

For Such A Time as This

The story of The Book of Esther by MC Conti

Esther (female 18-30)

Morty (male 30-60)

Actor 2 (male, any age)

Haman (male 30-60)

Actor 1 (female, any age)

After the curtain speech, the lights go down. Melodramatic music starts to play, and the lights go up. The melodramatic music continues to play under them until payment comes on. The following thing is done, very melodramatically and over the top. Possibly even with the affected 1920s accents and dramatic hand motions. Lights up on a pretty barren stage. Esther and Mordecai stand alone.

Esther: I don't think I can do this.

Morty: I don't think you have a choice.

Esther: He will kill me.

Morty: You're going to die anyway... unless you can change his mind.

Esther: But what do I even say?

Morty: I don't know. But if you don't step up, someone else will appear and save the Jews and you and your family will die. Maybe you were born (pause, they both sharply turn their heads to the audience.) for such a time as this (*music dum dum DUM*).

Haman: Boring!!

Morty: Excuse me?

Esther: We're in the middle of a scene.

Hamon: A scene that's going to put people to sleep.

Esther: No, it isn't.

Haman: It really is. We just stared and that guy over there (points out to the audience) is already yawning. Besides, that's not even how this scene happened.

Morty: You don't know. You weren't there.

Haman: Except I was. And it was written down in the Old Testament. You two didn't actually speak to each other in that scene.

Esther: We thought it would be less confusing this way.

Haman: You failed (He motions to the audience). Also, these people came for a comedy.

Esther. The story of Esther is not funny.

Morty. It's pretty funny when he dies at the end.

Esther and Hamon: Spoiler!

Morty: Oops.

Haman (to the audience): Yes, so I die at the end. Big whoop.

Morty: And it's funny.

Haman: Your face is funny.

Morty: YOUR face is funny!

Haman: Oooh, good come back, buddy.

Morty: I am NOT your buddy!

Haman: Duh, I was using that word sarcastically.

Morty: I'm gonna use your face sarcastically.

Haman: What does that even mean?

Morty: You know what it means.

Haman: I really don't.

Esther: GENTLEMEN. That's enough.

Morty and Haman: Sorry.

Haman: Also, why are you starting in the middle of the story?

Esther: Because so much of the beginning is backstory. How do we act out that you're the son of the Agitate - the sworn enemy of the Jews?

Haman: Lucky for you, Haman is here.

Morty: No one's ever lucky that you're here

Haman: I've had about enough of your lip.

Morty: Well too bad for you, I'm just getting started.

Esther: GUYS! Stop fighting or you are both going to your dressing rooms and I'll tell the whole story without you.

Morty and Haman: Yes ma'am.

Esther: Ok, Haman – So tell me your genius idea of explaining all the stuff before this moment.

Haman: I thought you'd never ask.

Morty: I hoped you'd never ask.

Haman: The story starts with a WAR! *(Actor 1 and Actor 2 come out of fight. If you are using a larger cast, the entire ensemble comes out, ready to fight).*

Esther: Actually *(Actors or ensemble freezes)* it started a little bit before that. *(Actors 1 and 2 or ensemble grumble and walks back off stage)* Remember the Israelites were doing fine and then someone got the bright idea that they needed a human king instead of having God as their King? So, He gave them what they wanted. For awhile it was fine, we had Saul and David and Solomon, but then the kings started not listening to God.

Morty: Big Mistake. Big. Huge.

Haman: God took his favor away and Israel was conquered. And sent them into exile. Where they belonged.

Ester and Morty: Hey, hold on. Oh no you didn't, etc.

Esther: Our story starts here. The year was 483 BC and some of the Israelites had gone back to Jerusalem.

Morty: But not all of us were so lucky. Some of us were still in Persia under an enemy king named Xerxes.

Esther: THAT is when the war started. The war that killed Xerxes father.

(Actors 1 and 2 or entire ensemble comes out ready to fight. They pause and look at Esther. She nods her head yes. The fight is on. Could either be an actual choreographed, sword fight or could just be pairs of people slap fighting. After a bit of fighting, everyone leaves the stage except Xerxes. He stands there with his head hanging.)