

KING: Oh, we can't have that. If we let women have a say, who knows what could go right?! I mean, 'wrong!' You are officially banished before any other woman hears one of your crazy ideas. Guards!

VASHTI: Banish me if that makes you happy. But I'll get you my pretty, and your little dog too!

KING: (*Weirded out*) What?

VASHTI: I meant, you haven't seen the last of me!

GUARDS *move to take VASHTI off-stage, but she pulls away from their grasp and walks off-stage with great dignity.*

MINISTER 2: Excellent move, your highness!

KING: Yeah, but now I need a *new* queen! (*Sighs*) If only I had a wife ... I mean, a better wife than the *last* one ... whatever her name was ...

### **“If I Only Had a Wife”**

KING

I would while away the hours  
Enjoying all my powers  
Feel happy with my life  
'Cause it's great being ruler  
But I know I could be cooler  
If I only had a wife

We would be a happy pairing  
With everybody staring  
Looking sharper than a knife  
If the peasants get all restless  
Then my guards will beat them senseless  
If I only had a wife

Oh she would surely be  
My sweetheart close at hand  
Obeying every order I command  
I always get  
What I demand

She would almost be my equal  
Well, maybe for the sequel  
I'll let her rule some things  
Doesn't matter if she's crazy  
Just as long as she obeys me  
If I only had a wife

KING: Someone find me a wife!

MINISTERS *run off*. MINISTER 3 *quickly returns with ESTHER in tow*.

MINISTER 3: Found one! She was wandering around the castle with a tour group.

KING: Where are you from, honey?

ESTHER: Kansas.

KING: Well, you aren't in Kansas anymore, Toto. Are you married?

ESTHER: Am I *what?!*

KING: Okay, that's a good sign. What do you know about feminism, women's liberation, DEI initiatives ... that kind of thing?

ESTHER: I don't think any of that has been invented yet.

KING: Perfect! You're hired!

ESTHER: Hired for what?

KING: Queen!

ESTHER: Don't you mean 'married,' not 'hired?'

KING: Sure whatever. Welcome to your new life!

MINISTER *places a crown on ESTHER's head*.