

NICKNAME CALLING

Ivan the Terrible, comic

Why do I have to be “the Terrible”? You get to be “the Great” and I get to be “the Terrible”? What did I do that’s so terrible? And what did you do that’s so great? I want to be “Ivan the Fantastic-Stupendous-Master-Meister” or “P.Diddy.” One of those.

Why not? Why can’t I pick my own name for the rest of history if you can? Hardly seems fair. You know, Catherine is calling herself “the Great,” too. She is. Are you sure you didn’t copy her? Maybe we should call her “Catherine the Stink” instead. That will drive her up a wall. Louis-Phillipe wants a nickname, too, but I told him his first name was too long and there was no way to add to it.

Hey, want to pillage tomorrow? Or take over another country? Asia is *huge* and up for grabs. (*Beat.*) So what if it’s mostly ice? (*Beat.*) Persia? That’s a rug, a cat – who cares about Persia? Whatever. You can do if you want, I’m going to stay here and have a snow cone in Siberia.