

I used to think that you were so clever, clever
And you used to say, "Guards are forever"

(Spoken)

Ugh, so now you're like, "Teresh, I still want to guard with you"
And I'm like, "I just ... this is exhausting, you know?"
Like, we are never gonna be rebels, like, ever

We are never, ever, ever gonna be the rebels
We are never, ever, ever gonna be the rebels
You could plot and I could plot and we could plot and scheme
But we are never, ever, ever, ever gonna be the rebels

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BIGTAN: *(Yelling)* You don't know that! I could overthrow the king and take over and be the king and no one can stop me!

MORDECHAI *stands up and walks over to BIGTAN and TERESH.*

MORDECHAI: Hey, idiots! Did you ever think that maybe you should do your plotting somewhere other than in front of the palace? *(He keeps heading off-stage.)*

BIGTAN: Where are you going?

MORDECHAI: Off to see my cousin — you know, Queen Esther? New queen of all Persia? Lives in the palace with the king? *(He exits.)*

BIGTAN: *(Sighing)* Dang it. *(To TERESH)* I *knew* you couldn't keep a secret.

SCENE 4

KING *is seated on his throne. HAMAN enters, looking around.*

HAMAN: Your highness? Where is everybody?

KING: *(Sighing)* The morgue.

HAMAN: Like, for a field trip?

KING: Who takes a field trip to the morgue?

HAMAN: How do *you* cheer yourself up when you're feeling sad?

KING: (*Glumly*) I tell jokes.

HAMAN: Do you want to tell me a few jokes to cheer yourself up?

KING: I've *been* telling jokes. That's why they're all at the morgue.

HAMAN: You made them laugh so hard they all died?

KING: No, I told them they couldn't eat lunch until they laughed at one of my jokes.

HAMAN: They couldn't survive one morning without food?

KING: That was four days ago.

HAMAN: (*Trying to cheer up KING*) Well, if you make me a minister, I promise to laugh at all of your jokes.

KING: You say that now, but *apparently* my jokes are torture.

HAMAN: Lucky for you, I *love* torture!

KING: Really?

HAMAN: (*Cheerfully*) Who doesn't?

KING: Well, you are a rare bird. What's your name?

HAMAN: Haman, your highness.

KING: And you *want* to be prime minister?

HAMAN: Who wouldn't? Listen.

“Haman”

HAMAN

I promise sir, as prime minister,
To treat you as the greatest living emperor