

SCENE 3

KING: I need a nap. This has been absolutely exhausting. Can someone take over hosting duties for me? (*Looking over the participants again*) Hey, you, Haman.

HAMAN: Yes, your highness?

KING: I'm gonna make you co-host while I lay down for a bit. Keep things running smoothly around here, okay? Don't do anything I wouldn't do!

HAMAN: That really doesn't mean much.

KING *sets* HAMAN *as co-host, turns off his screen, and mutes.*

HAMAN: Oooh, this is exciting. Let's play a game. Raise your hand if you have something you want to share with the group. (*Pause*) Sorry, let me be more specific. Raise your hand if you would like to share something that you love ... about me. Who's going to go first? One thing you love about me.

[NOTE: *At your discretion, you could open it up to the audience.*]

BEEZTA: (*Sarcastic*) Ooh! Ooh! I have something! You're terrible.

HAMAN: (*Sincerely*) Thank you! Anyone else? (*Pause*) Mordechai the Jew! What do you love most about me?

MORDECHAI: What?

HAMAN: One thing you love about me. Just a fun game while we're sitting here.

MORDECHAI: No.

HAMAN: What do you mean, "no"? That's what we're doing.

MORDECHAI: Oh, I'm sorry, I wasn't clear. I meant, no way am I playing this stupid game. You're crazy.

HAMAN: Do you *dare* risk the king's wrath by refusing?

MORDECHAI: Better believe it!

HAMAN: It's literally a law that you have to say something nice. Compliment me or I'll send the royal guard after you!

MORDECHAI: Go ahead and try it. One coughing fit and they'll all go running in the opposite direction. (*Coughing noises*)

HAMAN: How dare you! I'm the prime minister!

MORDECHAI: Get over yourself. I'm out of here. (*Turns off his video.*)

HAMAN: I can't believe he would speak to me that way!

KING *turns on his video and returns to the party.*

KING: Haman! How'd it go while I was napping?

HAMAN: Well, honestly, your majesty, it did not go well. It turns out there are some people in your kingdom who refuse to obey the law! We must do something about it!

KING: Oh, must "we"?

HAMAN: My apologies, your highness, I wasn't implying that you should do any work. If you'd like, I'd be happy to take on the responsibility of finding these seedy characters and taking care of them.

KING: Are you planning to murder them?

HAMAN: (*Sarcastic*) No, I was going to promise them better health insurance and then force the courts to deny them any useful coverage. Yes, of course I'm planning to murder them!

KING: Okay, first of all, don't take that tone with me. Second of all, I kinda like that health insurance idea. Go take care of these people, whoever they are. I don't want to have to think about it.

HAMAN: If I had my way, you'd never think about anything at all!

KING: You know, that sounds like a compliment, but I honestly can't tell what you're trying to say.

HAMAN: Nevermind.