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1172, Mongolia. The proud tribal chieftain Esugei embarks upon a journey across the windswept tundra to help his 9-year-old son Temudgin choose a bride. His goal is the fierce Merkit tribe, from whom he had stolen his own wife many years before, and with whom he now hopes to make peace. Fatefully, it is while visiting a friendly clan, and not among the Merkits, where Temudgin makes his choice. In five years he will return to marry Borte, the daughter of the tribe’s chieftain. On the return journey, Esugei is poisoned by enemies and the young Temudgin returns home to find that the greedy Targutai has taken over as chieftain. To eliminate the future threat, Targutai declares that he must one day kill Temudgin, the clan’s rightful leader. Driven by the need to avenge his father’s loss and to uphold the vow he had made to Borte, the young boy escapes, protected only by the animal skins he wears and the faith he has in Tengri, The Lord of the Sky. Temudgin is found, barely alive, and taken in by a friendly tribe where he becomes the blood brother of Jamuhka, that tribe’s future chief.

1186, Mongolia. With his loving wife Borte at his side, Temudgin is still without a clan and the chieftainship that is rightfully his. The Merkits, avenging Esugei’s old offense, attack Temudgin and steal Borte…a wife for a wife. Severely wounded, it is to his blood brother Jamuhka that Temudgin turns. Together, they overcame the Merkins and retrieve Temudgin’s beloved bride, but Jamuhka’s men have seen something great in Temudgin, and abandon their chieftain to join up with the fierce warrior. Although still blood brothers having a great respect for each other, Jamuhka and Temudgin both know that their conflicting destinies are soon fated to collide. Afraid of Temudgin’s growing strength, Targutai places his forces under Jamuhka’s command to attack their common enemy. During the ensuing battle, Temudgin, seeing no hope for victory, sends Borte with the other women and children into the mountains for safety. Along with the few survivors, Temudgin is captured and sold off to slavery in the distant Tangut Kingdom. It is one year later that Borte, compelled by her love for Temudgin and convinced that she must take action, leaves the safety of the mountains to undertake the perilous mission to Tangut where she’s able to rescue her imprisoned husband.

Finally free, Temudgin has his faithful wife, two children and a burning desire to bring law and unity to the whole of Mongolia, but there is one that still stands in his way. Amassing a great army of devoted warriors, he must now face off against the superior might of the army of his blood brother-turned enemy Jamuhka. In this final battle, Temudgin, aided by cunning strategy, the affection of his warriors and his faith in the god Tengri, wins a resounding victory – the first of many for the man who was soon to become known as Genghis Khan, the greatest conqueror the world has ever seen...