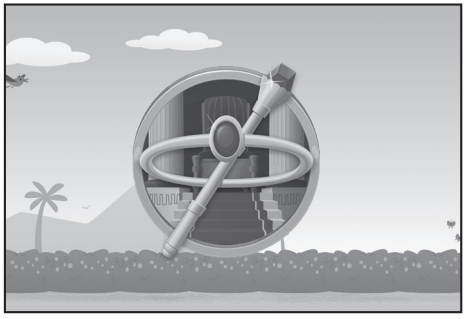
The Brave and Beautiful Queen



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Esther
Esther 2-5; 7; 9:20-22



Esther was the Queen of Persia. Even her husband, King Xerxes, didn't know her secret. Esther was Jewish. Esther's cousin, Mordecai, worked at the palace and looked out for her.





Xerxes' advisor, Haman, received a great reward. He was very proud. Everyone except Mordecai bowed down to him. Haman was insulted. He vowed to kill Mordecai and all the Jews!





Haman told Xerxes that the Jews were dangerous and should die. Xerxes agreed and set a day to kill them. Mordecai was terrified and sent a message to Queen Esther.





"Change the king's mind," said Mordecai.
"If I go to him without his invitation
he can have me killed," Esther replied.
"Perhaps you were made queen just for
this moment," said Mordecai.





Esther bravely agreed to try. She went to the throne room. King Xerxes was amazed by her beauty and invited her in. "Can we have dinner with Haman?" she asked.





Haman was building a big gallows in his back yard. He planned to hang Mordecai on it. Then the king's invitation arrived. So Haman went to the palace for dinner.





"A man wants to kill me and my people, the Jews," Esther told Xerxes. "Who would do such a thing?" he asked. "The evil Haman!" Esther cried. "Haman? Guards! Put him to death."





So Haman was hanged on the gallows he'd built for Mordecai. Because of Esther, the Jews were saved! They celebrated with a great feast, which they observe to this day.

