

People have asked how much of the Schpiel was ChatGPT, and how much did Rabbi Jana write. Compare what we got to the final version.

We asked ChatGPT for the story three times:

1. We asked for a noir version of the Esther Story. It was fun, and short, and had too many inaccurate things to use exactly as it was written.
2. We asked for a noir radio version of the Esther Story with music. We thought that maybe it would suggest good music to use, or even have links to music – we didn't know, we never used ChatGPT before. It was cool to see the radio version – and we even imagined doing sound effects, etc. It did not tell us which songs to use, just descriptions of songs, such as “eerie music.” That wasn't what we needed.
3. The first two versions of the Esther story it provided did not include anything about Vashti, so we asked for a noir version of the Vashti story for the Book of Esther. This one was more complete, but very boring, and not very noir.

Here are the complete responses we got from ChatGPT

1.

As the sun sets on the city of Shushan, the shadows grow longer and the alleyways darker. It is a city of secrets and deceit, where the rich and powerful hold sway over the lives of the common folk. And in the heart of this darkness, there is a young woman named Esther, whose fate is about to change.

Esther is a beautiful woman with a troubled past. She was orphaned at a young age and forced to fend for herself on the streets. But she is tough and resourceful, and she has learned to survive in this unforgiving world.

One day, she catches the eye of the king's advisor, a ruthless man named Haman. Haman is a schemer and a manipulator, and he sees in Esther an opportunity to gain even more power and influence over the king.

Haman convinces the king to make Esther his queen, but Esther knows that there is more to this than meets the eye. She senses that Haman has something darker in store for her, and she resolves to uncover his true intentions.

With the help of her friend Mordechai, Esther sets out to expose Haman's plans and save her people from certain doom. But the odds are against her, and she must use all her wits and cunning to outsmart her enemies and emerge victorious.

As the day of reckoning draws near, Esther prepares for the ultimate showdown with Haman. It is a battle of wills and wits, and only one of them will emerge victorious.

In the end, it is Esther who triumphs over her enemies. She exposes Haman's treachery and saves her people from annihilation. But the victory comes at a great cost, and Esther is left to mourn the loss of those who did not survive the brutal struggle.

And so, as the sun rises over the city of Shushan, Esther emerges as a hero, a symbol of hope and resilience in a world of darkness and despair. But she knows that the shadows are always waiting, and that the fight for survival never truly ends.

2.

[The sound of a crackling radio is heard, followed by dramatic music]

ANNOUNCER:

Welcome to our radio adaptation of the Purim story. Set in the dark alleys and dangerous corners of ancient Persia, this is a tale of intrigue, betrayal, and revenge. We now take you back to a time when the world was ruled by kings and queens, and the fate of a people hung in the balance.

[The sound of footsteps on cobblestones is heard]

ESTHER:

[In a husky voice] My name is Esther, and I was just a humble Jewish girl, trying to make my way in a world that was stacked against me. But then, I caught the eye of King Ahasuerus, the most powerful man in the land. He made me his queen, and I thought my troubles were over. But little did I know, that was just the beginning.

[The sound of a door creaking open]

HAMAN:

[In a deep and menacing voice] I am Haman, the king's advisor, and I had a plan to destroy all the Jews in the kingdom. But there was one man who stood in my way, Mordechai, a Jew who refused to bow down to me. So, I hatched a plot to have him killed, and to convince the king to sign a decree that would lead to the extermination of all Jews.

[The sound of a knife being sharpened]

MORDECHAI:

[In a gruff and determined voice] I am Mordechai, and I knew what Haman was planning. So, I went to Esther, my niece and the queen, and asked her to use her influence to stop the decree. But she was afraid to approach the king without an invitation, and I knew that time was running out.

[The sound of a clock ticking]

ESTHER:

[In a desperate whisper] I had to act fast. So, I put on my bravest face and went to the king, uninvited. I knew that if he didn't extend his scepter to me, I would be killed on the spot. But he showed me mercy, and I asked him to come to a banquet I had prepared, along with Haman.

[The sound of glasses clinking and laughter]

HAMAN:

[In an arrogant tone] Little did Esther know, that I had already convinced the king to sign the decree. I was feeling pretty confident as we sat down to eat, but then, the king asked Esther what she wanted.

[The sound of a record scratching to a stop]

KING AHASUERUS:

[In a booming voice] And what did you say, Esther?

ESTHER:

[In a determined voice] I told him about Haman's plan to destroy my people, and the king was outraged. He ordered Haman to be hanged on the very gallows he had prepared for Mordechai, and the decree was reversed.

[The sound of a crowd cheering]

MORDECHAI:

[In a triumphant voice] And that's how we won the day. We celebrate Purim to this day, as a reminder of the triumph of good over evil. But let it be known, that in every generation, there will be those who seek to destroy us. And we must be vigilant, and we must be brave, to stand up to them and to prevail.

[The sound of the radio turning off]

ANNOUNCER:

And there you have it, folks, the Purim story as a noir radio drama. Tune in next time for more thrilling tales from history.

3.

As the night fell over the kingdom of Persia, the extravagant King Ahasuerus threw a grand banquet to showcase his wealth and power. All the nobles, princes, and servants were invited, including Queen Vashti, the most beautiful and elegant woman in the land.

As the guests indulged in food and wine, the king, who was inebriated by the alcohol, sent for the queen to come to the banquet hall, wearing only her crown. Vashti, who was fiercely independent and proud, refused to obey the king's command, for she knew it was a demeaning and humiliating act.

Angered by her defiance, the king consulted his advisors, who suggested that Vashti be deposed from her position and replaced with a new queen. The search for a new queen began, and a young Jewish woman named Esther caught the king's eye.

Esther, who had been brought up by her cousin Mordecai, was a woman of beauty, intelligence, and courage. She concealed her Jewish identity and went through rigorous beauty treatments before appearing before the king.

Meanwhile, Mordecai discovered a plot to assassinate the king, and he informed Esther, who, in turn, revealed it to the king, thus earning his trust and admiration.

As Esther became the queen, Mordecai, who was a faithful servant of the king, refused to bow down to Haman, a corrupt official who had risen to power. Enraged by Mordecai's defiance, Haman plotted to exterminate all the Jews in the kingdom.

Esther, who had learned about Haman's evil plan, risked her life by revealing her Jewish identity to the king and pleading for her people's safety. The king, who was outraged by Haman's treachery, ordered his execution and granted the Jews the right to defend themselves against their enemies.

In the end, Esther's bravery and quick thinking saved her people from annihilation, and she became a revered figure in Jewish history.

But the story of Vashti, the queen who defied the king, remained a cautionary tale about the perils of pride and disobedience. In the noir version of the story, Vashti's fate was much darker. She was banished to a remote corner of the kingdom, where she lived out the rest of her life in isolation and misery, a reminder of the consequences of challenging the king's authority.

FINAL VERSION (inspired by ChatGPT but modified by Rabbi Jana with help from her siblings who influenced the choice of music, sometimes wrote the music, and wrote the parodies with Rabbi Jana. This was almost the finished draft:

♪ Sax solo [The Boy Who Cried for the Wolf]

This story is set in the dark alleys and dangerous corners of ancient Persia. This is a tale of intrigue, betrayal, and revenge. We now take you back to a time when the world was ruled by kings and queens, and the fate of a people hung in the balance.

Our story begins with one of those kings, whose name was complicated, but he was not.

♪ [KING THEME]

His name is King Ahashverosh.

♪ [The Boy Who Cried for the Wolf]

As the night fell over the kingdom of Persia, the extravagant King Ahasuerus threw a grand banquet to showcase his wealth and power. Except that it wasn't night. It was many, many nights. It was months of nights... and days. There was wine flowing like Niagara Falls. And everyone was drunk enough to go down the fall without a barrel. All the nobles, princes, and servants of the kingdom were there, and the king spent all of his drunken effort to try to impress them. The conversation turned into a competition. The king needed to win – like pasta needs a sauce. He knew that the one thing that he couldn't lose was if he showed off the beauty of his wife: The incredibly gorgeous Queen Vashti. While the King was at a party for the men, the Queen was at a party for the women in the kingdom, but the King was ready to bring her to him and his men-only party. King Ahashverosh told his servants to fetch Queen Vashti, and told them to tell her she should wear... her crown.

♪ VASHTI: Ain't Misbehavin (Betty Boop)

I'm at my party
with the gals from the town
Then the king asked me
To dance in just my crown
Ain't Misbehavin
Ain't gonna dance for you
Boop...

The king was disappointed, but his advisors were angry. They told the king to banish Vashti like she was chametz at Passover.

♪ [The Boy Who Cried for the Wolf]

The king got lonely without a Queen. That's where I come into the story. Wait... that's WHEN I came into the story. I heard that the king was looking for the most beautiful woman in the kingdom. Wait... that's still not me.

My name is Mordechai

♪ [Mordechai Theme].

I am raising my niece, and she is so beautiful that mirrors fight over getting to reflect her. Her name is Esther.

♪ [Esther Theme].

She was just a humble Jewish girl, trying to make her way in a world that was stacked against her. But then, she caught the eye of King Ahasuerus, the most powerful man in the land. He made her his queen, and we thought our troubles were over. But little did we know, that was just

the beginning. I had to warn her not to reveal to the king that she was Jewish. Persian kings and Jewish queens go together like oil and water. It was a slippery slope.

In addition to being beautiful, she was a good kid. She hid her Jewishness. I still was nervous with her in the castle all the time. So when I took my daily constitutional, it was in the courtyard of the palace.

One dark and gloomy day, I was walking around the corner of the palace and I overheard...

♪ [Soldier fanfares]

Two soldiers plotted to kill the king. I reported what I heard faster than lightning on a kite.

The king was grateful. Or so he said...

The king didn't always make the wisest choices. The next thing we knew, he had chosen a new advisor. Someone who wanted the glory of being a king, without the messy responsibilities. The advisor's name was Haman.

♪ [Haman fanfares]

He had a plan to destroy all the Jews in the kingdom. But there was one man who stood in his way, me, Mordechai, a Jew who refused to bow down to him. So, he hatched a plot to have me killed, and to convince the king to sign a decree that would lead to the extermination of all Jews.

I heard what Haman was planning. So, I went to Esther, my niece and the queen, and asked her to use her influence to stop the decree. But she was afraid to approach the king without an invitation, and I knew that time was running out.

♪ ESTHER: Why Don't You Do Right (Jessica Rabbit)

You know Haman hates us wants to kill us too

And now I know what I've gotta do

I've gotta do right – I've got to save the Jews

I've gotta figure out how to save the Jews

She had to act fast. So, she put on her bravest face and went to the king, uninvited. Everyone knows that if he didn't extend his scepter to her, she would be killed on the spot. But he showed her mercy and she asked him to come to a banquet she had prepared. He asked her if he needed to bring anything, like wine, or maybe wine. She said she only requested that he bring one thing: his advisor, Haman.

♪ [Haman fanfares]

Esther is beautiful, and she threw a wonderful party. The king enjoyed himself and asked if he could do anything for Esther. He even offered her half of his kingdom. She stayed cool. She was on a mission to save her people. Of all the things that she could have asked for, she asked for the thing that the king wanted most of all – to come to another party, and once again to bring Haman.

♪ [Haman fanfares]

After the wonderful first party that Esther threw, the king went back to his bedroom. He had spent the night with his beautiful wife, but now, he couldn't sleep. He was like a child who came back from a Mardi Gras parade, who ate too much King Cake and drank too much Dr. Pepper. He asked to have his book read to him when he realized that he had never done anything to thank the guy who saved his life after the soldier's plot to kill him. Once again he was clueless about what to do. It was the middle of the night, but when he needed advice like this, he called his advisor, Haman.

♪ [Haman fanfares]

Well, that advisor had an ego that controlled his thoughts. When the king asked him how to honor someone special, he told the king all of the things that he would have wanted for himself. Wear the king's finest clothing, ride on the king's finest steed. Have someone lead him around the city shouting that this is how the king honors someone special.

That is how it came to be that I got to spend a day wearing the king's finest clothes, and riding the king's finest steed, and being led around town by none other than – Haman

♪ [Haman fanfares]

The king and his advisor came to Esther's second party. It didn't seem possible, but the king had even a better time at this party than any other party he had ever been to. But then, he realized that his wife, Queen Esther, was sad. The kind of sad that makes you feel like there was a storm cloud over her head.

♪ [The Boy Who Cried for the Wolf]

What could he do to help her? He offered her half of his kingdom again. She told him

about the plan to destroy all the Jews, and that meant her too. And the king was outraged. He asked who was responsible for this plot. She turned around, and with her beautiful hand and an outstretched finger, she pointed to: Haman

♪ [The Boy Who Cried for the Wolf]

The king ordered Haman to be hanged on the very gallows he had prepared for me, and the Jews did not get eliminated.

And that's how we won the day. We celebrate Purim to this day, as a reminder of the triumph of good over evil. But let it be known, that in every generation, there will be those who seek to destroy us. And we must be vigilant, and we must be brave, to stand up to them and to prevail.

♪ [The Boy Who Cried for the Wolf]

Note: The Boy Who Cried for the Wolf is Erik Lawrence's composition.