

***“Forgive me for I have sinned.”***

**(Book 3 of a trilogy)**

**(A Biblical Musical in Two Acts)**

**Book and Lyrics**

**By Sidney Goldberg**

**Music**

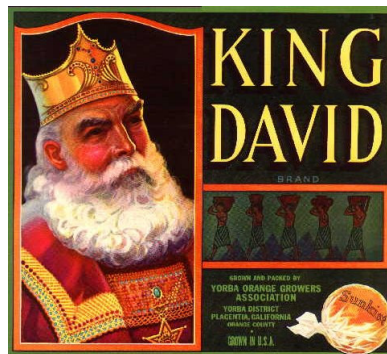
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*“Forgive me for I have sinned.”*

Cast

**KING DAVID**.....Old, spiritual.

**BATHSHEBA**.....Old, David’s wife.

**URIAH**.....35 years old. Handsome warrior.

**JOAB**.....40 years old, trusted servant.

**AMNON**.....40 years old, devious.

**ABSALOM**.....35 years old. Son, evil.

**SOLOMON**.....30 years old. Spiritual son

**TAMARA**.....20 years old. Beautiful daughter.

**NATHAN**.....50 years old. Messenger of G-d.

*“Forgive me for I have sinned.”*

Songs 

ALL I WANT IS TO LOVE YOU (Uriah and Bathsheba).....1-1-2

TORMENTED (David).....

ALL I WANT IS TO LOVE YOU (Underscoring).....

O MY KING (Levi).....

ALL I WANT IS TO LOVE YOU (Underscoring).....

THEY ALL THINK I LOVE THEM (David).....

THE LIE (David and Bathsheba).....

ALL I WANT IS TO LOVE YOU (Underscoring).....

WHY and WHAT? (Uriah).....

THIS TOO I MUST ABIDE (Joab and David).....

SUCH LIES (Joab).....

THEY ALL THINK I LOVE THEM (Underscoring).....

DO YOU NEED ME TOO? (Bathsheba).....

IN SIX DAYS (Nathan).....

THEY ALL THINK I LOVE THEM (Underscoring).....

LIFE CAN BE HARD (ALL).....

THEY ALL THINK I LOVE THEM (Underscoring).....

SEX IS ALWAYS ON MY MIND (Amnon).....

THE LIE (Underscoring).....

I FEEL DIRTY INSIDE (Tamara).....

REVENGE SHALL BE MINE (Tamara).....

WHAT IS HE DOING HERE? (Absalom).....

THEY ALWAYS PICK ON ME (All).....

***“Forgive me for I have sinned.”***

Ancient times. URIAH, madly in love with his wife BATHSHEBA, pours wine into her mug. 1

URIAH

May *Elohim* grant me the pleasure to drink wine and make love to you forever, my beloved Bathsheba.

BATHSHEBA

Oh Uriah, do you say this to all the girls that think you are so handsome? Well do you, sexy?

URIAH

I speak not, nor do I want anyone but you, my beloved. I want and need only you, Bathsheba, only you! How many times have I told you, that my love for you is undying? It is forever!

BATHSHEBA

(Alluringly coy.)

And why does my husband say that? What could be the reason?

URIAH

Because, to me you are the most beautiful woman I have ever seen and I want only you, Bathsheba, only you. Now, let us drink this wine and then let's make, mad and passionate love. For, I desire you more than ever.

BATHSHEBA

But we just made love this morning, and I'm tired. Can't you think of anything else?

URIAH

We will make love every moment until you give me a son who will look like me, and a daughter who is as beautiful as you!

BATHSHEBA

Oh Uriah, having two children with you.  
What more could a girl ask for?

(BOTH (🎵Sing)

ALL I WANT IS TO LOVE YOU

URIAH

Bathsheba, you are the only woman that I  
dream of.  
Bathsheba, you are more beautiful than  
every flower.  
Bathsheba, you are the only woman I want  
to love.  
Bathsheba, and I want you more and more  
every hour.

BATHSHEBA

Uriah, I love you as much as my Messiah.  
Uriah, when you kiss me, there is nothing  
more that I need.  
Uriah, you get me hotter than a fire.  
Uriah, all that I crave for my beloved is thy  
seed.

URIAH and BATHSHEBA

We were made for each other.  
All I want is to love you.  
A little girl a brother.  
I want you to love me too.

Bathsheba, all I want to hear is your  
beautiful voice.  
Bathsheba, and when I see you walk my  
heart begins to dance.  
Bathsheba, every moment I'm with you I  
must rejoice.  
Bathsheba, and when I hold you in my arms  
there is romance.

BATHSHEBA

Uriah, to me I feel you are all there is in life.  
Uriah, I touch you, and my heart at once  
begins to soar.

Uriah, I thank Adonoi for making me your wife.

Uriah, I want to live with you my love forever more.

URIAH and BATHSHEBA  
We were made for each other.  
All I want is to love you.  
A little girl a brother.  
I want you to love me too.

URIAH  
Come my beloved, let us drink the wine and let us make LOVE.

BATHSHEBA  
Who needs the wine, sexy?

THEY kiss and start to undress.

Dissolve to..

INT: Room in palace. - DAVID plays the harp and speaks to G-d. .

2

DAVID  
Dear Lord, I have written Psalm five to you. Judge me not too severely, for this is merely the onset of my humble offering.  
(Starts to play harp and sort of sing.)  
“Give ear unto my words, O Lord, my meditation weigh. Hear my loud cry, my King, my G-d: for thee I to thee pray. Lord, thou shalt early hear my voice; I early will direct. My prayer to thee, and looking up, an answer will expect. For thou art not a G-d that doth in wickedness delight; Neither shall evil dwell with thee, nor fools stand in thy sight. O G-d, destroy them, let them be by their own counsel quelled: Them, for their many sins cast out, for they ‘gainst thee rebelled.” With your blessing my King of Kings, I shall finish it shortly.

JOAB enters and bows.

## JOAB

I am sorry King David, but I was delayed with Uriah, the captain of one of your armies in preparation for the pending war with those Jew hating Ammonites.

## DAVID

I hate wars, but what can we do? Therefore, I beseech you Joab, take all of the king's horses and all the king's men, my brave warriors, the entire Israelite army and destroy the Ammonites, besiege and slaughter Rabbah. May the good Lord protect you and all my men, Amen.

## JOAB

I will do as you wish, my beloved and wise King David, but should you not join us on the battlefield and lead us to victory? For is it not the King's duty to fight alongside his trusted soldiers in battle? How can we win without your guidance?

## DAVID

You are correct as always, Joab, but, I would not do you or my men any good, for I have been very depressed as you know, and, because of this malady, unfortunately, I do not have the strength nor fortitude to do battle. With HaShem's help, hopefully another time.

## JOAB

I have often seen many men of your age go through the same problem as you, my King: depression appears to be what, they and you suffer. How may I be of service and help you throughout these moments of turmoil?

## DAVID

Thank you, but it is something I must work out alone, for I have deemed it as a mid-life crisis: something most men like myself must confront when they are in the waning years of their life and question their masculinity

(MORE)

DAVID (Cont'd)

and virility, thus, I too fight this phenomena,  
which I find so debilitating, and humbling,  
but don't tell anybody.

JOAB

My king is wise in acceptance of his  
shortcomings.

DAVID

Except for this malaise and sadness I suffer,  
which I definitely will come out of, for all I  
need is a diversion, a beautiful diversion as I  
often do, which proves I am really not in  
mid-life, for with *Adonoi*, the Good Lord's  
help, I intend to outlive the father of our  
covenant people, Abraham, who, as you  
know lived to be 145, therefore I am in no  
way past my prime. How could I be? When  
I tend to my many beautiful wives with  
much vigor. Do, you not see them smiling?  
Do not they appear to be content?

JOAB

Yes, I see them smiling my King, and thanks  
to you, they all appear to be quite euphoric  
and I wish you would give me the secret of  
your stamina and attraction.

DAVID

Now, be off with you, take my trusted  
soldiers and slaughter the sons of Ammon  
and Rabbah!

JOAB

I shall return victorious my king, and we  
(Exits.)  
shall celebrate our victory together.

DAVID drinks wine, plays harp and 🎵Sings.

TORMENTED

How can I fight a war?  
When I have 10 wives that need me.  
Of course this King knows the score,  
Yet this King grieves internally.

I am a man who craves.  
 A lust that seems to haunt my soul.  
 For, I cannot behave.  
 A fool tormented soon grows old.

Why do I hunger so?  
 And will I ever know?  
 What is wrong with me?  
 Dear G-d please set me free.

I never have enough.  
 My cup never runneth over.  
 This King, who is big and tough,  
 Needeth a four-leaf clover.

My mind plays a game.  
 And I don't understand why.  
 It is I who I blame.  
 It is I who wants to die.

Why do I hunger so?  
 And will I ever know?  
 What is wrong with me?  
 Dear G-d please set me free.

DAVID, drinks wine, walks to roof of the palace and sees a beautiful woman 6 bathing.

DAVID (cont'd)

Oh sweet Lord HaShem, once again as I  
 have often secretly espied, what I see before  
 me to be the most beautiful and alluring  
 woman I have ever seen. Her face is that of  
 an angel, her skin is like the breath of  
 spring, and her breast, oh how I want to  
 suckle her voluptuous breast. I ask you,  
 what is more beautiful and alluring to man  
 than beautiful breasts? Who is this beauty  
 Elohim? I must have her; I must lay with  
 her, for despite my many beautiful wives,  
 she is whom I desire most. I would give  
 them all up just to lay with her one time.  
 "Lord, in thy wrath rebuke me not; nor in  
 thy hot rage chasten me. Lord pity me, for I  
 am weak; heal me, for my bones vexed be.

(MORE)

DAVID (Cont'd)

My soul is also vexed sore; But Lord, how long stay wilt thou make? Return, O Lord, my soul set free; O save me, for thy mercies sake.”

The following day. Excited, DAVID speaks to LEVI, his servant. WE hear underscoring of, “All I want is to Love Thee.” 3

DAVID

(Puts arm on LEVI'S shoulder.)

Levi, I must ask you something in utter confidence.

LEVI

Whatever you say, my good King David, slayer of Goliath, leader of your people, the Israelites, is always held in the strictest of confidence, always.

DAVID

I was on the balcony last night and I saw the most beautiful, the most ravishing maiden I have ever seen. She was just to the north,  
(Points.)  
a short way off, over there and I was so enchanted that I could not sleep. Do you know who she may be and how can I meet her?

LEVI

My Lord, I believe her name is Bathsheba and she is the daughter of Eliam, and the wife of Uriah the Hettite.

DAVID

His wife?! Do you mean to tell me she is the wife of Uriah the Hettite who leads my army? How ridiculous!

LEVI

It is so my Lord. She has been married to Uriah for almost a year.

DAVID

How dare he marry someone I so desire?  
Does he not know that I am the King? That  
every fair maiden belongs to me!

LEVI

But Uriah, who I find to be a humble man  
and who swears allegiance to you, did not  
know that you desire his Bathsheba. How  
could he my King? For, he is not a mind  
reader and you have never seen Bathsheba  
before last night. She is his wife, who he  
loves and adores. He has told me that he  
wants to have children with her more than  
anything.

DAVID

He wants children with my Bathsheba?  
How dare that infidel even think of a such a  
deplorable act, how dare him even think of  
laying with my beloved anymore?

LEVI

But your majesty, Bathsheba is his wife, and  
you have given privilege to all men that they  
may sleep with their wives, have you not?

DAVID

(Angry, loud.)

NOT URIAH! DID I EVER SAY THAT I  
GAVE URIAH PERMISSION TO LAY  
WITH MY BATHSHEBA? NEVER!  
NOW, GO AND BRING HER TO ME  
IMMEDIATELY. WHEN I RETURN I

(Exits.)

WANT HER HERE BEFORE!

Underscoring ends. Disturbed, LEVI sings.

O MY KING

O my King, you have been given  
everything.

O my King, in folly you cry as you  
sing.

O my King, why must you have  
ev'ry women.

O my King, you surely will wind up  
n ruin.

You had the courage to slay the evil Goliath.  
Scourge of your sexuality, please don't  
denyeth.  
Just play your harp and continue to write  
your psalm.  
You say, "Do unto others," well, please do  
no harm.

This spiritual man is possessed.  
The Lord will punish him.  
This holy man that has been blessed,  
He lives a life of sin.

O my King, you have been given  
everything.  
O my King, in folly you cry as you  
sing.  
O my King, why must you have  
ev'ry women.  
O my King, you surely will wind up  
n ruin.

This spiritual man is possessed.  
The Lord will punish him.  
This holy man that has been blessed,  
He lives a life of sin.

CUT: The following day. With anticipation, LEVI presents  
BATHSHEBA to DAVID. WE hear underscoring of, "All I ant is to Love thee."

LEVI

My Lord, King David, allow me to present,  
my good friend, the most beautiful  
Bathsheba.

Anxious and horny DAVID eagerly greets BATHSHEBA.

DAVID

So, at last I meet you, my ravishing  
Bathsheba. I truly love your name.

BATHSHEBA

Thank you my Lord. May I ask why you sent for me?

DAVID

I will explain momentarily. Levi, you may leave.

LEVI

Are you sure, King David? I promised Bathsheba that I would return her home safely.

DAVID

I will escort Bathsheba home personally, now you may leave.

LEVI

But, but...

DAVID

...Enough of your hesitation Levi, now LEAVE AT ONCE!

LEVI

(Bows. Exits.)

As you wish, my Lord.

DAVID

I never thought he'd leave, did you, my beloved?

BATHSHEBA

Levi is my husband's best friend and I am not your beloved, King David.

DAVID

Mere rhetoric Bathsheba, I meant to say you are lovely, not my beloved, you are lovely.

BATHSHEBA

Thank you for the compliment, my King.

DAVID

I am certain that you hear it all the time.

BATHSHEBA

(Sexily.)

And I have heard that you have never had a woman that pleased you, and perhaps you might get lucky one day, and as far as hear it too often, this woman, unfortunately is vain and insecure and must be reassured all the time.

DAVID

If that's the case, please allow this aging King to assure you, that you are the most beautiful and ravishing woman I have ever had the pleasure of entertaining.

BATHSHEBA

Have you not said that to all your wives, King David?

DAVID

Perhaps in a moment of delusion, but you, my beautiful princess are the most beautiful  
(Kisses her hand.)  
of them all.

BATHSHEBA

And is that what you are doing, entertaining me? How lovely.

DAVID

From the moment I first saw you, I have dreamt nothing more than entertaining you.

BATHSHEBA

Really, and when did you first see me?

DAVID

I, I don't know if I can say.

BATHSHEBA

Please my King, I am curious. When did you first see me? I must know.

DAVID

I was drinking wine as I often do and saw you from my balcony, over there. And may I pour you some wine, Bathsheba? I do love your name.

BATHSHEBA

Some wine would be fine, but not too much, because I get quite inebriated when I drink too much, and it has been noted that I lose  
(Laughs.)

all inhibitions, so please, not too much.

DAVID pours wine.

DAVID

Then drink up, my beautiful Bathsheba, and here's to you losing all your inhibitions!

BATHSHEBA laughs. DAVID drinks entire mug and smiles and BATHSHEBA does the same. DAVID immediately refills both mugs and laughs.

DAVID (Cont'd)

Here's to the both of us losing our inhibitions, my beautiful Bathsheba, drink up.

Laughing, BATHSHEBA drinks and laughs even more.

BATHSHEBA

And you were saying, my good King, that you saw me over there. What was I doing?

DAVID refills both mugs and drinks and so does BATHSHEBA. BOTH are getting drunk and start laughing profusely.

DAVID

You really want to know, gorgeous?

BATHSHEBA

Loaded, she finds it all very funny getting high with the King.

Yes, I really want to know, I really want to know. So, tell me, I'm dying to know.

DAVID

Loaded and happy that Bathsheba is getting drunk, laughs.

I saw you bathing and forgive me, but I saw  
your beautiful breasts, they were just  
magnificent.

BATHSHEBA

(Loaded, she finds it all hysterical.)

Really, and is that the only time you saw  
them?

DAVID

Forgive me, but I have seen you bathe many  
times.

BATHSHEBA

How many?

DAVID

More than I care to admit.

BATHSHEBA

(Smiles.)

I know.

DAVID

And how do you know?

BATHSHEBA

I saw you staring at me many times, that's,  
why I always fondled and shook them.

(Laughs.)

I was teasing you.

DAVID

I have dreamt about kissing your beautiful  
breasts since the moment I was blessed to  
behold them. I have dreamt about suckling  
your magnificent breasts, do you hear? I  
want to suckle them?

BATHSHEBA

(Coy, she laughs and shakes her breasts.)

Suckling, huh?

DAVID

Before I ravish you, you sexy devil, I will sing to you the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, I have written to  
 (Plays the harp and sort of sings.)  
 our Lord. “The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want. He maketh me down to lie in pastures green: He leadeth me the quiet waters by. My soul he doth restore again; and me to walk doth make, within the paths of righteousness, even for his own sake. Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale, yet will I fear none ill: For thou art with me; thy rod and staff me comfort still. My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes; My head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows. Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me: And in G-ds house for evermore my dwelling place shall be.”

BATHSHEBA

(Overwhelmed.)

Oh, King David, that is the most beautiful and touching Psalm I ever heard. That Psalm will be said forever, for it is truly holy. If you allow me, I shall say that Psalm; It will become my mantra forever.

DAVID

I would be honored if you would say my Psalm that I offer to HaShem.

BATHSHEBA

And the way you play the harp and sing, it’s just wonderful, so enchanting.

Underscore is heightened. Taking this as opportunity, DAVID caresses BATHSHEBA and kisses HER. Being inebriated and overwhelmed, SHE Responds passionately.

DAVID

I have never kissed anyone with such fire.

BATHSHEBA

Really?

DAVID

(Touches her breasts.)

And your breasts, oh how I want to suckle  
your breasts.

BATHSHEBA

You like them don't you?

DAVID

I love them and I love you! Do you Hear?  
At this moment, I love you!

BATHSHEBA

David, meaning beloved, I believe you never  
loved anyone but yourself, so how can you  
love me?

DAVID

But, I do love you more than all my wives,  
for you are the beauty of all beauties, and  
(Places necklace around her neck.)  
please allow me to put this magnificent  
bauble, it is one of the finest rubies, which is  
not as red as your lips around your beautiful  
neck.

BATHSHEBA

(Touches necklace.)

Oh, King David, it's so beautiful.

DAVID

Now let us drink more wine and I will make  
mad and passionate love to you.

BATHSHEBA

It's because you love me, don't you?

WE see him undress and then lay BATHSHEBA on a couch. After a THEY  
are both getting dressed.

DAVID

Hurry, you must get dressed and go home!

BATHSHEBA

(Slurs because she is high.)

But, we haven't finished all the wine.

DAVID

You have had enough wine, haven't you?  
Now finish dressing and leave at once!

BATHSHEBA

But, I was having such a good time, didn't  
you have a good time?

DAVID

I have a good time whenever I make love.  
Now leave my palace immediately!

BATHSHEBA

But you said you were going to take me  
home.

DAVID

I say a lot of things, the King says a lot of  
things. You've served your purpose, now be  
off with you or I shall have the guards  
remove you.

Underscoring ends. Crying, BATHSHEBA exits.  
DAVID sings.

THEY ALL THINK I LOVE THEM

They all think I love them,  
But I don't love them,  
I just use them, and abuse them,  
But I don't love them.

I kiss their lips and I'm on fire.  
Touch their breast is my desire.  
Making love and I perspire.  
As I get higher and higher.

First I put on my sexy pants.  
And then its time to take a chance  
And then I hold her as we dance.  
And whisper that I need romance.

They all think I love them,  
But I don't love them,  
I just use them, and abuse them,  
But I don't love them.

Most of them swoon and believe me.  
And that is because they can't see.  
If they only knew that what will be..  
They wouldn't swoon and believe me.

They all think I love them,  
But I don't love them,  
I just use them, and abuse them,  
But I don't love them.

CUT: Palace: Three months later. Remorseful of his sins, DAVID drinks wine, plays his harp and speaks to G-d.

DAVID

While I am truly conscious of my sinfulness, and deeply affected therewith, let the faith and experience of *Adonoi's* full pardon of my sins, and of the communications of his grace, melt my heart and animate me to every commanded duty. "O blessed is the man to whom is freely pardoned all transgression he hath done, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man imputeth not his sin, and in whose spirit there is no guile, nor fraud is found therein." That is the beginning of psalm 32 that I offer to Thee, my Lord, *Boruch HaShem* for I am guilty of all my wrongdoings and ask thy forgiveness.

WE hear the underscoring of "Tormented." BATHSHEBA, angry and winded enters.

BATHSHEBA

King David, I must speak to you, I must speak to you immediately!

DAVID

Why Bathsheba, how nice to see you. What a wonderful surprise. May I offer you some wine?

BATHSHEBA

I had enough of *your* wine, thank you.

DAVID

Why have I not had the pleasure all these months?

BATHSHEBA

Because, you've been too busy fornicating with Leah, Rachel and my best friend Rebecca.

DAVID

Why, that is not true. How can you accuse your King David of such a dastardly act, fornication with all those women? I protest, I protest, for I am married!

BATHSHEBA

(Sobs.)

I know your poor wives, Michal, Abigail, Ahinoam. Where do you get the strength? You, who have said, "The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want. He maketh me down to lie in pastures green: He leadeth me the quiet waters by..."

DAVID

...How pleased I am that you remember every word of the 23<sup>rd</sup> psalm.

BATHSHEBA

I have said it every day, asking *Adonoi* for His forgiveness, to give me comfort and ease my tormented soul, so, stop lying David. Perhaps you should write a psalm about your wandering penis, for I know you never stop your promiscuous fornication.

DAVID

Perhaps, but I am sorry, Bathsheba, but why are you crying?

BATHSHEBA

I'm crying because I'm pregnant.

DAVID

Congratulations.

BATHSHEBA

Congratulations, congratulations? How can you congratulate me when it is your child?

(Cries.)

It's your child I'm carrying!

DAVID

How can you be so sure that it is my child you are carrying? Surely you must have slept with your husband, Uriah.

BATHSHEBA

A woman knows who the father of her child is. I am three months with child and my beloved husband Uriah has been away in your cursed army longer and that is why we have not been together more than six times the past year and they have all proven been to be fruitless. What shall I do? How can I tell Uriah that it is your child I carry, when he so wanted his son to be his son and look like him? But it is my fault for trusting you, for drinking wine and becoming drunk, drunk on my fascination and desire for you. For spreading my loins and allowing you to give me your seed, for this, I will be cursed, and for this you shall be cursed forever and anon, for the Messiah, the King of Kings watches and knows all, He knows all.

Underscoring ends. DAVID AND BATHSHEBA SING.

THE LIE

BATHSHEBA and DAVID

I cry,  
Because I lie,  
And that is why  
I want to die,  
Because I lie,  
I want to die.

BATHSHEBA

I hath deceived myself,  
How can I tell Uriah?  
And now I ask for help,  
And pay for my desire.

I curse my King David,  
For, using me in lust.  
I pray Hashem saveth,  
Before I turn to dust.

BATHSHEBA and DAVID

I cry,  
Because I lie,  
And that is why  
I want to die,  
Because I lie,

DAVID

They say that I'm the King,  
But I cannot behave.  
He who hath everything,  
Is going to his grave.

This sadness does prevail.  
This malaise fills my soul.  
And that is why I wail,  
Because my heart's grown old.

BATHSHEBA and DAVID

I cry,  
Because I lie,  
And that is why  
I want to die,  
Because I lie,

Dissolve to.

CUT: The Palace. Two days later. DAVID has a feast spread before 4  
URIAH. DAVID is ashamed and thus has become devious. WE hear underscoring of,  
"All I want is to Love You."

DAVID

Drink more wine Uriah, for it is the finest of  
all the grape in my entire kingdom! So  
drink up and let us toast the good life!

URIAH

If I drink any more, my good King David, I will become drunk and be of little use to you on the battlefield.

DAVID

Then have some more lamb, the mutton is fit for a King: Forgive me for having little humility, but I am the king as you know and the food is surely delicious. So, eat, drink and be merry!

URIAH

I will try my King, but I don't deserve such a feast, for I am but one of your many warriors who are honored to defend you and our people, G-d's Chosen, the Israelites.

DAVID

And how does the war go, Uriah?

URIAH

It is a battle and I beg you to place me in it's forefront, for with the Lord's help, we shall overcome those Amonites and Israel shall be saved for your children and hopefully mine. I ask you my beloved Father on High to make me a father to my beloved Bathsheba's children.

DAVID

And speaking about your children, my trusted captain and good friend, why don't you go home to your beautiful wife, I believe her name is Bathsheba and lay with her and make a son, who shall be as handsome and as brave as you. For you deserve to be a father.

Underscore ends.

URIAH

There is nothing more that I desire than to  
lay with my most beautiful wife, Bathsheba  
and become a father, but I am sworn to  
allegiance to you and my son will have to  
wait, for the protection of my beloved Israel  
(Sings.)  
supercedes all personal favor.

URIAH

WHY and WHAT?

I don't understand why King David is so  
good to me?  
When, all these years he rarely said hello.  
What is it that this humble man does not  
see?  
What is it that I do not know?

It has been decreed that I must fight for my  
Israel.  
Right now I cannot think of making love.  
The war that I am in the midst of fighting  
feels like hell.  
Protect me my dear Lord above.

What does he want?  
He is condescending.  
I am a fool,  
Who wants to be called Dad.

I have this uneasy feeling inside that  
troubles me so.  
Some thing that this man, does not  
understand.  
I feel I should stay with my beloved wife,  
but I must go.  
I ask Hashem help me act as a man.

What does he want?  
He is condescending.  
I am a fool,  
Who wants to be called Dad.

## URIAH

I thank you for this splendid feast that I did not deserve, my Lord, but I must return to my men that do great battle. I hear them asking where is King David, where is King David; I too have asked the same question.

## DAVID

I know that I should be fighting alongside my trusted warriors, but there are so many problems in my kingdom that need my attention. Please, I beg you, ask my trusted warriors, to forgive me, and I pray daily to G-d for your protection and salvation. Go in His grace my friend and I will see when you return, and with HaShem's benevolence,  
(Lifts wine and toasts.)  
you shall become a proud father. To the proud father!

## URIAH

Exits.)

Until we meet again, my good King.

After a beat, DAVID looks around to make certain URIAH is gone.

## DAVID

I must tell Joab what I demand to be done immediately. He must place Uriah, that unknowing fool in the front line of the fiercest battle and withdraw from, so that Uriah may be struck down and die, and to think Uriah asked to be placed in the forefront of the battle himself. What a self righteous, sanctimonious fool. He must die, I pray that he must die. so that I will not be accused. My reputation must remain intact, for I am the King of Israel!

DAVID gloats.

A week later. DAVID is remorseful as he speaks to G-d and plays harp.

DAVID

In all my troubles, Dear Lord, let me search out and by faith confess and mourn over my sinful causes of them. Let me take every distress as out of Your hand and call on You in time thereof, You may deliver me. Forgive me Adonoi, but here is but a few moments of the 38<sup>th</sup> psalm. "In Your great indignation, O Lord, rebuke me not; Nor, on me lay Your chastening hand, in Your displeasure hot. For in me fast Your arrows stick, Your hand doth press me sore: And in my flesh there is no health, nor soundness any more."

ALL saddened JOAB enters.

JOAB

Forgive me King David, I am sorry to disturb you, but I didn't know you were busy.

DAVID

No, please come in, I, was just reciting the 38<sup>th</sup> psalm, please come in, for I have a feast prepared for you, my trusted Joab.

DAVID dramatically takes JOAB to a table that is set for a king.

DAVID (cont'd)

I have had this feast set for you my dear friend, Joab. Let us eat, drink and make merry.

THEY both sit. DAVID pours wine and they both drink.

JOAB

Why this feast, when I am so burden with grief, my Lord?

DAVID

(Excited and hopeful that Uriah is dead.)  
With grief, with grief? You must tell me about your grief immediately!

JOAB

My heart is saddened.

DAVID

Wonderful and you must tell me how this blessed event of your sadness took fold?

JOAB

The Amonites prevailed and came out against us in the field, but we pressed them as far as the entrance of the gate. Moreover their archers shot at your men from the wall, so some of your servants, warriors, many captains like poor Uriah the Hittite fell dead.

DAVID

Do not let this occurrence displease you for the Lord has a plan for all of us.

(Aside.)

*With Uriah out of the way, my sin will be hidden forever. And after his beautiful Bathsheba finishes mourning her innocuous husband, I shall take her for my bride as it is meant to be and she will soon be in love with me as all my unknowing wives are, for I am the King! The only living person who knows the entire truth and can testify against me is Bathsheba and because she fears me, her silence will enfold for she fears for her life more than anything. And Joab, who also knows of my sin will remain loyal for I will compensate him greatly for his trust.*

JOAB

King David, King David, are you all right? You appeared to be off in another world, it was almost as if you were daydreaming, are you okay, sire?

DAVID

Oh, I was just thinking how magnificent HaShem is: WE don't know what G-d looks like or how big He is. What we do know about *Elohim* comes from the miracles He has created: G-d made every one and every thing, including each and every one of us.

## JOAB

Let us not forget He made order in the world. Because of His desire for order, morning always follows night; we never (Laughs.)  
have three nights in a row, and cats never have dogs.

## DAVID

The world is beautiful because *Adonoi* likes beautiful things. He gives us our homes, our parents, our health and everything we need. He especially gives us the gift of laughter. I (Controls his tears.) am  
blessed because I can laugh at myself, can I not? Now be off with you, and after her week of mourning, and Bathsheba sits *shiva*, bring her to me and I will help her grieve no more.

DAVID and JOAB sing.

## THIS TOO I MUST ABIDE

## JOAB

He prays to G-d.  
And says he is spiritual.  
But he is not spiritual,  
He is the devil in disguise.

## DAVID

He is my friend.  
And I know that he is loyal.  
Because he knows that I am royal.  
He would never betray his king.

## JOAB and DAVID

I have this pain inside.  
Something I cannot hide.  
I have this foolish pride,  
This too I must abide.

## JOAB

And so I sinned.  
King David one day he will pay.  
And, before his hair turneth gray.  
*Hashem*, He always keeps the score.

## DAVID

I have done wrong.  
But *Adonoi*, He forgives all.  
I admit it, please, heed my call.  
I promise to do all You ask.

## JOAB and DAVID

I have this pain inside.  
Something I cannot hide.  
I have this foolish pride,  
This too I must abide.

CUT: Days later - Palace:

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DAVID is in a festive mood, because HE is about to insure his safety by demanding that BATHSHEBA marry him. HE plays His harp as HE tries to communicate with G-d.

## DAVID

When I sing, let my grief and shame call to mind the infernal opposition, I and others have made to our all-compassionate Redeemer. Let me beware of exposing myself to that vengeance, which is laid up in store for His incorrigible enemies. Let me never avenge myself on my injurious neighbors: But amidst all attacks from hell or earth, or from my corrupt heart, let me commit all my concerns to Him who judgeth righteously, that He may bring to pass. In retreat my Lord here is a moment in psalm 35: "Plead Lord, with those that plead, and fight with those that fight with me. Of shield and buckler take Thou hold, stand up mine help to be. Draw also out the spear, and do against them stop the way, that me pursue: unto my soul, I'm thy salvation say."

(MORE)

## DAVID (Cont'd)

I apologize *Adonoi*, but I cannot go any further, for my heart and soul anxiously await my new bride, the ever beautiful, Bathsheba.

JOAB and BATHSHEBA enter and stare at DAVID, who is uncomfortable. There is a pause and JOAB sings.

## SUCH LIES

## JOAB

Here, he is, the Devil in disguise,  
My King who tells such lies.  
That is why I despise,  
My King who tell such lies.

He deceives speaking to *Adonoi*.  
He smiles and gets much joy.  
Deceives using his ploy.  
He's innocent as a boy.

Dear Lord, please protect Bathsheba  
from him.  
What does he want from this poor  
woman?  
He will lead this woman to ruin.  
For, he leads a double life of sin.

He writes his psalms as he confess.  
He prays asks to be blessed,  
For he hath made the mess,  
Which he dare not address.

For the Lord, He knows what we do.  
He seeth who is true.  
Too bad but just a few,  
Will ever taste His dew.

Dear Lord, please protect Bathsheba  
from him.  
What does he want from this poor  
woman?  
He will lead this woman to ruin.  
For, he leads a double life of sin.

DAVID

Bathsheba, how lovely you look my beloved, how are you, gorgeous?

BATHSHEBA

How should I be, I just lost my husband and don't call me your beloved.

DAVID

Yes, I heard and I am truly sorry.

BATHSHEBA

It's your fault that Uriah died. You ordered him to do your battle, to fight the Ammonites up front, which you yourself would not do, you coward!

DAVID

(Looks angrily at Joab.)

Who told you I ordered Uriah to be placed in the front of the battle? Who told you?

BATHSHEBA

Whoever heard of a King, that did not fight with his warriors? And that's why my

(Sobs.)

poor Uriah perished. It's your fault, everything's your fault. I hate you I hate you.

JOAB

You should not hate, Bathsheba. The Lord frowns on those that hate.

BATHSHEBA

And I hate you too, you said you were our friend and look what you did, you put Uriah up front and had my husband killed!

JOAB

Forgive me King David, for I must take leave, for I see I am not wanted.

BATHSHEBA

That's right, get out, damn you and I hope I never see you again.

JOAB bows to DAVID and exits.

DAVID

Would you allow me to say a prayer for your deceased husband, Bathsheba?

BATHSHEBA

(Aware of his deceit.)

Yes, I would like that, King David. Please say a prayer that Uriah may rest in peace.

DAVID pours wine for the both of them.

DAVID

*Boruch ator adonoi elohaynu melech hor olum, borei pre hagarfen.*

BOTH drink entire mug.

DAVID (cont'd)

May he rest in peace and may his soul walk with the angels in heaven, Amen.

BATHSHEBA

Thank you...

WE hear the underscoring of "They all Think I love them," as DAVID caresses BATHSHEBA.

DAVID

I know how distraught you must feel, Bathsheba and my heartaches for you. Let us drink some more wine and please tell me what trials and tribulations you are going through.

BATHSHEBA

I loved Uriah, with all my heart I loved him, oh how I loved him.

DAVID pours more wine and they drink.

DAVID

I know my dearest how much you have loved Uriah. I myself was very close to him and called him my friend.

BATHSHEBA

(Crying.)

He was your friend but I loved him.

DAVID

(Caresses and kisses Bathsheba.)

I know, I know, my sweetheart. Tell me all about it and drink some more wine, it will make you feel better.

BATHSHEBA

Do you think so?

DAVID refills mugs and they both drink again. BATHSHEBA is becoming drunk.

DAVID

Trust me, for I drink everyday to ease the pain. How do you feel my beloved?

BATHSHEBA

Much better, thank you, much better.

DAVID

Come lets have one more sip of wine and you will feel even better.

BATHSHEBA

(Slurs.)

This time fill it all the way to the top, because I want to feel even better, my Lord.

Underscoring is heightened as THEY both drink and BATHSHEBA finishes her entire drink. DAVID leers and smiles evilly.

DAVID

(Caresses BATHSHEBA with much passion.)

Come my beloved, let us both lie down on the sofa and I will make mad and passionate love to you. Do you want to lay with me?

## BATHSHEBA

Yes, I want to lay with you my King. Since  
the first time I saw you looking at me with  
such hunger, I wanted to lay with you.

Underscoring ends, as BATHSHEBA sings.

## I DO NOT LOVE YOU

The moment I saw you leer,  
My heart hath skipped a beat.  
I wanted to draw you near.  
I wanted to feel your heat.

The hunger I had inside.  
And, I did not understand.  
From thee I could not hide  
I wanted to feel thy hand.

I do not love you,  
But how I want you.  
Somehow, I need you,  
Do you need me too?

My King has everything.  
And I who is now without.  
I love when I hear you sing.  
Yet I am filled with much doubt..

Oh how I want to believe.  
Yet I must protect myself.  
I know that you will deceive  
Dear Lord I need You to help.

I do not love you,  
But how I want you.  
Somehow, I need you,  
Do you need me too?

DAVID puts BATHSHEBA on couch and lays upon HER.

CUT: Some time later. DAVID is playing his harp when NATHAN  
appears: perhaps he has a halo to denote he is a prophet.

NATHAN

King David, if it pleases you, may I have a moment of your time?

DAVID

How are you Nathan and what are you doing with the Holy Ark?

NATHAN

I am fine, thank you and I am hoping to build a tabernacle where it will be safe from those heathens, the Amonites and Philistines.

DAVID

(Goes to touch the ark.)

I have always wanted to touch the Holy Ark.

NATHAN

Do not touch it, for he who touches and defames it, will die.

DAVID

(Removes hand.)

I'm sorry, please forgive me.

NATHAN

*Boruch HaShem*, the Good Lord has asked me to speak to you.

DAVID

If *Elohim* has sent you, as always I am humbled by your presence, Nathan. Please speak.

NATHAN

HaShem has asked me to present a parable to you, in hope that you may become enlightened: "There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds, but the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished; and it and it grew up with him and his children."

DAVID

I have much passion for this man who has little and is impoverished.

NATHAN

“The ewe ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him. And the poor traveler came to the rich man in need, and the rich man refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to feed the wayfaring man, but instead he took the poor man’s lamb and prepared it for himself and the hungry man.”

DAVID

(Outraged.)

“As the Lord lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity.”

WE hear the underscoring of “SUCH LIES.”

NATHAN

“You are the man!” Thus says the Lord G-d of Israel: “I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave you your master’s wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. Now, therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, I will even take your wives before your eyes and give them to your companion, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. Indeed you did this thing secretly, but I will do this before all Israel, and under the sun.”

## DAVID

I am the King and the King must admit that I have sinned, what can I do to be forgiven for having had sex with Bathsheba. Nathan, I must admit to you, that having confessed my sins, at last I am relieved and I feel better for I have finally admitted my guilt to the Lord who hears and knows all.

## NATHAN

Fear not King David; because you acknowledged your sin, "The Lord has also taken away your sin and you shall not die."

DAVID gets his harp and plays.

## DAVID

In this moment of asking for my forgiveness, I offer, I believe Psalm 51 to my Lord. It will not be perfect as none of my Psalms are, and my memory at times fails me, for I am moved by my admonition of my sin and seek His forgiveness. "Be gracious to me, O G-d to your loving kindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion, blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For know my transgression, and sin is ever before me. Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

## NATHAN

(Sings.)

## IN SIX DAYS

He created the Earth in six days.  
On the Sabbath he took rest.  
Trust and you must seek out His ways.  
With Him you shall pass His test.

The Lord, He is the ultimate judge.  
Repent and the Lord will hold no grudge.  
He will grant you forgiveness.  
And give comfort to your soul.  
Ask Him and soon He will bless.  
Walk with Him as you grow old.

He created the Earth in six days.  
On the Sabbath he took rest.  
Trust and you must seek out His  
ways.  
With Him you shall pass His test.

Until death when he too will part  
My King David needs a right heart.  
And with kindness he shall live.  
You shall feed the hungry man.  
And all we have we must give.  
The cripple we must help stand.

He created the Earth in six days.  
On the Sabbath he took rest.  
Trust and you must seek out His  
ways.  
With Him you shall pass His test.

Dissolve to.

CUT: 30 years later. DAVID, BATHSHEBA, their three sons, ABSALOM, AMNON, SOLOMON and daughter, LAMAR are sitting around a table, eating and drinking wine. WE hear the underscoring of, "They All Think I love Them." 7

ABSALOM

Bathsheba, why do you look so forlorn?  
What is the matter?

BATHSHEBA

I am sad Absalom, because 30 years ago on  
this day, a son, a beautiful little boy, was  
given to me and your father, was taken by  
the Lord and perished in my arms.

ABSALOM

You had another son? I don't believe it.  
Why didn't you tell us about it, father?

DAVID

Because, to Bathsheba, it is still too painful.

AMNON

What did he die from, father?

ABSALOM

What did he die from and what was his name? How come we never knew his name?

DAVID

We never mention his name because it will always be too painful to recall, and he died because *HaShem* punished me.

TAMARA

How could HaShem punish you, a man who writes Psalms and prays to the Lord?

ABSALOM

Why were you punished father? There must be a reason, isn't there?

DAVID

I'd rather not say.

SOLOMON

Father, you who have taught me to stand before *Elohim* and be honest: I must always speak the truth you have taught me, how can you not share your misfortune with your own children?

DAVID

Only you are so wise Solomon. *Adonoi* punished me because, I am sorry to say, out of lust I impregnated your mother.

ABSALOM

(Laughs.)

As I hear it, you've impregnated half the women in Jerusalem.

SOLOMON

You are so disgusting!

DAVID

I received the most disheartening punishment in my life, because I impregnated your beautiful mother out of wedlock.

ABSALOM

Father, I have told you time and again,  
Bathsheba is not, nor will she ever be my  
mother. My mother is Maachah, daughter of  
Talmi, king of Geshur, who married you  
my father, many years before your mother,  
Solomon, stole my father's admiration from  
her.

SOLOMON

Are you crazy? My father, to this day, loves  
my mother, Bathsheba more than any of his  
multitude of wives, which includes your  
mother, is that not so, father?

DAVID

I love all my wives, including your mother,  
Absalom and your mother, Solomon, and  
your mother, Amnon...

AMNON

...Thank you father...

DAVID

...And, your mother, Tamara.

TAMARA

Thank you father.

BATHSHEBA

Despite that only Solomon is my first born  
true son, I have grown to love all of you.

AMNON

Isn't that wonderful, Tamara? Bathsheba  
loves us all. I just love to love, don't you,  
Tamara?

TAMARA

I guess I do, Amnon, because love is the  
most beautiful emotion HaShem has blessed  
us with.

SOLOMON

Too bad my half brother, Absalom doesn't know what love is or share in your belief, Tamara.

ABSALOM

(Goes to Solomon and grabs him by his shirt.)

What the hell are you talking about Mister Know-it-all? Just because you're so damn smart, which you got from my father, that's right, he was my father before he was your father, and he loves me more, because I'm older than you, and fathers love older sons the most, right father?

DAVID

Please, leave me out of this, my son. I have many, many children, in fact I do not know how many.

BATHSHEBA

Your father has more children and more wives than there are grapes on this table.

AMNON

Do you hear that, Tamara? Our father is a great lover and, and since I'm his son, so am I sexy, so am I. May I pour you some wine, my beloved half sister?

TAMARA

Why thank you handsome and are you really a great lover, Amnon, my beloved half brother?

AMNON

(Pours wine and HE and Tamara drink.)  
I'm our father's son, am I not, and I ask you Bathsheba, is not my half sister, Tamara equal to your breath taking beauty?

BATHSHEBA

Personally, I think she is far more beautiful than I, because I am an old lady and Tamara is only 19.

ABSALOM

(Grabs Amnon by the shirt.)

That's right, *my sister* is only 19 and she's  
your half sister, so, don't get any of your  
perverted ideas you pervert, or I'll kill you!

ALL will stand and sing as if an aside.

LIFE CAN BE HARD

AMNON

Tamara is my half sister.  
And I am her half brother,  
But I lover her.

ABSALOM

And I hate my brother Amnon.  
He's always been a pervert.  
Sister he will hurt.

SOLOMON

I don't understand such anger.  
Why can't they be forgiving?  
Long as we're living.

TAMARA

Are we not one big family?  
And I am sure they do not know,  
Why, why they hate so.

DAVID and BATHSHEBA

We are distraught,  
That our children love not each  
other.  
Have we not taught?  
That we must all love one another.

We pray to G-d.  
Please, grant them pace and serenity.  
Life can be hard,  
Love is all that we ever need.

AMNON

Oh, how I wish that I could change.  
And find the peace that I so need.  
While inside I bleed.

ABSALOM

Since I was born, life's been like hell.  
And nothing ever makes me grin.  
Living is a sin.

SOLOMON

I feel I have always been blessed.  
And, there is nothing that I crave.  
Nothing to be saved.

TAMARA

All I ask for is to be loved.  
To be taken for who I am.  
Just a little lamb.

DAVID and BATHSHEBA

We are distraught,  
That our children love not each  
other.  
Have we not taught?  
That we must all love one another.

We pray to G-d.  
Please, grant them peace and serenity.  
Life can be hard,  
Love is all that we ever need.

BATHSHEBA

Come, since we are all together, let us  
celebrate our good fortune and let us do a  
*hora* together and thank Hashem for us  
being such a close family.

THEY all hold hands, laugh and chant as THEY dance.

CUT: Late at night. TAMARA is sleeping, when she hears a TAMARA'S faint rap on her door and is startled. WE hear underscoring of, "They Think I Love Them."

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TAMARA

Who is it?

AMNON (OS)

It is I, your beloved brother, Amnon. Open up quickly, before anyone hears me.

TAMARA opens door and AMNON enters carrying a jug of wine.

TAMARA

What are you doing here so late and what do you want? I'm sleeping.

AMNON

Shhh, speak not so loud, and I came to wish my beloved half sister a happy birthday.

TAMARA

But we had a party this afternoon, and you wished me happy birthday then.

AMNON

But, because I think so highly of you, I wanted to celebrate your birthday alone, and to do so, I want to drink this bottle of delicious wine that I secretly stole from our father.

TAMARA

Oh, Amnon, I am so tired and it is so late.

AMNON

Just one drink, one little drink, what's the big deal?

AMNON takes out two mugs, pours wine and gives it to TAMARA.

AMNON (cont'd)

Now, shut up and will you drink this please.

TAMARA

Oh, all right.

THEY both drink.

AMNON

Don't take a sip, you're 20 years old, drink the whole thing like me.

TAMARA drinks entire drink.

AMNON (cont'd)

So, how was it?

TAMARA

Not bad, I think I like it.

AMNON

See, when you listen to your big brother,  
good things happen. Now have another little  
taste and wait'll you see how good you feel  
then.

AMNON refills mugs and they both drink it all.

AMNON (cont'd)

Now you're learning. How do you feel,  
sexy?

TAMARA

I feel great, I feel real good. I don't think  
I've ever had two glasses of wine in-a-row?

AMNON hugs TAMARA amorously.

AMNON

Wait, when you have a couple of more  
drinks, wait'll you see how good you feel.

TAMARA

I don't know if I should have anymore,  
because I might do something I might regret.

Kisses TAMARA on the neck and touches her breast.

AMNON

Let me worry about what you might regret,  
will you please?

TAMARA

Amnon, what are you doing? You're my  
brother.

AMNON

Half brother, and I was just touching you, what's the big deal? Anyway, here's some more wine.

TAMARA

I don't think I should, because I feel sort of dizzy.

AMNON

Feeling dizzy is a good sign. Just have one more drink and, here drink this and then we'll talk.

AMNON refills and they both drink. TAMARA starts to laugh and sort of wobbles and AMNON catches her as he feels her ass.

AMNON (cont'd)

Whoa, take it easy, sweetheart. I think you better lie down. Here, let me help you.

Underscoring is heightened. AMNON brings TAMARA to her bed and starts to disrobe her.

TAMARA

(Drunk, she is barely audible.)

Amnon, what are you doing, I am naked, do you want to see me naked?

AMNON starts to get undressed.

AMNON

I do, and I want to kiss your beautiful breasts, oh how I love your breasts, and now, I shall get naked, as I lay with you, I too am naked.

AMNON gets on top of TAMARA and is going to sleep with her, when she starts to fight him off and cry.

TAMARA

Get off of me! How dare you try and sleep with me! I am your sister and brothers do not sleep with their sisters, you pervert!

## AMNON

Just spread your legs and don't tell me about  
brothers sleeping with half sisters! Cain  
slept with all his sisters, Abraham, the father  
of our people, slept with and married his  
niece, remember? It's been going on  
forever, and I saw how you always looked at  
me, with lust, well you tramp, spread your  
legs and start lusting!

CUT: AMNON is grinning, as he beats her and then gets dressed. TAMARA is crying as she lies in bed. AMNON sings. 10

## AMNON

## SEX IS ALWAYS ON MY MIND

My father has a reputation,  
He sweeps women off their feet.  
Well I deserve a salutation,  
For Tara tasted more than sweet.

So what if she is my half sister.  
You don't think that I'll complain.  
I got her drunk then I laid with her.  
Do you think I am to blame?

Sex is always on my mind.  
It's on my mind all the time.  
Wish I could of something else,  
Boy, I sure could use some help.

I hope she doesn't tell anyone.  
If she does, I'll deny it.  
I'll say that I was just having fun.  
And I hope that they buy it.

Sex is always on my mind.  
It's on my mind all the time.  
Wish I could of something else,  
Boy, I sure could use some help.

Sex is always on my mind.  
It's on my mind all the time.  
Wish I could of something else,  
Boy, I sure could use some help.

CUT: Two days later. ALL are present, except for AMNON. THEY feel sorry for TAMARA, who cries throughout.

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ABSALOM

She hasn't stopped crying since that bastard raped and beat her. I ask you father, what shall be my recourse?

SOLOMON

You've always liked being the tough guy, haven't you? What about an eye for an eye, tough guy?

ABSALOM

Are you saying I should rape my own brother, Amnon? I may be crude...

SOLOMON

...Let us not forget evil, Absalom...

ABSALOM

...Perhaps evil, but that would not afford me solace, Solomon. Raping my brother is out of the question. How revolting.

WE hear the underscoring of, "THE LIE."

DAVID

Then what else do you intend doing my son, for I know revenge is your calling, is it not?

ABSALOM

Always father, my first thought is to beat and then kill him, make him suffer as he has made my sister suffer, and with the Lord's help, I will do so.

BATHSHEBA

Absalom, *HaShem* will have nothing to do with murder!

"THE LIE," is heightened.

## ABSALOM

Have you forgotten, what he did to your first son, who you have not forgotten after all these years? Was, it not a punishment to my father for impregnating you, while you were still married to Uriah?

## DAVID

Forgive me, for I have sinned: It was I who got Bathsheba inebriated and took advantage of her and as a punishment for having defiled G-d's ways, my beloved boy was taken from me.

## ABSALOM

Just like what that sonofabitch, Amnon, did  
(Sarcastic.)  
to my sister. What's that saying, "*Like father like son?*" Well, he's certainly like somebody I'm related to, isn't he father?

## SOLOMON

Judge not, nor cast the first stone, Absalom, for we are all not perfect in the eyes of *Elohim*, and all, at one time or another stand guilty before Him.

## ABSALOM

(Jeers.)

Here, here, the loud mouth wise man has spoken! You are so pompous and so holier than thou, that, you make me sick. And stay out of this Mr. Loud Mouth, Tamara's my sister, not yours!

Underscoring ends as TAMARA cries loudly and sings.

## I FEEL DIRTY

## TAMARA

Amnon tried to make me,  
Do what I would not do.  
Then he went and raped me,  
My body's black and blue.

Perhaps I am to blame?  
He said that I eyed him.  
He alone bares the shame,  
For, it is his own sin.

I feel dirty inside.  
Although I tried to bathe.  
My brother has no pride.  
His soul will not be saved.

I know I won't forget,  
The pain that haunts my soul.  
Amnon he has a debt,  
He'll pay 'til he is old.

One day I too shall wed.  
And love forever more.  
That bastard when he's dead,  
Will fin'ly pay his score.

I feel dirty inside.  
Although I tried to bathe.  
My brother has no pride.  
His soul will not be saved.

CUT: Two years later. ABSALOM'S palace. ALL are present except DAVID and BATHSHEBA at AMNON'S birthday. AMNON is uncomfortable, because HE hasn't seen his family for two years because he knows that that TAMARA has told all of his rape and ABSALOM has threatened to kill him.

#### ABSALOM

I thank you all, my beloved family and friends for coming here to celebrate my oldest brother, Amnon's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday with me.

#### JOAB

As your trusted friend and compatriot, Absalom, I am honored to sit before and you and your G-d fearing family on Amnon's birthday. How are you Amnon? I haven't seen you for quite awhile.

WE hear the underscoring of, "THE LIE."

AMNON

I am fine Joab, for I have started a new enterprise in Jerusalem and have been very busy. That is why I have not seen you or my family these past two years, but I have missed all of you.

SOLOMON

We all have missed seeing you my brother, and our father has missed you the most, because you are his eldest son...

TAMARA enters dressed beautifully.

TAMARA

...And I have missed you too, Amnon.

AMNON is shocked to see TAMARA.

AMNON

Tamara, how nice of you to come to my birthday party.

TAMARA

I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

AMNON

Thank you, and I don't think I've ever seen you look more beautiful.

TAMARA

How nice of you to say that, but, looks may be deceiving. May I pour you some wine, my brother?

AMNON

No, I believe I can do it myself.

TAMARA

Oh, but I insist.

Underscoring is heightened as TAMARA comes over to AMNON, pours him some wine, and alluringly whispers, and no one hears them speak.

TAMARA (Cont'd)

I have thought about you since that moment  
we were together. It was the most beautiful  
moment in my life.

AMNON

(Surprised, HE whispers,)

You are more beautiful than ever, and I need  
you and want you desperately, oh how I  
want you Tamara!

ABSALOM

Hey, you have company Amnon, no  
whispering please.

SOLOMON

They are brother and sister and it appears  
they have much to say, is that not so?

TAMARA

More than you'll ever know, Solomon.

ABSALOM

And what deep dark secret have you two  
been whispering about? Are you keeping a  
secret from your brother, Tamara?

(TAMARA sings.)

REVENGE SHALL BE MINE

TAMARA

It's a secret I dare not say.  
We know it will happen today.  
It is true I have felt forlorn,  
But beware of a woman's scorn.

He gloats as if he did no wrong.  
It is I who'll sing the last song.  
For my brother he has a plan.  
It's goodbye to this corrupt man.

Revenge shall be mine.  
I shall feel sublime.  
'Til the end of time.  
I will drink some wine.

As time goes by I shall not fret.  
I'll close my eyes and I'll forget.  
It was just a part of my past.  
It is written, nothing will last.

Revenge shall be mine.  
I shall feel sublime.  
'Til the end of time.  
I will drink some wine.

ABSALOM claps his hands and two servants with swords drawn, menacingly confront, AMNON, who is frightened, because HE knows.

AMNON

Absalom, my beloved brother, what does this mean?

ABSALOM

GUESS, YOU LEECHER!

AMNON

Please, you must forgive me, Tamara, you must forgive, please I beg you, forgive me for I have sinned!

ABSALOM

My trusted servants, you heard what the man said, SHALL WE FORGIVE HIM, BECAUSE HE HAS SINNED? I have a proposal, Amnon.

AMNON

Anything, I will do anything you ask my brother, anything.

ABSALOM

So be it! I shall give you a pillowcase filled with feathers. You shall walk accompanied by my men in the street and wind will blow them. Then you must gather every feather and return them all to me.

AMNON

But, that is impossible, no man can do that.

## ABSALOM

So be it!

ABSALOM claps his hands and the servants kill AMNON and HE falls to the floor as TAMARA, with her foot upon his chest, beaming triumphantly sings refrain of “REVENGE SHALL BE MINE.”

As time goes by I shall not fret.  
I'll close my eyes and I'll forget.  
It was just a part of my past.  
It is written, nothing will last.

Revenge shall be mine.  
I shall feel sublime.  
'Til the end of time.  
I will drink some wine.

CUT: The following week. DAVID is angry because ABSALOM has killed AMNON. HE speaks to G-d asking for forgiveness of his son's transgression.

## DAVID

Let me think how the relenting vengeance of *Boruch HaShem*, the Almighty G-d, overtook His Jewish betrayers and murders; and hath, or will His Heathenish, or other implacable enemies; and of the joy and consolation, which flow through to His chosen friends. If thou wilt allow, me Adonoi, I will try and recite the 40<sup>th</sup> Psalm, in hope that thou wilt forgive my son Absalom for what he hath

(Plays harp and sort of sings.)  
done. “I waited for the Lord my G-d, and patiently did bear; At length to me he did incline my voice and cry to hear. He took me from a fearful pit, and from the miry clay, and on a rock he set my feet, establishing the way...”

ABSALOM enters carrying a knife and realizes he is interrupting DAVID.

ABSALOM

...I am sorry for interrupting you father, but you sent word that I should come immediately.

DAVID

That is quite all right, Absalom. I was just asking the All Mighty to forgive you.

ABSALOM

And what am I to be forgiven for?

DAVID

You have killed your brother, my oldest son Amnon, who I have loved, and you have the audacity to ask what you should be forgiven for? How dare you? If you were not my son, I would have you banished from my kingdom! Given as a gift to those Philistines who crave Jewish blood and let them offer you as a burnt offering to their idols whom they refer to as G-ds, Sati and Atum. I don't even know if they would accept someone as cruel and as vile as you?

ABSALOM

As vile as me, as vile as me? What are you kidding? All I did was give retribution to your oldest son, that bastard for raping my sister, your daughter. How could you close your eyes to such a dastardly act? Death was too easy, I should have cut him into little pieces and fed him to the dogs. And as far as this being your kingdom, I believe it is time you retired. You're an old man, and us Israelites need someone who has vision, you can barely see, you're hard of hearing and you can hardly walk. And I don't know if you know it, how could you? You're always praying to your G-d to know what's going on and I hate to be the bearer of bad tidings, but there is much discontentment among our people, they want a new king, me. I was destined to be king, not your Solomon, who you seem to cherish so much, but me! I (Looks up, and shakes his clenched fist.)

should be king of all of Israel! Dear Lord, I  
demand that you make me king! TELL  
HIM TO MAKE ME KING!

(ABSALOM sings.)

WHAT IS HE DOING HERE?

ABSALOM

He would write Psalms and how that man  
could sing.  
There was a time that he had everything.  
Knew why it rained and why it had to snow.  
Religious man he knew which way to go.

His people loved to when he would talk.  
They would follow him everywhere he'd  
walk.  
They trusted him, for he believed in G-d.  
And he told them nothing would be hard.

But that's when he could see.  
Now his hands seem to shake.  
He doesn't hear so well.  
What is he doing here?

He's not the man that he was meant to be.  
I am a Jew that is meant to be free  
He hasn't had a child in many years.  
And he has said he has cried many tears.

But that's when he could see.  
Now his hands seem to shake.  
He doesn't hear so well.  
What is he doing here?

SOLOMON and JOAB enter, surprised to see ABSALOM.

SOLOMON

Absalom, I am surprised to see you. I  
thought you had run away?

ABSALOM

And why would I run away?

SOLOMON

Did you not kill your brother, Amnon? That is why.

ABSALOM

You once told me an eye for an eye, didn't you loud mouth? Well, that sonofabitch raped my sister and I was just paying him back.

JOAB

But death is so final. Your sister, with *HaShem's* blessing will hopefully recover, but Amnon will no longer breathe.

SOLOMON

Nor will he smell a flower, hear the birds sing, watch the sunset. What you have done is an abomination against all of father's teaching.

ABSALOM

(Clutches knife.)

It certainly was, and I'd do it again. I'd kill anybody that gets in the way of my destiny and my sanity.

SOLOMON

Do you actually feel you are sane? I always thought you were crazy.

ABSALOM

And you better watch it too, loud mouth.

SOLOMON

Why, are you going to kill me too? How will you justify it, how will you explain it?

ABSALOM

I'll tell them that you were driving me crazy, I'll tell them that you always drove me crazy, trying to make me feel that you were smarter, that you were better. You're not better, because I am going to be king one day, because, with Amnon out of the way, I am next in line.

(ALL sing.)

THEY ALWAYS PICK ON ME

DAVID

He says I am to blame.

JOAB

I feel that it's a shame.

SOLOMON

I think he is insane.

DAVID

His hate he has inside.

JOAB

He lives with foolish pride.

DAVID

This is why he must hide.

ABSALOM

They always pick on me.  
They just don't understand.  
Why can't they let me be?  
I am a lonely man.

DAVID

Soon I shall say goodbye.

JOAB

Poor man he, know not why.

SOLOMON

And he too soon will cry.

DAVID

If only he would pray.

JOAB

He would find his way.

SOLOMON

And learn what he must say.

ABSALOM

They always pick on me.  
They just don't understand.  
Why can't they let me be?  
I am a lonely man.

JOAB

Can you tell me something, Absalom? Why  
are you always so angry?

SOLOMON

He is angry, because he frustrated, are you  
not Absalom, are you not?

DAVID

And why, may I ask are you frustrated, my  
son?

ABSALOM

I'm frustrated because of you, old man,  
because of you!

SOLOMON

What are you crazy, what did my father do  
to you?

ABSALOM

You want to know, you really want to  
know? Well, I'll tell you. This old man  
should retire, he should not be king, because  
he can't see, he can't hear, he can't walk and  
do you see how his hands tremble? How  
can he be king, when he cannot function?

SOLOMON

You are so cruel to say that to your father.  
Where is your compassion? He's heard  
every word you just said, you're nothing but  
an animal.

DAVID

I forgive you my son, for I understand your  
turmoil and dissatisfaction with life.

Outraged, ABSALOM pulls out his knife and goes behind DAVID and puts it to 85  
his throat.

ABSALOM

I'll show you how dissatisfied I'm with life,  
you old, hapless king!

ABSALOM raise knife as if to stab DAVID and JOAB, from behind stabs HIM. ALL  
are stunned as ABSALOM falls dead.

SOLOMON

An eye for an eye my father, an eye for an  
eye.

WE hear the underscoring of, "THE LIE."

The End