

## Opening Announcement / Introduction

**Props:** Placard saying "The Last Temptation of Esther"

**Parts:** Announcer and placard shower

**Setting:** Announcer and other person with Placard  
"The Last Temptation of Esther" and "The Wedding?"

**Placard person:** shows placard with title of spiel (she can ham it up)

**Announcer (younger member of the minyan):**

And now, The Minyan M'At Purim Spielers are proud to present the unexpurgated version of that internationally controversial interpretative theological dramatic work, "The Last Temptation of Esther."

**Placard person:** shows placard with title "The Wedding?" (she can ham it up)

## Scene I : Opening Wedding Scene

**Parts:** <sup>Min</sup> Esther, <sup>Haman</sup> Mordechai, Ahasuerus and four holders of the tallis

**Props:** Tallis, Esther's Crown, Haman's headress, Ahasureruses crown

**Setting:** On one side, Ahasuerus standing under a chupah. held up by tallis holders. Enter Esther and Mordechai)

**Mordechai:** Esther, this is your big moment. Ahasuerus isn't such a bad guy, even if he does have a foreskin like a piece of kishka at Lou G. Siegal's. Believe me, Esther this can lead to tremendous events. You can accomplish great things when you've got the power of the royal scepter behind you.

**Esther:** Oh Uncle Mordechai. Maybe this isn't the right thing for me to do. Maybe I shouldn't go through with this wedding. I don't know. I don't know.

**Mordechai:** What do you mean, "you don't know"?

**Esther:** Maybe there are other things I should do with my life. Maybe I could be more satisfied if I explored other alternatives. Is this really the right step?

(Sings, to the tune of "Oh what a beautiful morning")

I'm in a terrible quandary

I'm in a terrible stew

Should I marry King Ahasuerus?

Is that the right thing to do?

There are lots of things I could be doing

There are lots of things I could be doing

Like being a doctor or being a nurse

I could test drive a race car or chauffeur a hearse.

I'm in a terrible quandary

I don't know what I should choose

And if I marry King Ahasuerus

Is that good or bad for the Jews?

Oh maybe I'm making an error

Yes maybe I'm making an error

The terror that fills me I cannot express

Oh tell me Uncle Mordechai--do you like my dress?

I'm in a terrible quandary

I'm in a terrible stew

Should I go and marry this dummy?

Is that the bright thing to do?

(Speaking) Oh Uncle Mordechai, maybe I should just settle down with a normal guy and live a normal life. Not one of the big shots, but an average fellow--like Charbonah! Instead of being Queen of the Persians, I could just be .... just be.....Esther Something.

(Suddenly, she twirls around and goes into a trance. Everyone says "Esther Something Esther Something Esther Something".

**Placard shower** shows placard saying: Scene II: Esther Something" (Scene changes to Esther Something)

### **Scene I I: Esther Something**

**Parts:** Esther, Charboni, Ahasuerus

**Props:** Doll, Esther's Crown, Lunch Box, diapers

**Setting:** Domestic home setting.

Esther at home. She is diapering a doll, humming to herself)

**Esther:** sings, to the tune of "You are my sunshine":

I am a mommy  
I'm just a mommy  
I spend my day with  
diapers and poop  
My day is taken  
Up with my kiddies  
And if there's a little time left over  
I make some soup.

Now every nighttime  
When I am sleeping  
I hear "wa wa wa wa" in my dreams  
So I wake up and  
Warm up a bottle  
Then we watch  
The test pattern screens

La la la la la  
la la la la la (continues humming and going la la la)

**Charbonah:** coming in. Calls out: Esther, I'm home.

**Esther :** You're home at last! (tosses away the doll and running up to him, says passionately) Kiss me, you fool!

**Chabonah:** Sorry honey, not tonight. I'm not in the mood.

**Esther:** Oh, you're never in the mood!

**Charbonah:** I had a rough day at the office. ~~And~~ my boss, Haman, has been at it again. You know my biggest account, the Shushan state scratch and sniff instant winner lottery account? Well, he's trying to take it away from me, and take all the credit for my best ideas. He always keeps me from rising in the firm.

**Esther:** Oh, forget him. Where's that old exciting Charbonah I used to know?

**Charbonah:** (sings, to the tune of "I'm just wild about Harry")

I used to be wild and hairy  
Life was drugs rock 'n' roll and sex  
But now that I'm older  
I've got a sore shoulder  
I'm one of those physical wrecks.

I used to never worry about money  
"Cause who had the time to go work?  
I was having adventures  
Now, I have dentures  
And I've traded my tokes for my perks

Oh I used to be wild and hairy  
Ah once I was hairy and wild  
But now I'm tame and domestic  
Tame and domestic  
Tame, domestic and mild

And now whenever I call up my sweetie  
It's not the same thrill it used to be  
'Cause now when I phone her  
She just says, "Charbonah  
Bring home a quart of milk, a loaf of bread, Huggies, and Sara  
Lee!"

And the nighttime has lost some excitement  
"Cause once the baby's in bed  
We don't do something flirty  
We just watch "Something Thirty"  
And by then I am totally dead

Oh I used to be wild and hairy  
Ah, once I was hairy and wild  
But now I'm tame and domestic  
I'm a post adolescent  
Soon-to-be alter kokker  
Post adolescent  
Soon-to-be alter kokker  
Post adolescent  
Soon-to-be alter kokker  
Early middle aged child!

**(speaking)** So what's for dinner. I hope it's something yummy.

**Esther:** We have zucchini tortellini, blini, and Heinz baked beanies.

**Charbonah:** I said yummy, not yuppie.

**Mordechai (coming in):** Knock knock.

**Esther:** It's uncle Mordechai, from upstairs!

**Mordechai:** Esther! Hey, how ya doin' Charbonah-baby? Guess what I heard today when I was working in the sewer? Well, up above me, I could hear these guys talking, and guess who it was--it was your boss, Haman.



**Charbonah and Esther: Haman!**

**Mordechai:** Yeah, and he was talking to some kind of corporate raider fellow, and a banker from Drecky Bimbom and Lambchop. I heard him giving them inside information so that they could toss out the chairman, Mr. Ahasuerus, take over the company and then force an LBO on everybody.

**Charbonah:** A leveraged buyout?

**Mordechai:** No, Liver bacon and onions!

**Everybody :** Yech! (making choking signs)

**Charbonah:** What can we do?

**Mordechai:** Why don't you tell Mr. Ahasuerus?

**Charbonah:** He would never believe me. Besides, I couldn't even get near his office. If I tried, he'd cut my...head off.

**Esther:** In cases like this, you need to be crafty, you need to be seductive. I'll bet you I could get in to see Mr. Ahasuerus. He couldn't resist a woman's charms.

**Mordechai:** Do you think you could do it?

**Esther:** Sure. As soon as the baby sitter comes.

**Mordechai and Charbonah:** When's that?

**Esther (looking at her watch):** In about six years.

**Charbonah and Mordechai:** OY!

**Esther:** No good?

(**Charbonah and Mordechai** sing, to the tune of "A Policeman's Lot Is Not a Happy One")

**Mordechai:** When a mommy's not engaged in being mommy

**Charbonah:** Being mommy

**Mordechai:** And the world's events return into her view

**Charbonah:** To her view

**Mordechai:** She may sometimes find herself a bit frustrated

**Esther:** Bit frustrated

**Mordechai:** 'Cause she feels there's not a lot that she can do

**Esther:** She can do

**Charbonah:** She must wait until the tots have gotten older

**Mordechai:** Gotten older

**Charbonah:** Before she goes crusading for a cause

**Mordechai:** For a cause

**Charbonah:** She might prefer to act a little bolder

**Esther:** Little bolder

**Charbonah:** Like rouse the troops or go and break some jaws

**Esther:** Break some jaws

**Mordechai:** But she always knows that first she is a mother

**Esther:** Is a mother

**Mordechai:** That seems to be the first instinctive rule

**Esther:** Stinctive rule

Ah take one consideration with another

**Charbonah and Mordechai:** With another

**Esther:** I won't have much time til all the kids 'r in school

**Charbonah and Mordechai:** Kids 'r in school

**Esther:** Foo. (Stepping forward, out of the action) Maybe this isn't the right life for me. Maybe I don't want just to be a normal everyday woman. Maybe I should go off and be something exciting. An adventuress. Something in exotic places, with exotic people, and even wild animals.

(Esther spins and spins stage clears for a moment as placard person crosses stage with placard saying: "Scene III: Gorillas in the midst")

## **Scene III: Jewish Gorillas in the Midst**

**Parts:** Esther, Haman, 3 Jewish Gorillas  
Duke of Mohel

**Props:** Esther's Crown, minks and jewels, Jungle Shirt,  
3 Gorilla Masks, Big silver knife, Duke's clothing  
real fancy dress

Opening placard saying: Jewish Gorillas in the Midst  
Placard saying "Save the Gorillas,  
Placard saying "Mikva"

**Setting:** With african backdrop setting is in deepest darkest  
Africa.

Esther spins out of previous segment- she's now a new Esther in a new place. **She sings a song to tune midnight at the oasis:** [At the start of the song, Esther, in minks and jewels, looks and sounds like a Long Island Jap. She might be filing her nails as she sings. In the middle of the second stanza ("But, babe, I'm tired of these clothes") she takes on a no-nonsense look and pulls off her baubles and fur to reveal a safari shirt. Esther is a woman with a mission. During the chorus ("Act now...") she might pick up a placard reading "Save the Gorillas." As she sings the third stanza, the three gorillas enter and she turns to address them in the third line.

**Esther:**

**Verse:**

Twelve months at the seraglio,  
 I've been marinating one year.  
 Six months stewing in oleo, aloe,  
 Six months in oil of myrrh. [Rhymes with "year?"]

It's me His Highness has chosen,  
 A princess -- now a queen.  
 But, babe, I'm tired of these clothes an', posin'  
 The good-little wifey scene.

**Chorus:**

Act Now! Gorillas are our friends.  
 Keep them out of the zoos!  
 I'm here in Africa till the poaching ends,  
 Till the killing ends.

**Verse:**

I hear Haman's back with a posse,  
 They say there's no escape.  
 I'll be your Dianne Fossey, bossy,  
 And you can be my ape.

'Cuz all you guys are mishpucha,  
 Gorillas in our midst.  
 You've come to pray for hatzlacha, beracha,

But there's no need to get tzehitzt!

**Chorus:**

Act Now! Gorillas are our friends.  
 Keep them out of the zoos!  
 I'm here in Africa till the poaching ends,  
 Till the killing ends.

**Verse:**

I'll stage a hop at the ballroom,  
 Ask Haman, hunter of pelts.  
 Then I'll show up in a costume, perfume,  
 He'll think of little else.

Yes, you'll be safer than Rushdie,  
 You primates are just like kin.  
 And I ain't like old King Ahashvi, who killed Vashti,  
 No I will save your skin!

**Chorus:**

Act Now! Gorillas are our friends.  
 Keep them out of the zoos!  
 I'm here in Africa till the poaching ends,  
 Till the killing ends.

THE JEWISH GORILLA SONG  
(tune: "Tsena, Tsena")

Haman Haman Haman Haman  
Oh, it's painful just to name him  
Cy, is he bad news!

Haman Haman Haman Haman  
Oh, won't someone please restrain him  
Before he kills the Jews?

Haman Haman  
Never such a villain  
We'd give anything  
If we could kill 'im.

Haman Haman  
Someone's got to bop him  
A thousand bananas if you stop him.

Haman Haman Haman Haman  
Where there's evil, you can blame him  
He's in the devil's pay

Haman Haman Haman Haman  
Oh what fun 'twould be to name him  
We've got to find a way.

Haman Haman  
There'll be a grand prize  
For successfully arranging his demise.

GORILLAS SPEAK:

# 1:  
We could put itching powder in his gottkes

# 2:  
Or rusty nails in his latkes

#3:  
We could sabotage his chariot

#1:  
Or cancel his reservation at the Shushan Marriott

#2:  
We could give sleeping pills to his body guard

#3:  
Or cancel his American Express Gold Card.

#1:  
~~On his parade, we could make it rain.~~

#2:  
~~Which would give him water on the brain.~~

#3: ~~No...I've got it!~~  
~~Let's sentence him to rush hour on a subway train.~~

Haman Haman Haman Haman  
Tell Queen Esther she should frame him  
That'll fix his tush

Haman Haman Haman He-man  
Oh that man is such a demon  
~~He~~ worse than President Fush.

v



**Gorilla #1:** Esther. Help us. he's after us.

[Gorillas sing and say the following dialogue]

**Esther:** Quick, get in the mikva. Ive come to save my people  
but I'm not sure we have that much in common.

[There is a banging at the door. Esther motions for the gorillas to  
hide. They crouch behind the mikvah.

**Esther:** Why if it isn't Haman, the hunter.

**Haman:** I've come for those critters the law's on my side.

**Esther:** I'm just cleaning them up for you. Come back tonight.  
I'm having a little get together.

**Haman:** I'll be honored to attend.

[He leaves]

**Esther:** (to the gorillas, who arise) I would help you anyway,  
its  
my duty, there is nothing to excuse, ...but it would  
fulfill my destiny if I knew that you were jews.

**Gorilla # 2:** We know what we are, but how can we prove it?

**Esther:** You're in luck, a royal visitor is due and he's just the  
one who can determine who's a Jew.

(The Duke enters)...

Welcome to the Duke

(Esther and the gorillas sing Duke of Mohel song)

**Esther:** I've planned a little sock hop in your honor.

**The Duke:** Every time I show up there's a party like Santa  
Claus and old Father Time. Just mention me and  
they all say L'chaim.

[the gorillas stand before him for inspection. He gives them a cursory examination as he sings his ditty:]

I make a snip  
Then I take a nip  
And the babies are always cryin.

[He turns to the audience shrugs his shoulders]

I know you are counting on me to settle the question but I'm  
afraid in this case I dont see the point.

**The Gorillas sing:**

Duke, Duke, Duke of Moel,  
Duke, Duke, Duke of Moel, ...  
he does his job... unless its a goil.

**The female Gorilla sings:**

[sung to "Help"]

Help I need some papers  
Help not just any papers  
Help I need to prove  
I'm a je-ee w

when I was younger before the minyan of today,  
Haman never came, he always stayed away.  
But now these days have come, and I'm not so self assured.  
He is after us, he is banging on the doors.

**Chorus:**

Haman he is out to get me,  
He is after my brothers too.  
So we come to Esther for her help  
and she asks me are you a jew?

**Verse:**

My brothers, both of them, they each had a bris  
They also have peis and also wear tzitzis.  
I know that I, just need some proof  
A talis at the torah, is not enough.

**Chorus:**

Haman he is out to get me,  
He is after my brothers too.  
So we come to Esther for her help  
and she asks me are you a jew?

**Verse:**

This is how I prove to Esther that what I say is true,  
 I told her that I was a torah observant jew.  
 She said that's not enough, this is what I said:  
 I daven like a man and get the torah over my head.

**Chorus:**

Haman he is out to get me,  
 He is after my brothers too.  
 So we come to Esther for her help  
 and she asks me are you a jew?

**Verse:**

*ad*  
~~I~~ tell her I bring back my siddur too,  
 ...yes Howard I really really do.

**Haman enters and says:** I'm ready to do the monkey.

[the gorillas hide again]

**Esther:** Let me slip into something more comfortable.

**Haman sings:** Save the last dance for me...

[Esther turns away from Haman and puts on a gorilla mask.  
 Then she turns to face him.]

**Haman:** Not you too!

**Duke of moel:** You're beautiful. Marry me.

**Esther:** This is starting to sound a little too familiar... Maybe a life of adventure isn't the best choice for me... maybe I did like to be glamorous...

[Esther spins to move into the next scene]

## **Scene IV: Wheel of Mazel**

*Announcer: David*

**Parts:** Vanna "Esther" White, Ayatollah Haman,  
Mr. Mortie Chai, Aha! shueres, models for diapers

**Props:** Esthers Crown, Haman in Ayatollah costume or just  
with turban, Wheel of fortune in background, letters  
chairs with signs labeled morti and Ayatollah.  
Diapers (or swim suits blue & pink), aha's crown  
Opening placard saying: shel Mazel

**Setting:** Set of the show Wheel of Fortune

Person waves placard announcing scene then puts it on the placard stand.

### **Announcer and audience at approp time:**

And now the show you all have been waiting for...

[all actors and audience which is prompted to join in]

Wheel of Mazel .

*David*  
**Announcer**  
**(alone:)**

Look at this studio filled with fabulous merchandise  
and gifts:

[Vanna points out gifts as announced]

[placard person waves applause sign after every gift is announced and at end when announcer says wheel of mazel]

A years supply of matching his and hers diapers; blue for boys pink for girls guaranteed to be poop proof or your poop back

*non-sensical, pulled w/ sun dried tomatoes + Imboya cheese*

[models twirl showing off diapers]

A certificate good for five nights of free baby sitting good for those busy times when you must get out but cant find someone to mind the kids.

[vana holds up certificate]

A pre-paid picture in the Anshai Chesed 160th year ~~memorial~~ book ...suitable for framing.

[vana holds up a picture in a frame]

And finally, good only for those who are single, a prepaid shabbos date with the man or woman of your dreams so you too can perform a double mitzva.

*Directly from the fashionable shops on upper Park Ave, a 16 page Hal. Review*

plus thousands of sheckels to be won while they are still worth something on the wheel of mazel

*Denary Run set - assist 1 staff 100 ft film*

And now the star of our show Mr. Aha! shueres.

*f 10 days prepared especially for people who have in studio opportunities*

[audience and rest of cast claps as aha shueres makes a grand entrance bowing]

aha shueres: Thanks Charbonah and here is the co-star of our

show vanna Esther white.

[applause sign shown - audience and rest of cast claps as Esther takes a grand bow ]

Now lets meet our contestants:  
Our first contestant fresh from the Persia is Mr.  
Ayatollah Haman

[applause sign shown - audience and rest of cast claps as Haman takes a bow. he stands behind chair with contestant # 1 sign on it]

Haman, its nice to have you here on the show. Tell me what do you do for a living?

**Haman:** I am an exterminator.

**Aha:** Sounds very interesting, what do you exterminate?

**Haman:** All kinds of things [laughs with an evil laugh] If I win tonight I plan to use my prizes to fund a jihad against the Jews. You have no idea how much of a pain those people are.

[Esther begins to look worried bites her finger nails]

Haman sings song... I'm so wicked...



HANAN'S SONG: "I'M SO WICKED"

(tune: "I'm So Pretty," from "West Side Story")

I'm so wicked.  
You'll be trick-ed.  
I'm so wickedly cunning and bright  
I've no pity  
For anyone at all tonight.

I'm so evil.  
Such a deevil.  
There is no one as evil as I  
I'm a low one, and  
I guarantee the Jews will die.

See that ruthless face in the mirror there  
Who can that Frankenstein (relentless man) (incurious man) be-e?  
I can't feel no guilt  
Callowes should be built  
Goldbergs should be kilt  
Cladly I'll pay any fee-e.  
(Unless, of course, they flee-e.)

I'm so rotten  
So ill-begotten  
There is no one as rotten I'm sure  
Could rotten-eggs  
Be quite so foul or so ignure?

I'm so spiteful  
How delightful  
To be spiteful and frightful as I  
Could I be nastier?  
Well, I'll tell you...I'm sure gonna try.  
Well, I'll tell you...I'm sure gonna try.

**Aha:** Very interesting, and now lets meet your challenger Mr..  
Morti Chi who is also from Shushan

[morti shuffles in applause sign shown - audience and  
rest of cast claps as morto takes a bow stands behind  
chair with contestant # 2 sign on it]

**Morti:** Thanks aha its great to be here.

**Aha:** Tell the audience what is it that you do?

**Morti:** [in a wheezing coughing voice] I'm just an old geezer  
from <sup>the</sup> ganeeza. I want to win today to make sure  
Haman can't carry out his plan.

[aud says yaeh etc. applause]

**Aha:** Very well lets begin. You both know the rules. Todays  
phrase is a three word phrase which is a famous anti-  
Semitic slogan. Morto you spin first.

[morto spins the wheel which lands on a sum]

**Aha:** You earn x dollars. What letter do you want to want?

**morto:** [thinks for a minute] I want an apostrophe.  
[buzzer sounds audience moans says oh no etc.]

**Aha:** I'm sorry morto there is no apostrophe. Haman its your  
turn.

**Haman:** Good [rubs hand evilly and spins wheel which lands on some money]

**Aha:** You earn x dollars. What letter do you want?

[at this point Haman slips aha some money as if paying him off and says]

~~I'm going to guess more than a letter~~ <sup>a</sup> Is there ~~the word~~ "Jews" on the board?

[bell goes off or people say ding and Esther reluctantly takes down the paper covering the letters for the word Jews. people hiss]

**Aha:** Yes there is. Do you want to guess the phrase now?

**Haman:** No not at this time.

**Aha:** O.k. You get to spin again.

[Haman spins again and gets loose a turn buzzer sounds]

*Morti:* **Aha:** Oh I'm sorry. ~~morti its your turn.~~ [morti spins the wheel it lands on x dollars people clap] Which letter should I guess, I know after my last operation all I had left was a semi colon so I'll take a semicolon.

[buzzer sounds audience sighs]

**Aha:** I'm sorry there is no semicolon. Haman its your turn.

[Haman spins and lands on x dollars audience hisses]

**Haman:** I would like to buy a definite article. Is the word "the" there?

[bell goes off or people say ding and Esther reluctantly takes down the paper covering the letters for the word the. people hiss]

**Aha:** Yes it is you are right again so you get to spin.

[Haman spins wheel and it lands on bust]

**Aha:** Oh I'm sorry. morti its your turn. [morti spins the wheel it lands on x dollars people clap] Which letter should I guess? [looks over to vanna and says to her]

Vanna, your a Jew, help me. What letter should I guess?

**Vana:** I'm sorry Morti I may be a Jew but I can't help you. I'd lose my job.

**morti:** But you must. I'm losing: [sings song to the tune of  
when your a jet]

When your a Jew your a Jew all the way,  
from your bris or baby naming to your last dieing day,

When your a Jew your a Jew all the way,  
from the New Israel fund to the UJA,

You know its in your genes,  
whether DNA or Jorashe

When your <sup>you</sup> a Jew food can't be plain,  
whether charoset or Matza, and don't forget the chrain.

When your a Jew you can't be sectarian  
whether chasid or misnagid or egalitarian

You know its a big trust  
to do your duty its a must  
so don't make a fuss.

**Vana:** [looking anguished] I would really like to help you but  
I can't

**Esther sings:** [to the tune of ]

Esther, I'm just a Jew named Ester,  
I've lived a life of Glitz,  
Just showing off my... letters  
oh yeah

Esther, I'm just a Jew named Ester,  
I'd like to save the Jews,  
but I'd rather sit and shmooze  
its fun,

Esther, I'm just a Jew named Ester,  
why can't I do what ~~I~~<sup>I</sup> do best,  
from my tippy~~y~~ toes to my chest,  
oh boy,

Esther, I'm just a Jew named Ester,  
I don't know what do to...

**Morti chi:** Maybe I should try a Q!

[turns to audience] Well if she wont help let me  
ask you what do you think I should guess?

[people shout out answers. after a minute morti says]

I know I want the letter Z!

[buzzer sounds people groan say oh no etc Haman rubs hands in anticipation he knows the phrase]

**Aha:** There is no z in the phrase. Haman its your turn.

**Esther:** [at first Esther looks real worried but then her face lights up she knows what to do and says emphatically]  
I know what to do

[she twirls back into the wedding scene.]

### **Scene V: The Wedding Scene Continued:**

**Props:** Placard saying "The Wedding Scene!!!"  
"The end!!"

**Parts:** Esther, Mordechai, Ahasuerus and four holders of the tallis

**Props:** Tallis, Esthers Crown

**Setting:** On one side, Ahasuerus standing under a chupah. held up by tallis holders. Enter Esther and Mordechai)

**Esther looking at Mordechai:** Forgive me Uncle I know not what I did.

[Esther goes under the chuppah and takes ahasuruses hand or kisses him etc]

the end