

The Story of Esther – A Skit

Adapted by Amy Updike from "The Story of Esther" by Connie Cook as found on Sugardoodle.net

List of Characters

Narrators 1 & 2	Esther	Maidens/People (non-speaking)
Royal Messenger	Mordecai	Servants (non-speaking)
King Ahasuerus	Haman	

Narrator stands on the side of the stage. Esther sits in a chair on the left, King sits in a chair on the right.

Narrator 1: Today you are going to hear a story about a beautiful young lady named Esther, who had great courage.

Narrator 2: Every March, all around the world, Jews celebrate Purim, a holiday to remind them of a time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from being killed. They fast, have a feast, and retell the story of how they were saved. As we tell this story today, do what the Jews do, and boo, hiss, or stamp your feet whenever you hear the name **Haman**. And then, cheer whenever you hear the names **Esther** or **Mordecai**.

Narrator 1: Long ago Jerusalem was invaded, the city was destroyed and many Jews were carried away as slaves into Persia. After many years, some of the Jews were allowed to go back, but some stayed in Persia even though they weren't treated well.

Narrator 2: One of these Jews still in Persia was a young girl named Esther. (*pause for cheers*) She was an orphan and was raised by her cousin, Mordecai (*cheers*), who loved her like his own daughter.

Narrator 1: The king of Persia was named King Ahasuerus. One time he held a great feast. He called his for his wife to come to the feast, but she did not want to come. This made the King angry, and he sent her away and decided to find a new, more obedient, queen.

(The Royal messenger stands in front of a group of people)

Royal Messenger: The King desires a new queen. All beautiful young women are to be brought to the palace. The beautiful girl that pleases the King will become the new queen.

Narrator 2: Finally all the girls are gathered into the palace and dressed for the King. The girls are all presented to the king. After looking over all the maidens the King makes his choice.

(The king walks up and down a line of Maidens, looking at them.)

King: hummm... This is an easy choice. I choose this one. What is your name?

Esther: My name is Esther. I am honored to be your queen.

(Maidens all leave, looking sad. Except Esther.)

Narrator 1: Later that evening Esther meets with her cousin, Mordecai.

(Mordecai walks up to Esther)

Esther: Mordecai, did you hear? The king has chosen me to be his queen!

Mordecai: Yes, my child. Esther, you have been chosen. But don't forget that you are a Jew. Many people in this country hate the Jews. You must keep it a secret.

Esther: I will not tell anyone, not even the King.

(Esther sits in a chair. Mordecai walk off stage)

Narrator 1: Esther becomes the Queen and lives in the palace. She is a kind good person. Later, her cousin comes to warn her of something.

(Mordecai walks over to Esther.)

Mordecai: Esther, I over-heard two of the Kings guards talking. They were plotting to kill the King. You must get word to the King!

Esther: Do not worry, I will tell the King. *(Esther walks quickly over to the King)*

Narrator 2: Esther tells the King of the Plot and this saves his life. The King is grateful to Mordecai and to Esther. The King Promotes a man named Haman to be above all the princes in his court.

Haman: *(Stands on a chair in front of a group of people)* My name is Haman. I am a great person in the palace, and therefore all the servants must bow down to me.

(everyone but Mordecai bows down.)

Mordecai: I will not bow down to you. I know how much you hate the Jews and you are cruel to my people.

Haman: *(angry)* You must bow down to me.

Mordecai: *(Humbly)* I will not bow down to you.

(Haman stomps off stage, everyone leaves.)

Narrator 1: Haman is so mad that Mordecai won't bow down to him, he decides to punish all the Jews. He thinks of a plan and goes to the king.

(King Ahasuerus sits in a chair. Haman walks up to him and kneels before the king.)

Haman: My King, I have found that some people in our kingdom do not keep all the king's laws. If it pleases you, I will write a decree that they will all be destroyed, "both young and old, little children and women, in one day." If you will let me do this I will pay a large amount of silver into the king's treasuries.

King: Everyone should obey the laws, do what you think is best.

Narrator 2: Haman writes a decree to everyone that on a certain day all the Jews will be put to death.

(Haman hands the King a piece of paper and the King signs it. King hands the paper back to Haman. Haman struts off, very proud of himself.)

Mordecai: *(Walks up to Esther)* Esther, only you can help us. Haman is going to kill all of our people. You must go tell the king.

Esther: I want to help. But I do not dare present myself to the King. I am only allowed to see the King if he asks for me and I haven't been called to see the King for over 30 days! If I go to see him without him asking for me, he could have me killed.

Mordecai: But you must! Maybe this is why you are the queen at THIS time, to save our people. You are our only hope.

Esther: *(Thinks about it. Takes a deep breath, then says with courage)* OK.... I will, "If I perish, I perish." Please have everyone fast and pray for me for three days. I need Heavenly Fathers help. With everyone's prayers and the Lords help, I can do this.

Mordecai: Yes, Esther. All the Jews will fast and pray for you. *(Mordecai leaves)*

Narrator 1: After 3 days of fasting and prayer, Esther puts on her finest clothes and enters the Kings court. If he is pleased to see her, he would raise his golden scepter and she would not be killed. She stands in front of King Ahasuerus and waits. She hardly dares to breathe when the King looks up. He sees her and holds out his scepter to her, allowing her to come to him.

(The king is sitting in a chair, Esther waits. The king raises his scepter, she walks up to the king's chair.)

King: *(Surprised)* Esther, I am glad to see you. I offer you whatever you want, even if it is half of the kingdom.

Esther: Let the King and Haman come to a banquet that I have prepared. Then I will tell you what I desire.

Narrator 2: Haman was thrilled to be invited to eat with Esther and the King. *(Esther leaves, the Kings stays seated there.)*

(Haman speaks to a couple servants)

Haman: Servants! I have been invited to eat with the Queen and King. Mordecai still refuses to bow down to me. I will not have it! He must show me respect. I order you to build a gallows to hang Mordecai from.

(Servants Nod "yes", then rush off)

Narrator 1: The servants get busy building the gallows, and the King goes to bed for the night. The King cannot sleep. He remembers that Mordecai saved his life.

(King sits up and yells to his Royal Messenger)

King: Royal Messenger! *(Royal Messenger runs in)* I recall a man named Mordecai that saved my life. Was he ever rewarded for this?

Royal Messenger: No, nothing was done for him.

Narrator 2: At that moment, Haman enters the court hoping to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai from the newly built gallows. (*Haman enters*)

King: Haman, what should be done for a man that makes the king happy?

Narrator 1: Haman, smiles because he thinks the King is talking about him.

Haman: (*Smugly*) I think that this person should be dressed in royal clothing, and the crown put upon his head. The Kings horse should carry him throughout the city, with someone shouting to the people how much the king wants to honor him.

King: Great idea! Quickly Haman, go and get the Jew Mordecai, and do all this for him.

(*Haman hangs his head and walks out. Messenger leaves.*)

Narrator 2: Haman was shocked. There was nothing to do but obey. Instead of hanging Mordecai, Haman had to lead him around on the Kings horse dressed in royal clothing, and shout out wonderful things about him. After escorting Mordecai around, Haman was very upset. He hurried and dressed for the banquet. They all sit down at the banquet...

(*Esther, King, Haman, Mordecai and all others sit together at a feast*)

King: Esther, this food is wonderful, but you still haven't told me what you request.

Esther: If it pleases the King, please spare my life and that of my people, for I am a Jew we are about to be slain.

King: I don't understand. Who wants to kill you or the Jews?

Esther: The person is Haman. The decree he had you sign will allow all Jews to be killed and myself, oh King. I know a king's decree cannot be changed, but could you please allow the Jews to defend themselves on that terrible day they are to be slaughtered?

King: What!?! (*Turning to Haman*) Haman! You tricked your King! (*to the servants*) Take him away!

(*Servants grab Haman and take him roughly offstage.*)

(*Looking at Mordecai*) Mordecai! I hereby allow the Jews to arm themselves and fight against any who try to harm them.

Narrator 1: The king was very angry at Haman, and he ended up suffering death on the very gallows he built for Mordecai.

Narrator 2: Because of the fasting and the prayers of the Jews, and Esther's great courage, the King changed the order and the Jews were all saved.