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(Interior cover)

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Long ago, somewhere deep *under the sea*, there stood a mighty kingdom!

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And ruling over that mighty kingdom was a mighty king!

...Wait, that's not him.

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There he is!

One day, the great King Prawn Xerxes made a very important announcement:

XERXES: Hear ye, hear ye, dudes and dudettes!
The queen has proven herself to be most un-bodacious!
So now, I am searching far and wide for a *new* queen!

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In that kingdom, there was a beautiful Jew-llyfish named Esther. She lived with her cousin, Mordecai, who worked for the King.

MORDECAI: Esther! Esther!

Mordecai shouted,

MORDECAI: The King is in search of a wife!
This could be your big break!

ESTHER: Wow!
Do you really think I could be *queen*?

She asked.

MORDECAI: Totes,

Mordecai answered.

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Esther was nervous, but she was also very brave. She joined the try-outs to marry the King.

Hegai, who was a fashion pro for the King, knew how gorgeous Esther was. Every time he finished dressing her up, he would tell her,

HEGAI: You look fabulous, darling!

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The time finally came for Esther to show her stuff!

From the first moment he saw her, the King was amazed! Mind, blown.

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The King quickly reached a decision. He immediately placed a crown upon Esther's head. She had won!

ESTHER, QUEEN OF THE SEA!

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Meanwhile, while Queen Esther was settling in, two of the King's officials were planning to do him in! The met in secret and talked about dipping the King in melted butter and cocktail sauce! (Totally not Kosher, by the way.)

Luckily, Mordecai was passing through and overheard their evil plans to make Popcorn-King... He hurried to Queen Esther and told her everything.

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The traitors were arrested and taken away pronto! The King was so happy that he had a scribe write down everything that happened that day.

But Queen Esther was kind and made sure she gave credit where it was due.

ESTHER: It was actually your official, Mordecai, who told me about those two dorks,

She told him.

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Life was going pretty great for Mordecai and Queen Esther!

...That is, until the King promoted Haman, a wicked angler fish, to be the boss of all the other officials.

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If you thought the two traitors were bad, they were ***nothing*** compared to Haman! He thought he was so awesome, he would go around, making the other officials bow to him.

But Mordecai wouldn't do it. He only bowed to the King and, more importantly, to God.

This made Haman very angry. He hated Mordecai for it, and because of that, hated ***all*** of the Jew-llyfish!

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One day, Haman went to the King and tricked him, telling him that a group in his kingdom was very dangerous and could turn against him. He offered to write a new law that would allow him to destroy them once for all!

The King agreed and gave Haman his special ring to stamp the law and make it legit. Haman rolled some dice to pick what day he would wipe out his enemies...

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HAMAN: Check it out, fools!

Haman shouted before all the kingdom,

HAMAN: On the 13th day of the month of Adar, the Jew-llyfish are ***toast!***

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Mordecai called Queen Esther and told her the horrible things that were about to happen.

ESTHER: That is messed up!

She cried.

Mordecai agreed and said,

MORDECAI: You need to go the King and ask him to save us!

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ESTHER: But no one is allowed to see the King uninvited!

Esther told her cousin.

ESTHER: If he doesn't lower his scepter, I'll be a goner!

Mordecai answered,

MORDECAI: You have to brave, Esther. Don't think you're safe just because you are Queen. Maybe God put you there *for such a time as this*.

Queen Esther was very scared... but she was also very brave. She knew what she had to do.

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So, she entered the King's throne room without permission.

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And the King was totally ok with it!

XERXES: What can I do for you, my primo honey?

He asked as he lowered his scepter.

ESTHER: Um... I was wondering... Would you and Haman would like to come over for dinner?

Esther asked.

XERXES: Most excellent!

The King shouted, excited.

XERXES: We shall totally be there!

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And so, the King and Haman joined Queen Esther for dinner that night. Queen Esther didn't think it was yet the right time to expose Haman, so that night was pretty

AWKWARD.

But she did invite them back to dinner the following day.

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Haman went home thinking he was hot stuff for getting to eat with the Queen. But he was still very upset about Mordecai.

HAMAN: That Mordecai is ruining everything—I can't even enjoy dinner with him swimming around!

He shouted.

Haman's wife was tired of hearing him complain. She told him,

HAMAN'S WIFE: Well... I keep tellin' you to pick up all these fish hooks you leave lyin' around the house...

Why don't you hang Mordecai on one of those?

Haman thought it was a great idea and got to work that very night.

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The King couldn't sleep. Since daily reports were really boring, he read them to make him tired. While reading, he found the report about the time Mordecai saved him from the traitors.

XERXES: Oh man, that dude was totally righteous! Did we repay him for his most tubular deeds?

He asked.

His scribe answered.

SCRIBE: Uh... nope,

XERXES: Well, we gotta do *something!* But *what??*

the King wondered.

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The King asked Haman what he should do to honor a “righteous dude.” Haman, of course, thought the King was talking about *him*.

He answered,

HAMAN: Well, what *I* would do is let him ride your best Seahorse around the *whole kingdom* while

someone shouts, *“The King thinks this guy is the best thing since stuffed-crust pizza!”*

XERXES: Cool,

The King replied.

XERXES: Do that for Mordecai.

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It was not a good day for Haman...

But at least he could look forward to dinner with the Queen again.

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Well, that didn't turn out so great for Haman, either...

That night, at dinner, Queen Esther told the King,

ESTHER: Someone is plotting to kill me and my whole species.

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XERXES: *WHAT?!*

The King roared.

XERXES: Who would want to wipe out *my* beach bunny?!

ESTHER: It's *Haman!*

Queen Esther shouted as she pointed to the very shocked angler fish.

ESTHER: I am a Jew-llyfish and Mordecai's cousin, and Haman wrote a law to destroy us!

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While the King stormed off to fetch his guards, Haman jumped to Queen Esther's feet, crying,

HAMAN: *Please! Have mercy, my Queen!*

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XERXES: What is this?!

The King screamed.

XERXES: I turn my back for like, two minutes, and you've got your grubby fins all over my queen?! I'm so ticked, I don't even know what I'll do!

GUARD: It looks like Haman built something to hang Mordecai outside,

One of the King's guards pointed out.

XERXES: Hook him on it!

The King commanded.

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And that's just what happened.

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After dealing with Haman, the King gave Haman's old job to Mordecai.

He also gave him the ring to stamp a new law and save his people.

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Mordecai wrote that very law, stating:

On the 13^h day of the month of Adar, we the Jew-llyfish, have the right to attack anyone who threatens to destroy us. You're gonna wish you were never born, punks!

- Mordecai, under the backing of King Prawn Xerxes

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The Jew-llyfish kicked major keister that day, and they had a huge party the day after!

And so, the Jew-llyfish celebrated the story of Queen Esther and Mordecai—and how God saved them all—calling the day “Purim,” meaning to cast lots or roll dice.

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And they still celebrate it to this very day!

THE END.