

KING: Okay, have fun.

HAMAN: You don't want to know any of the details? Plans, schemes, people I'm targeting, nothing?

KING: Ew, gross. That sounds a lot like work. And if there's one thing a king should never be expected to do, it's work.

HAMAN: Thank you, your highness! (HAMAN *bows and exits.*)



SCENE 6

MORDECHAI *is seated outside the palace when ESTHER hurries over.*

ESTHER: Mordechai! Did you hear the news?

MORDECHAI: Don't worry, I'm pretty sure they'll rebuild the *casita* in the end.

ESTHER: Wait, what?

MORDECHAI: Sorry, I was thinking of a different story. Where have *you* been? I haven't seen you in, like, five scenes.

ESTHER: I was hiding in the walls with my pet rats.

MORDECHAI: Wait, what?

ESTHER: Sorry, I was thinking of a different story. Anyway — did you hear about Haman's awful plot against our people?

MORDECHAI: Ugh, I know. It's terrible! (*Shrugs*) But what are you gonna do?

ESTHER: How can you say that? Aren't you supposed to be inspiring me to step up and save our people?

MORDECHAI: I mean, I guess. I don't know that you're really up for saving our people.

ESTHER: Are you kidding me with this?!

MORDECHAI: (*Resigned*) I guess we're just doomed.

ESTHER: We are not doomed! I am *absolutely* capable of saving our people!

MORDECHAI: If you say so. (*Gets up slowly, with great resignation*) Good luck, or whatever. (*He exits.*)

ESTHER: I'll show you! (*Pauses for a moment.*) Okay, that was pretty clever. But *how* am I supposed to save the Jews of Persia from someone as crafty and evil as Haman?

KING *enters quietly, unbeknownst to ESTHER.*

KING: (*Melodramatically*) It's all just so overwhelming.

ESTHER: (*Startled*) What are you doing here? I thought this was my scene?

KING: Oh, it's definitely your scene. I'm just saying, I'm facing tough times too.

ESTHER: (*Skeptically*) What are you talking about? Do you know what I'm up against?

“Sandwich/Pressure”

ESTHER

I'm Queen Esther and I'm nervous
What will happen if I choose to shirk this?
We are threatened by his emergence
He's a clown but this is a circus

KING

I don't know how I can do this
All I want is a nice turkey sandwich
No one tells me where the bread is
Lucky my neck always knows where my head is, but...

ESTHER

Under the surface
I see the levers of power, someone show me how to work this!
Under the surface