

KING: Yeah, but now I'm bored again. *(Pause to look around)* Anybody got any good jokes?



SCENE 3

KING *and* MINISTERS *are standing around.*

MINISTER: Ladies and gentlemen! King Achashverosh is seeking a new queen! All eligible maidens are ordered to report to the palace at once to meet with his majesty so that he might choose his new queen.

[DIRECTOR'S NOTE: *This is a great time to have a costume contest or to invite members of the audience up to join in the beauty pageant.*]

MAIDENS *assemble themselves into a line, more or less, as KING looks them over.*

KING: *(To MINISTER)* Who found these maidens?! Yeesh. *(KING walks down the line, greeting each maiden with a few friendly words, but then turning to MINISTER with the following comments)* Too tall. Too short. Too blonde. Reminds me of my mother. Reminds me of my uncle.

ESTHER: Your majesty!

KING: Who are you?

ESTHER: My name's Esther, your majesty.

KING: *(Wearily)* You got a question for me or something?

ESTHER: *(Taken aback)* No, your majesty, I just wanted to say I was excited to be here and have the chance to be queen.

KING: All right, let me look at you. Well, you don't remind me of any family members, so that's a plus. Anything in your background I should know about? Any felonies or anything?

ESTHER: What? No!

KING: Great. (*To MINISTER*) I got the new queen. It's this chick, what's-her-name here. Take care of the paperwork, I'm out.

KING *exits*.

MINISTER: (*Handing ESTHER some forms*) Please fill these out in triplicate and return them to the administration office tomorrow at nine. Coronation to follow at 11:30. (*Calling to assembled MAIDENS*) We have found the new queen! Everyone else go home!

MINISTER *and* MAIDENS *exit, leaving ESTHER alone*.

ESTHER: Um, yay me?

“After the Pageant”

ESTHER

I remember when I was young
We would always have so much fun
Holding hands and skimming stones
Then a royal decree changed the world I had known
It was written on papyrus scroll
And it clarified a royal goal
All the maidens living in the whole world
Had to go to the king to see who'd be his new girl

Well, my world was rocking, decree was shocking
And I didn't know how I'd feel
I never dreamed of a royal life but it sounds like quite a deal
Oh Achashverosh what are you like?
You told Queen Vashti to take a hike, well
And now you want me in palace life

La la la la la

Well the pageant's done and the maidens left
He's not nice and he's self-obsessed
Now I'm trying to decide what to do
Dreaming of my cousin and the life that we knew
Still I'll never get another shot
To live the royal life he's clearly got
Learning fast as the lyrics pass
That I only got one chance to leave the working class