

WHO YOU ARE: David, King of Judah. You are handsome, a natural-born leader, poet and soldier, full of passion and charisma. You are about to be named King of Israel and Judah combined.

WHO YOU KNOW: Princess Michal, your first wife. You were upset she married someone else while you were on the run from her father. She was furious Ish gave in to your demands to send her back to you.

Princess Merab - Michal's older sister. Saul tried to marry her off to you but you refused. She's a power hungry she-devil. You suspect she'd love to put one of her kids on the throne instead of Ish. Even when they were teens, she mocked him as being weak and trivial.

WHAT YOU KNOW: During the war between Ish and you, Ish's general Abner kept acquiring more power in the house of Saul. He had a falling out with Ish and Abner sent messengers (Baanah and Rechab) to you with this message: Make your covenant with me, and you can be certain I am on your side to hand all Israel over to you." You replied, "Good, I will make a covenant with you. However, there's one thing I require of you: Do not appear before me unless you bring Saul's daughter Michal here when you come to see me." Abner agreed so you sent messengers to say to Ish son of Saul, "Give me back my wife, Michal. Ish took her away from her husband, Paltiel and sent her to you.

Michal left your camp for a period of time while you were off praying. None of your people know where she went or why she returned.

FAVORITE SAYINGS: (You need to say each of these 2-3 times during the first hour) Proverbs 18:5 It is not good to show partiality to the guilty by perverting the justice due the innocent. Proverbs 29:4 By justice a king brings stability to a land, but a man who demands bribes demolishes it. Proverbs 28:5 Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the Lord understand everything. Proverbs 21:15 Justice executed is a joy to the righteous but a terror to those who practice iniquity.

WHAT YOU HIDE: Abner died after making a deal with you because your current general, Joab, found out about it. Joab had it in for Abner ever since Abner killed his younger brother, Ashael. Might Joab, or someone he hired, have done this?

WHAT YOU PURSUE: Justice. No one but God should raise a hand against God's anointed leader.

ON THE DAY of the MURDER: You and some of your people had moved closer to the Israeli border to make it easier for Abner to turn the kingdom over to you. With Abner dead, you waited for the elders to come see you. After breakfast, you went in the wilderness by yourself, praying to God like you did when you tended sleep. Then a messenger told you King Ish had been assassinated. You immediately went to the palace.

WHO YOU ARE: Rechab, brother of Baanah, leaders of King Ish's raiding parties. You are confident, project authority and have a ruthless level of rationality, using your drive, determination and sharp mind to achieve whatever end you've set for yourself. You are politically savvy and could tell Ish's days were numbered. David would be a much better choice for king over a unified kingdom.

WHO YOU KNOW: Baanah, your brother. Saul passed him over for a promotion and he swore revenge. When Ish came to power, he denied it again.

WHAT YOU KNOW: Baanah deserved better.

FAVORITE SAYING: (share 3-4 times during the evening as appropriate) Am I my brother's keeper? You bet I am.

WHAT YOU HIDE: That you did it.

WHAT YOU PURSUE: Blaming the murder on anyone besides you and your brother. As you and your brother were sneaking out of the chamber, you saw Rizpah sneaking down the corridor. You were afraid she'd go in and raise the alarm before you got far enough away but she didn't. Was it because she didn't go in or because she had something to hide?

ON THE DAY of the MURDER: You and your brother arrived at Ish's house during the heat of the day while the king was taking his midday nap. You pretended you needed to get into the interior of the house to get wheat. It was kept in the chamber next to the king's bedroom. Merab permitted you both to take some sacks and go to the storeroom. She seemed very distracted and nervous when you asked her permission. Once inside the storeroom, you heard harp music coming from Ish's bedroom and realized you'd have to delay until whoever was playing the harp left. Keeping an eye on the hallway, you finally saw Zorba leave the room. It was quiet so you and your brother sneaked next door into the king's room. You stabbed the sleeping Ish in the stomach, cleaned the blood on your sword on the covers while your brother beheaded him, taking the head in a wheat bag. You might need it to prove to someone you did it. You went back to the kitchen.

A messenger arrived saying King David was nearby and Ish should be alerted. You sent a serving woman to wake him. It would not do for you or your brother to discover the body.

WHO YOU ARE: Baanah, brother of Rechab and a son of Rimmon, leaders of King Ish's raiding parties. You are ruggedly handsome, imaginative yet decisive, ambitious yet private, able to push your ideas through sheer willpower and force of personality.

WHO YOU KNOW: Rechab, your loyal brother.

Princess Michal - she was not happy with Ish for sending her back to David. She vowed to do whatever it took to reverse Ish's decision.

Rizpah - the former King Saul's concubine. Ish threatened to kill her sons. She is a very protective mother.

David - king of Judah. King Saul was always trying to kill him.

WHAT YOU KNOW: Saul and Ish both passed you over for a promotion from raiding party leader to army captain. You swore revenge.

FAVORITE SAYING: Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown (you say this at least 2-3 times)

WHAT YOU HIDE: Being a murderer.

WHAT YOU PURSUE: Figuring out who would be most likely to reward you for killing Ish without losing your own head.

ON THE DAY of the MURDER: You and your brother arrived at Ish's house during the heat of the day while the king was taking his midday nap. You pretended you needed to get into the interior of the house to get wheat. Merab complained about not being made a co-ruler and gave you permission to get the wheat. Your brother stabbed him in the stomach and you beheaded him using a dangling string from the harp in the corner. (much easier and quicker than a blade)

You put the head in a wheat bag, threw the harp string off in a corner, and washed the blood off of you with the king's own washbasin. The head was bleeding through the bag so you had to put it inside another grain bag and carried two more over those to hide the evidence until you could ditch it in the kitchens.

WHO YOU ARE: Princess Michal, younger daughter of King Saul, ex-wife of King David and current wife of Paltiel. You are still beautiful despite all the challenges you have faced but you might be a bit bitter.

WHO YOU KNOW: Baanah - messenger from the now dead Abner to David

Rechab, Banana's brother. Both the brothers feel like your brother Ish passed them over for promotions and instead gave them lower jobs as raiding party captains. They gripe a lot about Ish when they think no one is listening.

Merab - your older sister. She always carried a grudge that David refused to marry her and married you instead. She is power hungry and greedy.

David - ex-husband you were forcefully reunited with. You despise him.

WHAT YOU KNOW: Your father tried to kill your husband David but he eluded Saul and escaped. Saul sent agents to your house to watch for David and kill him in the morning. You warned David, "If you don't escape tonight, you will be dead tomorrow!" You lowered David from the window, he escaped while you took the household idol and put it on the bed, placed some goat hair on its head, and covered it with a garment. When Saul sent agents to seize David, you said, "He's sick." Saul sent the agents back saying, "Bring him on his bed so I can kill him." When the messengers arrived, to their surprise, the household idol was on the bed with some goat hair on its head. Your father asked you "Why did you deceive me like this? You sent my enemy away, and he has escaped!" You lied and answered, "He said to me, 'Let me go! Why should I kill you?'"

FAVORITE SAYINGS: (you say these a couple times each as appropriate) I've always said, if you treat yourself like a queen, you'll attract a king. I know what it is to feel unloved, to want revenge, to make mistakes, to suffer disappointment, yet also to find the courage to go forward in life.

WHAT YOU HIDE: David never tried to arrange with your older brother Jonathan to get you. While on the run, David also married Ahinoam a bimbo, and Abigail, a widow. You feel abandoned and didn't protest when Saul married you off to Paltiel.

David now has 6 wives and a bunch of children and had the audacity to demand your brother send you to him. It's too late for you to be the mother of the next king. There's a bunch of kids ahead of any child you had. You fought with Ish over this but he insisted you be sent to David with his raiding captains Baanah and Rechab

WHAT YOU PURSUE: A way to get it pinned on David. If he dies, you can go back to Paltiel who treated you like gold. David has the most to gain.

ON THE DAY of the MURDER: You were accompanying David as he visited different cities in Judah. You really think he's dragging you along to show off how he is defeating the house of Saul. He took off early in the morning. No one knows where. He didn't return for hours. You toyed with the idea of running away, crossing the border, and begging Ish to give you sanctuary in Israel. You actually started to leave but changed your mind and returned. A messenger arrived breathless and said David was wanted across the border into Israel because your brother Ish was dead. You insisted he take you so you could mourn (and maybe stay behind). Then David stuck you in the kitchen to help make the funeral meal like you were some servant. You despise him.

WHO YOU ARE: Princess Merab, older sister of Michal and Ish, wife of Adriel and mother of five sons, daughter of Saul. You are attractive, assertive and outspoken - driven to lead. And disgusted women are not considered ruler material. Intelligent and well-informed, you value knowledge and competence, and have little patience with weakness, inefficiency or disorganization. Your father was a great man. Your brother Ish is a weak puppet.

WHO YOU KNOW: Michal - your spoiled little sister

Rizpah, your father's concubine. Ish was afraid one of her sons would challenge him for the throne so he was going to kill them. Rizpah got General Abner to intervene. When Abner was murdered by one of King David's generals, you overheard Rizpah telling her sons that she'd do whatever it took to keep them alive.

David - creep passed you over for marriage; now he might become king over a united Judah and Israel.

WHAT YOU KNOW: Abner was going to betray Ish and give David the kingdom. Good thing someone assassinated him. David made a big show of clearing himself of the crime - arranging a big funeral and blaming his general. You wonder if it was for real or a diversion.

FAVORITE SAYING: Might makes right.

WHAT YOU HIDE: You have been trying to position your eldest son, Adriel Jr., to become King since Ish had no children.

WHAT YOU PURSUE: Maybe David faked Abner's death as part of a plot to kill Ish? How to put your eldest son, Adriel Jr., on the throne now that Ish is dead.

ON THE DAY of the MURDER: You went out of your way to be pleasant to Ish by bringing him his after lunch wine (with just a little bit of sleeping draught so that he might be fuzzy enough to agree to your request.) It didn't work. You and Ish had a falling out because he would not up your allowance nor allow you to have a small throne next to his for your son Adriel, Jr.

Ish ordered you out of his room so he could take his afternoon nap. You sent Zorba in to play the harp for him, hoping a nap would put him in a better mood. Baanah came to the palace requesting wheat supplies for an upcoming raid they'd be undertaking. You complained to him what a mess the kingdom was and how Ish should let you co-rule and straighten it out. There was a disturbance outside - two young men were galloping past the palace going way too fast. Before you could order a guard to go bring them back and discipline them for such disrespect, a cry went up "The King is Dead!!".

WHO YOU ARE: Rizpah, King Saul's concubine, mother of 2 sons, Armoni and Mephibosheth. You are kind, introverted and a good mother. Warmth and care make parenting something that came naturally to you and you feel a responsibility to insure your children grow up to be healthy, confident and successful. (Unlike Merab who sees her kids as political pawns). There is nothing you won't do to protect them.

WHO YOU KNOW: Ish, stepson and weak king who threatened to have your sons executed.

Baanah - one of Ish's raiding captains. He was furious when Abner got the general job and he was only the co-captain of a raiding band. You overheard him tell his brother Rechab "He won't live long enough to regret passing me over."

WHAT YOU KNOW: When Ish was going to assassinate your sons, Abner stood up to Ish. who accused Abner of sleeping with you. Abner was very angry about Ish's accusation. "Am I a dog's head?" he asked. "All this time I've been loyal to the house of your father Saul haven't handed you over to David, but now you accuse me of wrongdoing with this woman! May God punish Abner and do so severely if I don't transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and establish the throne of David over Israel and Judah. Ish could not answer Abner because he was afraid of him. Abner sent messengers (Baanah and Rechab) to say to David, "Make your covenant with me, and you can be certain I am on your side to hand all Israel over to you." Then Abner was killed by David's people and you are worried what will happen to you and your sons.

FAVORITE SAYING: Sometimes the strength of motherhood is greater than natural laws. (mention this at least 2-3 times)

WHAT YOU HIDE: Your plot to steal a shield. Where your sons are. You don't want this pinned on them. You'll do anything including confessing to doing it, (a lie), in order to save them.

WHAT YOU PURSUE: A way to be safe and make your children safe now that Abner is dead.

ON THE DAY of the MURDER: You planned to steal one of the gold shields (hanging in Ish's room (plunder that his father had taken from Hadadezer son of Rehob, king of Zobah). You would drop the shield from Ish's balcony to your waiting sons, already mounted on fast horses. They'd stash it in a sack and meet you at a rendezvous point. All three of you would escape to safety in another kingdom.

Ish was a heavy sleeper you figured you could be in and out of his napping room without him knowing it. The first time you snuck up the stairs you heard noise - two male voices and maybe scuffling so you scooted back downstairs and waited. When you tried a second time, it was quiet, so you went in. There was Ish - stabbed and decapitated. You barely held in your scream. You backed out without taking a thing and ran to your sons, urging them to go as fast and far as they could away from here. You stayed behind, ready to do whatever you had to allow them to get away.

WHO YOU ARE: Zorba, musician/servant of King Ish. You come across as a born entertainer who loves the spotlight, and thinks all the world's a stage. You seem carefree and shallow but you actually have a sharp, fact-based mind, and prefer autonomy and self-sufficiency to achieve your ulterior objectives.

WHO YOU KNOW: Michal, she was furious with Ish that he was sending her to David. She said "You break my heart and I'll have your head, brother." He sent her anyway.

Merab - power hungry matriarch of Saul's extended family. She's so scheming she has to mix powders in her wine to fall asleep most nights.

WHAT YOU KNOW: Ish has lots of enemies and not the brains or drive to protect himself. He had trouble sleeping which is why your musical skills were in great demand in the palace.

FAVORITE SAYING: Kill one man, and you are a murderer. Kill thousands of men, and you are a conqueror.

WHAT YOU HIDE: You are really a prince(ss) of Zobah. Saul destroyed your whole family including your parents, favorite older brother, Hadadezer son of Rehob, king of Zobah and many of your friends and countrymen. He captured 1,700 horsemen, 20,000 foot soldiers, hamstringed all the horses and kept 100 chariots. He took the gold shields of Hadadezer's officers and took huge quantities of bronze as well.

When the Israelites attacked the palace, you switched clothes with a servant and escaped death by pretending you were a slave. You vowed to avenge your family and country and allowed yourself to become a slave in the palace of Saul, serving his youngest son, Ish, as a harpist.

You plan to poison his wine someday and watch him die.

WHAT YOU PURSUE: Who did it? Can they get you free and out of here with the golden shields? Those shields are worth a lot of money and could help bring the scattered remnants of your people together and back into a position of power.

ON THE DAY of the MURDER: Gossip was going around the palace that Merab had ordered the hit on Abner. The king always took an afternoon nap. You had been commanded to play for Ish until he fell asleep. You heard two men talking in the room next door where wheat was. (Why they keep the food, and therefore rats that sneak in to eat it, so near where they sleep is beyond you.) You somehow snapped a string on your harp and had to improvise songs until Ish finally fell asleep and you left.

A soldier named Rechab sent you to wake Ish with the news that David had been spotted in the vicinity with soldiers. You went back into the room and screamed at what you saw - a stabbed and decapitated King Ish.

WHO YOU ARE: Paltiel, a merchant of spices and wine. Your family has been in the business for generations and you know your stuff. Though soft-spoken, you have very strong opinions and will work tirelessly to right a wrong.

WHO YOU KNOW: Several but by reputation only.

WHAT YOU KNOW: King Ish had a surplus crop of wheat this year so you will trade spices and wine for wheat.

FAVORITE SAYING: He is happiest, be he king or peasant, who finds peace in his home.

WHAT YOU HIDE: You are actually the husband of Princess Michal. She was married to now King David but he abandoned her so Michal's father Saul married her to you. You adored her. When Saul died, King David sent messengers Ish, "Give me back my wife, Michal. So Ish took away from you. You followed her, weeping all the way to Bahurim until General Abner said "Go back home or else." So you went back and started plotting how to get her back.

WHAT YOU PURSUE: How to get Michal back home.

ON THE DAY of the MURDER: Gossip had it that David was close to Ish's palace and had Michal with him. You traveled to the Israeli palace in disguise and offered to trade your goods for wheat. You couldn't seem to get anyone in charge to speak to you, which was fine, because you were trying to find where Michal might be. Someone started yelling "The King is dead!" so you tried to keep a low profile.

WHO YOU ARE: Adriel, Jr., son of Merab daughter of Saul and Adriel son of Barzillai the Meholathite. If your uncle Ish doesn't have kids, you might be the next king of Israel. You'd like to be a musician but your mother has other plans for you. Regal plans that might endanger your life.

WHO YOU KNOW: Merab, your mom. She's scary ambitious but you are probably safe from her wrath if you do what she says. She wants to make you the next king of Israel since Ish has no children.

Uncle Ish - a weak king who likes harp music and arranged for you to get a harp and have lessons despite your mom's protests.

WHAT YOU KNOW: "Heaven has no rage like love to hatred turned / Nor Hell a fury, like a woman scorned." Great lyrics for a song you are composing. They could definitely apply to Michal whose love for David flipped like a switch to hate over the years he failed to come get her and instead married other women. Try to ask at least $\frac{1}{2}$ the people you meet what they think of those lyrics for the start of a song.

FAVORITE SAYINGS: Revenge is a confession of pain. An eye for an eye will only make the world blind.

WHAT YOU HIDE: That you don't want to be king from your mother or anyone else that might tell her.

WHAT YOU PURSUE: A patron who might hire you as a musician. You'd run away from home and mom if you find one.

ON THE DAY of the MURDER: Gossip had it that David was close to Ish's palace and might have an assassination squad with him. You tried to keep a low profile so no one thought about assassinating you. People were in and out of the palace all day but you ignored them and worked on your songs. Someone started yelling "The King is dead!" and your mom grabbed you to come to this meeting.