

1. The New Queen

From the time I was a child, I was told I was beautiful. My parents died when I was young and my cousin took me in and raised me as his own.

When I was a young woman, I was taken to the king's palace. I was among many other young women that had been told they would be trained in beauty like bathing in oils and dressing in fancy robes with jewels. After the training, we would all meet the king and the one that pleased him most would be the next queen. I listened carefully to the man who was training us. I also listened to my cousin that came to the palace every day to see how I was doing.

The time came. My heart was beating out of my chest. I followed the suggestions of the man who had been training us when it was time for me to meet the king. The king chose me as his new queen. I couldn't believe it. I was excited to share my news with my cousin.

One of the king's highest officials hated my cousin because he was a Jew. The official plotted and schemed to kill every Jew in the land.

My cousin told me that I would be killed, too, even if I was the queen.

The king had not called me to see him for a few weeks but I decided to risk my life to try to save my people.

When I approached the throne, the king reached out his scepter to me and asked what he could do for me. I invited him and his highest official to a banquet. At the banquet, I asked the king to save my people and me. He asked who was responsible for this threat and I told him it was his high official.

At that time, the high official was killed and my cousin was given his position.

My cousin told me that God had made me queen "for such a time as this". I was able to save my people, the Jews.

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?