### Esther

## Chapter 2

1This ended the king’s rage, and he never mentioned Astin again, or the things that she said, or his condemnation of her.  
  
2So then the king’s servants said to him:  
  
 ‘Have them search for a young woman for the king who is both pure and beautiful to look at.  
  
 3‘Send judges throughout your kingdom and have them choose young women who are virgins and pretty, then have them taken to your harem in the City of ‘Send judges throughout your kingdom and have them choose young women who are virgins and pretty, then have them taken to your harem in the City of <span class="placename">Susa‘Send judges throughout your kingdom and have them choose young women who are virgins and pretty, then have them taken to your harem in the City of <span class="placename">Susa</span> where they’ll be handed over to the king’s eunuch that’s in charge of the women, to take care of them and give them beauty treatments.  
  
 4‘And after that, the woman who best pleases the king will reign instead of Astin.’  
  
Well, because this pleased the king, it was done.  
  
  
5Now, there was a man (a Judean) in the City of Now, there was a man (a Judean) in the City of <span class="placename">SusaNow, there was a man (a Judean) in the City of <span class="placename">Susa</span> whose name was MordecAi. He was the son of JaiRus, the grandson of SemeYas, and the great-grandson of KisaYus from the tribe of BenJamin, 6who had been carried off as a captive from JeruSalem by NebuChadnezzar, the king of Babylon.  
  
7MordecAi had a child whom he’d raised who was the daughter of his uncle (his father’s brother), and her name was Esther. For after her parents died, he [agreed to] take [care of] the young woman, who was very pretty.  
  
8Well, after the king’s proclamation [was read], many young women were gathered to the City of Susa [to be seen by] Gai (the harem keeper), and then Esther was led before him... 9He found the young woman very pleasing and he liked her, so he hurried to give her the beauty treatments and her share [of good things], and 7 young women from the royal palace were brought there [to serve] her.  
  
Thereafter, he treated [Esther] and her handmaidens very well in the harem chamber. 10However, Esther didn’t discuss her race or her fatherland with him, because MordecAi had told her not to mention it.  
  
11Then, every day, MordecAi would walk by the women’s courtyard to see what was happening to Esther.  
  
  
12Well, at the end of 12 months, the time finally came for the young women to go in to the king (for that’s how long the beauty treatments were to last). They also underwent 6 months of treatments with fragrant oils.  
  
13It was then, after 6 months of being bathed in myrrh oil, that she was taken in to the king, along with any others that the king told them to bring from the harem chamber to the royal palace.  
  
14She was brought in to him that evening, and the next morning, she returned to the secondary harem where the Eunuch Gai (the king’s harem keeper) stayed, and she couldn’t go before the king after that, unless she had been called.  
  
  
15Well eventually, Esther (the daughter of AbiHail, MordecAi’s uncle) was brought before the king again, and she carefully followed all the eunuch’s instructions, so that everyone who saw her came to like her.  
  
16Esther had been taken to King ArtaXerxes in the 10th month (TeBeth) of the 7th year of his reign, 17and he fell passionately in love with her, preferring her to all the other virgins! He then placed the royal turban of the queen on her head, 18and he held a banquet for all of his friends and the governors that lasted 7 days.  
  
He also made the wedding feast of Esther greater by [releasing all the prisoners] in his kingdom.  
  
  
19Meanwhile, MordecAi had been put in charge of matters having to do with [the king’s] courtyard. 20And he reminded Esther not to mention her fatherland. Rather, he told her to just fear God and obey His orders, the same as she did when she lived in his home…  
  
And Esther never deviated from doing this.  
  
  
21Well, MordecAi kept growing more important, 22and when two of the king’s eunuchs (the chiefs of his bodyguards) became worried about ArtaXerxes and decided to assassinate him, MordecAi heard about this and sent a warning to the king through Esther about their plot.  
  
23So after the king interrogated the eunuchs, he had them hung, and he had a record written in the royal library about the goodwill that MordecAi had shown, saying that he was to be commended for this.