin, we all come from the same place etc etc. And Aang learns that he can tap into the spiritual essence of the earth to feel the spiritual presence of others he cares about -- and this can be how he can find appa in ba sing se (he does the same in the original but appa's instead in the swamp there.) The vision stuff can still happen, even if we already got some in s1. Aang's visions are about Appa, Toph's about her parents, Sokka's about Yue, and Katara thinks of not only her mom, but her dad too, because I think highlighting her mixed feelings with dad leaving them is something important that the original didnt address until the s3 premiere. The Library to me makes sense being in this swamp as the library is a spiritual place, the swamp is a spiritual place, and it could provide a more hidden geographical location. The Library is in the physical world, but Wan Shi Tong chose a spot that's still very hidden so not everyone can get to it. The Library can even be not fully sunk -- in all its grand glory, they can really make it feel like a "great wonder of the world," but it still gets sunk in the end with toph being the one who has to keep it up (and she would still struggle in the same way b/c the environment and ground of the swamp is very muddy, not rigid earth, slippery, she can't get a good grip, plus the library is just a massive ordeal)

A big aspect of the desert episode as well is Aang's rage/anger at not being able to find Appa. The Swamp being this vast cavernous maze of weeds and jungle that they're having a hard time getting through, and Aang being more limited because there's not as much of an obvious open sky for him to fly around thru (he'd have to keep dodging vines and shrubbery). This adding to Aang's frustration. The Gaang struggling would be different, but it would still be a kind of struggle. There's no animals in this swamp, however there's plenty of water -- so their struggle becomes one of starvation instead. Sokka can still eat/drink something and get all wonky in the head, Katara is the one guiding the group because she's in her element and comfortable in the environment (while everyone else still isn't -- sokka included, mostly bc of him being high) Aang can still do his whole freakout and clear a section of the jungle thru airbending alone. Maybe he earthbends the scenery with his intense emotion. They come across the Tree, which acts as the buzzard hive location in the desert -- and there are these creatures, different than the wasps, but playing the same role that they have to fight off nearby/on the tree. This could also maybe be Hue, and the fight they do against the swamp monster. If it's Hue, they learn that he's a swampbender -- and that others are nearby. The swampbenders play the role of the sandbenders -- they're the ones who stole appa when toph was holding up the library (they stole/captured appa in the original, so this isn't a big difference). Aang learns they "muzzled him" and he goes avatar state crazy, Hue admonishes the group who stole appa as aang is going crazy in the avatar state. katara tries to calm him down, hue begs for aang to stop, he can't hurt the spirit tree. katara's pleads and something that calls to him inside the tree (or something just associated with the tree itself) helps to calm aang down.

Hue sympathizes with the young avatar, says he never intended for this to happen, and Hue teaches him that same lesson he taught him in the original. Except Aang uses this to locate Appa in Ba Sing Se. Hue expresses his sorrowness for what happened, and offers to guide him and his group out of the desert and to a location that can easily get them to ba sing se (serpent's pass). As Hue and some other swampbenders (not the ones that stole appa in particular) are guiding them, aang and hue talk more about their philosophies, spiritual stuff, hue says that if the avatar ever needs the help of the people of the swamp, they will come and aid him (in part b/c he wants to make amends for what his ppl did, and also feels it's his spiritual duty to serve the avatar). This foreshadows their involvement in the day of black sun



Toph arguing with gaang, not getting along, she leaves, iroh is trailing zuko



zukosnumberoneapologist Today at 11:14 PM

thanks haha

the ep ends with toph telling iroh that maybe he should tell zuko how much he needs him, iroh giving toph the advice about relying on ppl

they go their separate way, we then fade back to zuko as he's packing his things
the family watches him in disgust, he looks back at them, meets eyes with the kid
and he rides off into the sunset



loesnumberonefan Today at 11:15 PM

i was worried for a split moment there because i didn't want it to be focus-less, like zuko alone is so so so locked in to zuko's pov and flopping around povs would have been not ideal for me but
opening the ep with toph argument and her leaving and closing it
as you were typing i so VIVIDLY pictured in my head the final scene with iroh and toph and it cutting to the fight in the town
and he just rides off into the sunset



zukosnumberoneapologist Today at 11:15 PM

I think

Toph coming back to the gaang, and them having a 5/7 min scene where they make up and then flash back to zuko's ending

like we cut to toph returning, iroh on his way, then zuko
to end the ep

alone -- zuko, toph, and iroh, all alone in their own ways

toph ends her story no longer alone, iroh ends his with renewed hope to rekindle his relationship with zuko

while zuko's ends with him feeling more alone than ever



loesnumberonefan Today at 11:17 PM

FUUUCKK

netflix i know you're seeing this shit 🤔



zukosnumberoneapologist Today at 11:17 PM

need to outline it

idw forget what ive said haha

and ep4 is bitter work ofc

to be honest I don't know if we need the chase, unless there's an idea you have to incorporate it



need to outline it
idw forget what ive said haha
and ep4 is bitter work ofc
to be honest I don't know if we need the chase, unless there's an idea you have to incorporate it
I think ep4 being just character bonding/working without anything looming over them could work
give a full hour to them just... being together
and training, growing their relationships



loesnumberonefan Today at 11:19 PM
yeah i'm sold on that



zukosnumberoneapologist Today at 11:19 PM
before we either go into my swamp or ur desert haha
for two eps roughly I think?



loesnumberonefan Today at 11:20 PM
yes library/swamp will (for now) be its own ep
and then the ep after that is leaving that whole situation and it ends with them arriving in ba sing se
i've decided i think the library will serve the purpose of letting the gaang know about the day of black sun

- Aang discovering the comet during spiritual exercise with the guru
- Not wanting to firebend b/c of the association to death/destruction with his people



zukosnumberoneapologist Today at 2:07 PM

Aang sees toph in the street --> someone comments that she's the beifong's girl, the richest family in the town --> aang goes to the beifongs, they propose the deal between them --> aang accepts --> one of their tasks has him doing something near the wrestling arena, aang/gaang curiosity gets the best of them and they go inside --> see toph wrestle --> aang is amazed, talks to her about it, he recognizes she's a great bender but he doesn't *see* why she would make a great teacher for him yet --> they speak more, show that some days are going by, idk --> aang does a few more of these jobs, the beifongs asks one more of him --> toph overhears that conversation, realizes aang is being played by her parents, she sneaks out and accompanies him on this journey --> aang and toph are together, he really sees her in action up close for the first time, sees how she uses her earthbending, it finally sinks in that it's *her* who needs to be his teacher --> something happens, they're caught --> taken to the earth rumbling arena/somewhere else, negotiation scene just as it was in the original --> toph saves everyone, reveals her true talents to her parents, we get that confrontation and the ep basically concludes in the same way
very rough outline i just concocted lmao



I just remembered

we didn't see him re-direct lightning in the LA s1 so that's a moment that still needs to happen



loesnumberonefan Today at 10:54 PM
mm



zukosnumberoneapologist Today at 10:54 PM
what if there's a situation similar to the storm in s1, but in s2, when they're camping and a bolt of lightning comes down and iroh redirects it

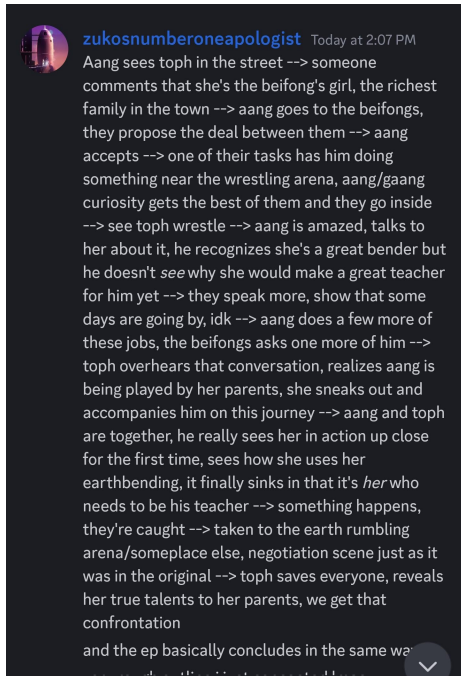


loesnumberonefan Today at 10:55 PM
but it injures him

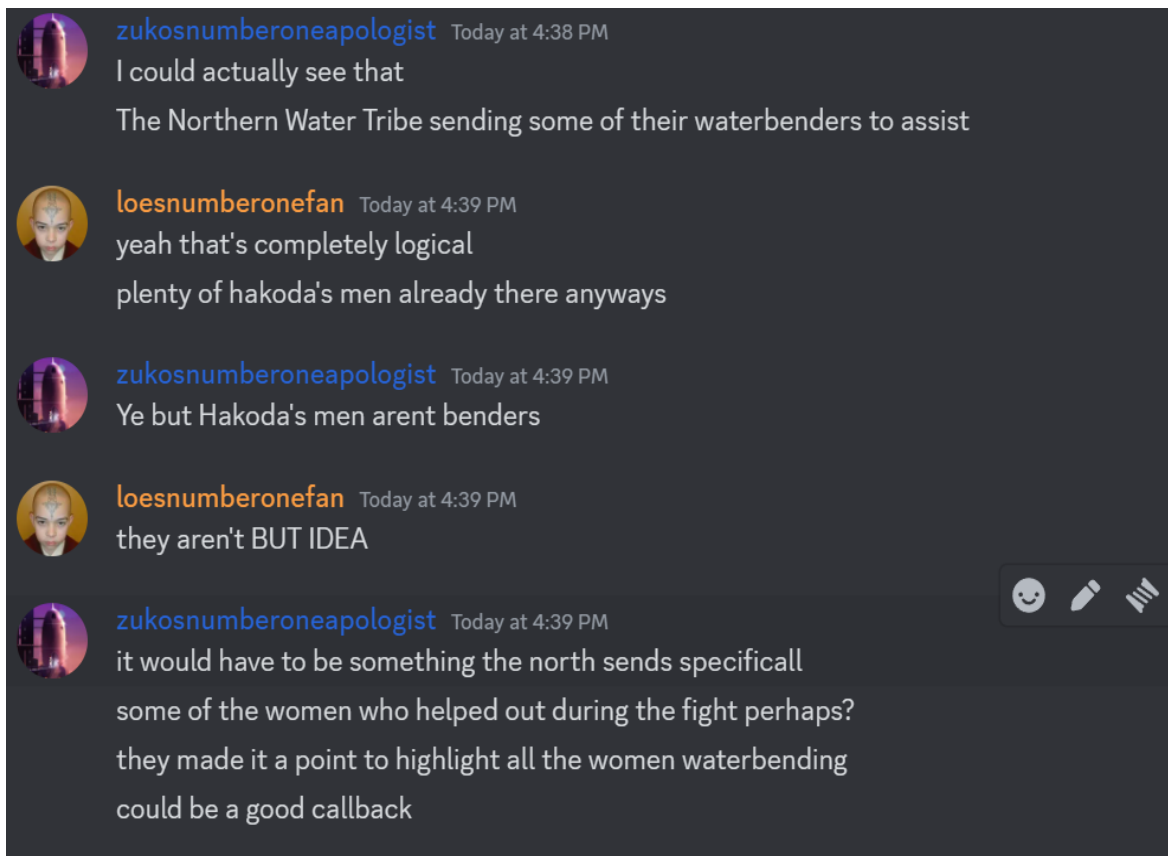


zukosnumberoneapologist Today at 10:55 PM
yeah
like zuko in the final agni kai
he redirects the lightning ultimately but it injures him still
and iroh being injured gives him more reason to tell zuko "nah fam there's no way in ba sing se that I'm shooting lightning at you, I'm the one who invented the technique and I can't even do it perfectly right" (edited)
OHHH and so when zuko does do it
he becomes the first person to do it *perfectly* correctly
when ozai shoots it at him





Sandbenders replacing swampbenders in day of black sun, north instead sends some of their waterbenders (women) so submarine plan can still work





[zukosnumberoneapologist](#) Today at 4:40 PM

I like it

So: The Desert arc happens the same (relatively, anyway). Library happens the same. Appa kidnapped the same. Aimlessly wandering the same. Come across buzzard hive wasp and/or smaller "great Tree" where confrontation with sandbenders happens.

Are we instead doing a sandmonster instead of a swampmonster?

Regardless, I think the leader of the sandbenders should be a stand-in for "Huu." A spiritual protector/guide. There's a fight between Team Avatar and Sandmonster if we're doing that, same as my idea: the gaang, in fighting off the creatures, accidentally strikes the tree and something conjures up in the sand to fight them/protect it. They beat the monster, discover that it's a sandbender, other sandbenders arrive soon after. Toph realizes some of them were the ones who muzzled Appa. Aang goes Avatar State crazy -- calm down is the same in the series, but now with "Huu" emphasizing that Aang has to stop or else he'll hurt the tree. Same thing happens in the original, after Aang calms down he guides Aang up to the great tree, gives him that assessment of connectivity, Aang feels Appa's presence in Ba Sing Se, "Huu" and some other sandbenders guide aang and friends out of the desert towards the serpents pass and pledge themselves to serve the avatar as repentance for the sins of some of their kind. And we get them in day of black sun on-top of the northern waterbenders coming to help

I think now that we have a good idea on the northern waterbenders playing a role in the day of black sun, the sandbenders aren't necessarily as needed (as they'd be ontop of Hakoda's men, Northern Waterbenders, Some Earth wrestlers, common earth kingdom soldiers). But I think it could play a nice role esp if it's their leader trying to make amends (and as a spiritual presence himself knowing how important the fight to defeat this all-conquering force is).

Iroh tale/ba sing se



zukosnumberoneapologist Today at 11:31 AM

"I could not help you, and for that I am sorry. Your cousin, Zuko though... I've seen so much of you in him. And I'm doing my best to guide him, but it's difficult... I wish you were here, my son."



11:32 AM

Iroh admitting that he has learned from some of the mistakes he made with Lu Ten in how he's now guiding zuko, but he knows he's still not doing the best he could (playing into his insecurities, making him feel like an actual human instead of this always sensible/perfect being that he's so often represented as in the original)



zukosnumberoneapologist Today at 11:34 AM

I think narratively, it would be stronger if we get a scene where Iroh and Zuko have a bit of a disagreement in Ba Sing Se, and when Zuko's out doing something, that's when we have Iroh go to visit the tree and his son's grave

and we have him talk to lu ten about his regrets and how he's trying to make amends, but he's failing, not doing the best he can, he's trying so hard for zuko but so many things have gone wrong



zukosnumberoneapologist Today at 11:35 AM

and we could later have a scene where zuko comes back, he realizes what the day was (a part of him forgot) and he apologizes to uncle, they have a small moment of remembrance together for lu ten

ozai/iroh/ursa succession



[zukosnumberoneapologist](#) Today at 6:24 PM

Azulon tells Ozai that his punishment will be that his oldest child will now be declared as Iroh's heir in his line of succession. Azula overhears this, she is frustrated by it, and decides to play a trick on Zuko. She tells Zuko that Azulon made a decree about him -- but not the actual decree Azulon gave. She tells Zuko that Azulon ordered Ozai to kill him as "repentance" for speaking out of turn, and Zuko being a naive little turtleduck believes her. Ursa overhears this, believes it too, knowing Ozai would do it in a heartbeat (he never cared for Zuko to begin with -- he now finally has a reason to get rid of him), knowing all about who Ozai is at this point. She goes to Ozai to defend her son in front of him. Ozai is at first surprised and confused at what Ursa is saying -- Azulon never told him to kill Zuko... but then it sinks in... she thinks that he has been given an order to kill their son. She doesn't know that Zuko's meant to become Iroh's heir. He uses this and manipulated her -- playing into her belief that he intends to murder zuko, and then proposes the deal to her to kill the firelord in exchange for zuko's safety (edited)



[zukosnumberoneapologist](#) Today at 6:49 PM

I think them doing it in a way where Ozai kind of mistakenly lands himself in a position where he's able to make that move of proposing the deal to Ursa, and her feeling as if she has to accept, would highlight more of his inadequacies as a person. My headcanon for Ozai (and one I've seen oft portrayed in fanfic) was that while he was the more talented bender between him and Iroh, he was not a master strategist akin to Iroh. He wasn't tactly smart in manipulation tactics outside of the simple "Yes, do what I say or I will hurt/kill you" etc etc

Some reality of events that happens landing Ursa in his lap *thinking* that he intends to kill Zuko because he was seemingly ordered to by the fire lord (when this just wasn't the case to begin with) and Ozai seeing this, using it to his advantage, having gotten to this spot all by pure chance of luck (not with any work on his behalf) to me is a more compelling story and plays into the whole aspect of Ozai not being meant to rule (he's not a sound decision maker, not tactically smart, acts rashly, boldly) in comparison to Iroh



zukosnumberoneapologist Today at 6:54 PM

I can envision Ozai sulking in his room, frustrated and conflicted as he's trying to concoct a plan somehow to prevent what Azulon demanded to transpire... Zuko usurping him on the line of succession, the greatest of embarrassments, his father has made a mockery out of him, and for what?...

And then Ursa walks in, all disheveled, frightened, demanding that Ozai don't do it. Ozai questions her, what is she talking about? She says she won't let him murder Zuko. She will do anything. Ozai ponders this, prompts her once more, asks what she's heard. Ursa tells him she knows Azulon ordered him to kill Zuko. But she begs and pleads for him to not do it, what does she have to do for him to spare Zuko? And Ozai just stands back, thinks for a moment... recognizes what's happening here... she thinks his father ordered him to kill zuko... and then a devilish smile rises on his face

Reasoning:

-This could work to further illustrate Ozai's character while also not humanizing him/portraying him in a sympathetic light whatsoever. Ozai being portrayed as quite literally having this opportunity dropped into his lap by sheer luck/chance, highlighting how he's never been this grand schemer/brilliant tactical mind that can manipulate a complex situation outside of simple threatening tactics (that are effective, when done appropriately). Adds more to the situation and circumstances that him becoming Fire Lord wasn't some keen and in-depth plot concocted by him for years -- it was a mistake, an opportunity Ozai seized and took advantage of.

-To me it makes more sense that Ozai would be given a punishment more relatable to the offense he has partaken in. Ozai went to Azulon asking to basically usurp his brother on the line of succession b/c of Iroh's lack of an heir, and we know that Azulon prefers Iroh as his first-born. What better way to punish Ozai, who spoke out of turn to gain leverage in the succession line of the throne, than to ensure he never is given a rightful opportunity to take it in his lifetime? Ozai spoke of how Iroh's lack of an heir makes him an unfit candidate to have his bloodline be the next in line -- what better way to combat this than by taking something away from Ozai, Ozai's own first born, aligning Zuko as Iroh's new heir and cementing Zuko as then ahead of Ozai in the succession line?

-Azula is hurt directly by this herself, and she takes that anger/frustration out on Zuko by spinning a white lie to him. She spins the same white lie to her mother because she doesn't value her mother (or, rather, she pushes those feelings away) as much as she values her father, and could find it funny in a dark, sardonic way. If anything, Azula could view this as a harmless prank, perhaps -- she's a child, thinking irrationally, mad that her future has just been disrupted, and this is how she's acting out in response.

-Ursa is a victim of years of psychological, emotional, and potentially physical abuse at the hands of Ozai (I should say, this idea does depend on how the LA characterizes their relationship. If they keep it more like how it was in the original, I think this works. If they change it, this idea fractures.) She's been taunted by Ozai for years, threats made by Ozai against her son's life and well-being. She's heard the most scandalous of things throughout the years and has learned to be wary of what it is she hears, but anything that relates to her son (and daughter) that puts their potential health and safety in danger puts her excessively on edge. She knows Ozai's nature and might know that the only reason he hasn't dispatched of Zuko yet is that he hasn't been given a direct reason that would justify him. Receiving permission from the Fire Lord would do it.

-I don't see this as a situation of Ursa being portrayed as a completely illogical, helpless abused figure who can't think clearly for herself. I see this as a situation where she's presented with a scenario that reminds her of past statements/behaviors made by her husband, in her mind that she has justifiable reason to believe may be true, and acting in a moment of irrationality to the highest degree, she confronts Ozai over it. In a moment of immense tragedy, it is her who actually, indirectly suggests the idea of killing Zuko to him -- getting the wheels in Ozai's head turning, until it becomes a path forward for him to express his immense anger, rage, and frustration.

-Ozai sees what she's thinking, plays into it a bit, tries to manipulate her and Ursa after a minute or so actually sees through him. His acting is not believable, there's something off about him this time. Everytime before he seemed frightening and genuine in his threats but it's... not the same now. She comes out and says it: "This was a misunderstanding, wasn't it? You never intended to kill Zuko, did you?" And he responds in turn, "You are right, my dear. My father didn't demand that of I, but now that there is no true future for our family here, with my hope for the throne sustainably ended, there is nothing I have left to lose by doing so." This is way too theatric/dramatic for him to actually say, but the sentiment is that Ozai is angered by what has transpired, hears Ursa's misunderstanding, sees how much she cares for the boy, how she's concerned over him (who just won it *all* without doing anything/earning it) when her chance at any kind of power was just swiftly ended some hours prior -- and he re-directs his anger out at Zuko. Ozai's never valued the boy, and he's now lost everything, with nothing left to lose, so his dying, final act of defiance would be robbing Iroh and his father of their "moral victory" once more, killing Zuko, making it so Iroh's lost *two* sons in such a short timeframe.

-At this point, Ozai is now actually, whole-heartedly, determinedly pledging to Ursa that he is going to kill Zuko. This is a man unhinged with nothing holding him back anymore. There is no viable line to the throne for Ozai anymore -- until Ursa herself suggests one. Which is when we get the plot to murder Azulon in his sleep, with Ursa being exiled as a consequence of it. This plays into the tragedy aspect of this whole situation, makes Azulon's decision one that actually impacts Ozai (when in the cartoon he's indirectly receiving a reward for bad behavior lol), acknowledges that Azulon knows how Ozai views his heirs (sees how much Ozai is playing up Azula, looking down on Zuko), Ursa is portrayed imperfectly (she makes a genuine mistake in an heightened emotional moment) while also still retaining her cunning wit in being to recognize when Ozai isn't initially being genuine. She still suggests the plot, as she did in the original, when it becomes abundantly clear that Ozai's not acting anymore -- that he really was going to kill Zuko as a bid for revenge.

Ursa: (Bursts in) Don't do it, Ozai.

Ozai: (looks up from his desk, disheveled) What do you want, woman?

Ursa: I know what you're doing. I know what Azulon told you to do, and I won't let it happen.

Ozai: (edge to his voice) He told you?

Ursa: Your daughter did. She told me how she overheard Azulon giving you an order to... to kill Zuko. I won't let it happen. I won't let you do this.

Ozai: (stands up) You must be mistaken. My father... (sees the look in her eyes, voice grows dark) Is an arrogant, stupid old man who should have been dead years ago. And it seems you share more in common with him than what would be preferable, my dear Ursa.

Ursa: (stunned, taken aback)

Ozai: I was not ordered to kill your son... (turns around) no, I was merely told that he was to become Iroh's true heir in the wake of our esteemed Lu Ten's death. I was awarded the shame and embarrassment of having my own lesser son usurp me on the line of succession, because of a mere proposal I humbly gave to my father with the lens of our nation's future prosperity in mind.

Ursa: You... he...

Ozai: Yes, our Zuko... to become Iroh's heir. It's a laughable idea, one only befitting of the fool that that has become of my father. (pauses, voice goes cold).

Ursa: (stammers a bit more, steps away.) I apologize for the misunderstanding then, if you would let me-

Ozai: Not so fast. (rushes past her, slams the door.) You really believed I would kill our son, Ursa? Do you think so low of me?

Ursa: After all these years, it would only be befitting of someone in your station.

Ozai: I suppose you're right. (contemplative, before anger rises on his face, frustration). Today, I have lost everything. You know, Ursa, the one thing that held me back all these years