



That **BESTSELLER**

(A Biblical Musical Farce in One Act)

Book and lyrics by

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Music by

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That **BESTSELLER**

CAST

(ALL characters have undefined age.)

ABIE.....Ancient Jew. Always picks on his brother Leyzer.

LEYZER.....Abie's brother. Hard of hearing, makes up words and says he can see and thus predicts the future.

ANNA.....Abie's wife. Complains that Abie spends all their money on parchment because he is frustrated writer.

RACHEL.....Anna's sister and Leyzer's wife who he says is oversexed.

This play take place 3,000 BC in the desert.



That **BESTSELLER**

🎵 Songs 🎵

WHAT CAN I DO? (Leyzer).....1-1-3

WHAT'S MY DESTINY? (Abie).....1-1-6

MY LUCK YOU ARE MY NEXT OF KIN (Abie).....1-1-7

WHAT'S MY DESTINY (Underscoring).....1-1-9

BESTSELLER (Abie and Leyzer).....1-2-14

IF WE ONLY HAD THE NERVE (Anna and Rachel).....1-2-20

WHAT'S MY DESTINY? (Underscoring).....1-3-22

I'M A LEGMAN (Leyzer).....1-3-23

SUCKLING (Abie).....1-3-26

BESTSELLER (Underscoring).....1-3-27

SCHEMUTZKY (Leyzer).....1-4-32

TWO MORE FUN THAN ONE (Abie and Leyzer).....1-4-35

SOUNDS CRAZY TO ME (Anna and Rachel).....1-5-41

IF WE ONLY HAD THE NERVE (Underscoring).....1-2-43

IF THAT'S THE WAY IT'S MEANT TO BE (All).....1-6-48

BESTSELLER (Underscoring).....1-7-50

CULPRITS (LEYZER and ABIE).....1-7-53

SOUNDS CRAZY TO ME (Underscoring).....1-7-54

HE WANTS TO PLAY SWITCH (All).....1-8-60

GIVE ME A... (Leyzer).....1-9-64

EVERY JEW (All).....1-10-75

That BESTSELLER

ACT I

Scene 1

3,000 BC.

The desert. ABIE and LEYZER are walking, and commiserating.

ABIE

I can't take it anymore Leyzer, your sister in-law, my wife Anna doesn't stop *hocking* me "Get a job, get a job and make some money! All you do is write, write, write, like your brother, who is also a loser like you. Who needs and wants what you and him write, and you know why no one buys what the both of you write? Because it's garbage, its old and dated, and why do you spend every penny we have on parchment when most of them are illiterate like you and can't read? And can you eat parchment, I can't, that's why I refuse to live like a pauper and starve to death another minute, you hear? If you don't start making some money I'm leaving and so is my sister," she screamed.

LEYZER

Oi, I don't believe it, not my Rachel?

ABIE

I don't believe that you don't believe your own brother. What do you think I'm a liar like you? How can you not believe me?

LEYZER

(Sings. 🎵)

I believe you I believe you...

WHAT CAN I DO?

What I don't believe is,
Rachel said the same thing to me
In the same cave we share
Not 10 minutes ago,
She doesn't forego.
Why doesn't she know?

I'm a writer.
 What can I do?
 Not a fighter.
 Who's feeling blue.
 Words are my song.
 Stories I write.
 No, I'm not strong.
 Who wants to fight?

She doesn't understand.
 I write because it's my thing.
 There's a burning fire,
 That haunts my ev'ry dream.
 Fills me with desire.
 I 'd like peaches and cream.

I'm a writer.
 What can I do?
 Not a fighter.
 Who's feeling blue.

Words are my song.
 Stories I write.
 No I'm not strong.
 Who wants to fight?

She also said, unless I start making some money and she starts eating regular like a normal person, a steak, a piece of flanken instead of barley and potatoes all the time, she's leaving me. The two of them, they're like Miss Echo.

ABIE

(Cups hands and makes sound of echo.)

That's Mrs. Echo, they're married to two *schmucks*, us remember? Can't you hear them saying, "*Abie, Leyzer, stop writing and get a job get a job.*" Not only is it revolting, it's disgusting. Who ever heard of working and earning a living did you?

LEYZER

I feel like telling *them* to get a job, let's see how much money they make? We'd probably starve to death depending on them to support us in the style we're accustomed to. Talk is cheap, remember?

ABIE

And what happens if they become writers like us? And they know bigger words than us, remember they have some vocabulary and with them using those big words, think of all the parchment they'll use. Can we afford more parchment, can we?

LEYZER

What a dope I am, I should have listened to you and remained a bachelor I should have listened to you.

ABIE

You, should have listened to me? I should have listened to me. How could I let my own poor baby brother marry Anna's sister? What dopes we are, two brothers that married two sisters are dopes. I knew it didn't sound kosher the night she proposed; I knew it wouldn't work, because Papa also married his first cousin who also proposed to him and did it work, did Mama ever give him a break, did she ever stop *hocking* him? "*Stop writing Hershel, stop writing and get a job.*" And may they rest in peace; is our life any different, do our wives ever stop *hocking* us about getting a job? Like father like son, *nu?*

LEYZER

So, why didn't you stop me instead of telling me to marry Rachel? Because misery loves company, doesn't it, Abie? Why do I listen to you, why do I always do what you tell me you sonofabitch!

ABIE

Because I'm you're older brother, remember?

LEYZER

Must you remind me, oh how I wish I could forget I have an older brother.

ABIE

And you have to listen to me, you'll always have to listen to me, because...

LEYZER

...You're my older brother, you're my older brother so, listen older brother.

ABIE

Are you talking to me?

LEYZER

Of course I'm talking to you! How many older brothers do I have?

ABIE

(Sings. ♪)

Listen kid, unless you want to become a bachelor...

WHAT'S MY DESTINY?

We better do something and fast.
'Cause we're running out of gas.
Our wives will be a thing of the past.
We're about the fall on our ass.

G-d what's my destiny?
I dreamt that I'd be great.
I always feel hungry.
When will eat a steak?

And I gave her ev'rything.
There was a time she made me sing.
She once said I was her king.
A king that has nothing.

G-d what's my destiny?
I dreamt that I'd be great.
I always feel hungry.
When will eat a steak?

I fell in love with Anna.
Who's such a Pollyanna.
She's not asking for manna.
Wants a mushy banana.

G-d what's my destiny?
I dreamt that I'd be great.
I always feel hungry.
When will eat a steak?

LEYZER

And...?

ABIE

And we have to write something that will sell, we gotta make some cash for a change.

LEYZER

I should change, why should I change? Like you I always wear the same thing.

ABIE

You are so deaf, I said change, like write something that will sell for a *change* like a best seller, yeah, a *BESTSELLER!* What an idea!

LEYZER

Who ever heard of a best feller except me? I'm a best feller, ain't I?

ABIE

BESTSELLER, not best feller, bestseller and if we come up with a story, something that everybody wants to know about, they'll tell their friends and their friends will tell their friends and before you know it we'll have a...

LEYZER

...BEST FELLER

ABIE

...A BEST SELLER!

LEYZER

So, err, what's your best feller going to be about, Mr. Know-it-all?

ABIE

Why is it you always leave everything up to me? Can't you come up with something for a change?

LEYZER

Again with the change again with change, I told you I always wear the same thing, the same *schmates* the same rags and so do you. Change yourself and leave me alone, I'm hungry.

ABIE

I mean I introduced you to your wife, Rachel, didn't I, what more do you want from me?

LEYZER

Must you constantly remind me and I suppose you want me to say thank you? Why, I'd like to... I'll give you a change, change yourself you old bastard.

ABIE

(Sings. 🎵)

Still, with the change, huh?

MY LUCK YOU ARE MY NEXT OF KIN

What I want you to do,
Is come up with an idea for a best feller,
Not a best feller, I mean bestseller.
We need something that will sell for a change...

LEYZER

And I am asking you,
That is a weird idea and you're one odd fella.
And what the hell do I need a bestseller?
And as they say you are so strange.

ABIE

We're brothers under the skin.

LEYZER

My luck you are my next of kin.

ABIE

I'd like to bop you in the chin.

LEYZER

You're a has been that didn't win.

ABIE

And where is your respect?
Have you forgotten I am smarter and older?
As for our cave I'm the title holder.
You make me so crazy that I smolder.

LEYZER

I give up, what the heck.
Why is it with me you always have to compete?
What I think is you're full of conceit.
What you need is a good piece of meat.

ABIE

We're brothers under the skin.

LEYZER

My luck you are my next of kin.

ABIE

I'd like to bop you in the chin.

LEYZER

A has been that just didn't win...Fella.

LEYZER

(Thinking.)

Again with a best feller, hmmm, what if we write about Atun and all those Egyptian idols those dopes pray to? Should we tell them there's only one G-d to pray to.

ABIE

What do we know about idols, we're Jews remember, and you're right, we believe in one G-d, *Elohim* and you think those Arabs will ever believe us?

LEYZER

THAT'S IT!

ABIE

What's it what's it?

LEYZER

(Holds brow as if thinking.)

Elohim, Adonoi, G-d! We write a story about how HE created the world! And I predict, if anything it will become a best feller because everybody wants to know about how it all started, don't they...? A best feller is not a bad idea in fact it's hell of an idea.

ABIE

Hey, for a young punk, that's not a bad idea and since when did you start predicting?

LEYZER

Bad idea bad idea, that's a brilliant idea! It's so good I bet it becomes a best feller just

(Snap fingers.)

like I predict. I didn't tell you, but suddenly I get these visions, I see the strangest things that I know will happen in the future, in fact, since it's my prediction, I think I'm going to write the first best feller by none other, than that great writer-predictor of that best feller, Leyzer himself. Yeah, I like the way it sounds, best feller, me, I'm a best feller, and a great writer, Leyzer that best feller is gonna make some cash for a change.

ABIE

Hold on there, Mister, whose idea was it to write a bestseller in the first place?

(WE hear Underscoring throughout of "What's My Destiny?"

LEYZER

But whose idea was it to write about the Big Guy upstairs, and how HE started it all?

ABIE

I think we should collaborate and split the profits. What do you say?

LEYZER

Well...

ABIE

Well my rear end, deal?

LEYZER

Did you say feel? Ya know lately I don't feel so well, but don't tell Rachel, she'll worry.

ABIE

(Lovingly hits Leyzer on the head.)

DEAL! So, since it was your idea to write a bestseller about G-d, how shall WE start it, kid?

LEYZER

I think it should be about how HE started the world. Make a hell of a story.

ABIE

Perfect, you may continue your honor.

LEYZER

How about, in the beginning G-d created up stairs for the good guys and down stairs for the ogres, the badies, just because he felt like it, hey, HE can do anything HE wants, remember, HE'S G-d.

ABIE

Sounds good to me, please continue.

LEYZER

Then G-d said let there be light and there was light all over.

ABIE

Let there be light all over, that's what we could use in our cave, don't you think? A little light, I love it!

LEYZER

...And G-d saw that light was good, and just like that G-d divided the light from the darkness...

ABIE

...And G-d called the light Day and the darkness He called after hours... This, is my best feller I mean bestseller too, remember?

LEYZER

...I like the way after hours sounds and then there was morning, that's got to be day one.

ABIE

And after HE made day and after hours, what about some mountains and the desert, day two?

LEYZER

I thought you'd never ask, exactly. I predict HE made some mountains and the desert, why, I don't know either, ask HIM, HE'S in charge, isn't HE? So leave me alone!

ABIE

You think anyone will believe your predictions Mr. Predictor?

LEYZER

Trust me, when it becomes a best feller they'll all believe it, they have too because how many best fellers are there? Now, wait'll you hear this, why HE put sand on the desert I don't know, and did he make sand, a lot of sand, more sand than anyone would ever need and *feh*, I hate sand, it goes up your nose, in your mouth, in your eyes. Yucky poo, who needs all that *facockte* sand? I give you day two.

ABIE

(Confidant, lovingly hits Leyzer on the head.)

...And G-d called the dry land Sand... Don't you love the way sand sounds?

LEYZER

Of course I do and I wish you'd stop hitting me and the water HE called the sea, don't you like the way sea sounds?

ABIE

I LOVE IT I LOVE IT, WHAT A TEAM WE ARE! EARTH and SAND and SEA:
THEY GO TOGETHER, GORGEOUS!

LEYZER

Please Abie, a little humility. And I will write that *Elohim* will say, "*Let the earth put forth grass, seed producing plants, and fruit trees, each producing its own kind of seed-bearing fruit:*" I just love these predictions, don't you? I didn't know I could predict before. I'm getting hungry from all this fruit. Boy, I could go for a juicy strawberry.

ABIE

(Smiles because he's confidant.)

You're always hungry and G-d saw it was good. So, there was after hours, and there was morning, seed bearing fruit. Not bad for a third day, huh? You got to admit, I know about third days.

LEYZER

Wait, wait, then HE said, “*Let there be a million stars and a million moons that people will dream about,*” and that is how it was.

ABIE

(Lovingly hits Leyzer on the head.)

Are you sure, do you think anyone will believe all of your predictions? To me it sounds like baloney, a little too far fetched if you ask me.

LEYZER

Trust me, once it becomes a best feller, they’ll all believe it, they have too because how many best fellers are there? So there was a million stars and moons, after hours and there was morning, a forth day, *nu?*

ABIE

I think I like it.

LEYZER

Before I’m through, not only will you love it, they’ll all love it. And G-d said, “*Let there be a millions animals, cows, and sheep and monkeys, and crocodiles, and bears, brown bears and polar bears I want all kinds of bears, I like bears and Zebras, all right so I made a mistake with the Zebras, so I made a few stripes, give me a break will you please, I’m not perfect, I’m only G-d,*” HE said, then he made and a platypus, and said, “*Hey I’m in charge, right? So Give me a break.*” Not bad for a fourth day, huh?

ABIE

Boy, with my help, this is going to become some bestseller.

LEYZER

Oh, I thought it was a best feller it’s a Bestseller? Why didn’t you say so in the first place? I like the way Bestseller sounds, don’t you?

ABIE

(Smiles.)

Would I write anything but a bestseller?

LEYZER

Then *Elohim* said, “*Here, throughout the whole earth I am giving you as food every seed-bearing plant and every tree with seed-bearing fruit. And to every wild animal, bird in the air and creature crawling on the earth, in which there is a living soul, I am giving as food every kind of green plant.*” I could go for a nice cucumber can’t you? And that’s how it was. Am I hungry.

ABIE

(Smiles because he's confident, hits Leyzer's head.)

You forgot G-d saw everything that HE had made was very good, including a cucumber. So there was after hours and there was morning and that cucumber, and that has to be day five. I'm hungry too.

LEYZER

Thank you.

ABIE

Don't mention it partner don't mention it.

LEYZER

I won't.

ABIE

Tell you the truth; don't you think even G-d would get a little tired after all that work? I mean, we have to give HIM a break HE'S only human.

LEYZER

You read my mind, all right so HE took a nap on the sixth day.

ABIE

Tell you the truth Leyzer; I could use a nap myself.

LEYZER

All right, since you're my older brother, I won't tell anyone that you took a nap on the sixth day, but you better stop hitting me on the head because I'm getting a headache. Are you ...?

ABIE

...Starving, need you ask? Like you I'm always starving.

End of Scene 1

That **BESTSELLER**

ACT I

Scene 2

That night.

Around a fire, ABIE, LEYZER, ANNA and RACHEL are drinking wine and talking.

ABIE

Anna, sweetheart, you won't believe what I'm writing?

ANNA

Not again, please, not again, and what happened to your hardware business, making axes? Have you forgotten how many axes we have? I want all your *facockte* axes out of my cave! I hate all your axes, everyone!

ABIE

How many trees do you see? That's why I haven't sold an ax. That's why I had to become a writer, remember? Blame it on no trees. And a new bestseller, I'm writing a

(Raises goblet.)

new bestseller, gorgeous, just gorgeous and I say lets drink to my new bestseller, hip, hip hooray! What else are we going to drink to, borsht?

LEYZER

Did I hear you say *YOU* are writing a new bestseller, all by your lonesome, Abie, really, how soon we forget partner.

ABIE

I meant to say that new bestseller that *WE* are writing, right partner? Let's drink to *OUR* new bestseller partner, to our new **BESTSELLER!**

(ABIE and LEYZER drink and sing. 🎶)

BESTSELLER

LEYZER

TO OUR BESTSELLER, HIP, HIP HOORAY!

ANNA

Would you please tell me, what the hell's a bestseller?

ABIE

IN OUR BESTSELLER! G-d made him out of clay.

RACHEL

Did he say HE made him out of clay, *oi vay*.

LEYZER

IN OUR BESTSELLER! It's a happy birthday

ANNA

If you don't stop this then I'll run away.

ABIE

IT'S OUR BESTSELLER! What else can we say.

RACHEL

I think its time I said anchors aweigh.

ANNA and RACHEL

We won't take being hungry anymore.

ABIE and LEYZER

Do you think they appreciate all we gave?

ANNA and RACHEL

Not only do we hate them we abhor.

ABIE and LEYZER

And I thought by now they would behave.

ANNA and RACHEL

And to think that we swore forever more.

ABIE and LEYZER

We don't really think a steak is all they crave.

ANNA and RACHEL

I think its time that we evened the score.

ABIE and LEYZER

If I'm not careful they'll drive me to my grave.

RACHEL

Take your bestseller and shove it.

ABIE

I thought she'd love me forever.

ANNA

Two losers who will never admit.

LEYZER

And she won't admit I'm clever.

RACHEL

That they're nothing but a dimwit.

ABIE

And who wants to live forever.

ANNA and RACHEL

We won't take being hungry anymore.

ABIE and LEYZER

Do you think they appreciate all we gave.

ANNA and RACHEL

Not only do we hate them we abhor.

ABIE and LEYZER

And I thought by now they would behave.

ANNA and RACHEL

And to think that we swore forever more.

ABIE and LEYZER

I don't really think a steak is what they crave.

ANNA and RACHEL

I think its time that we evened the score.

ABIE and LEYZER

If I'm not careful they drive me to my grave.

(ABIE and LEYZER throw goblets in the fire.)

RACHEL

Since those two *schmucks* threw their goblets in the fire, I guess you and me will have to drink the rest of this delicious wine all by our little lonesome, won't we Anna?

ANNA

Would you please tell me, what's a bestseller, before I lose my mind?

ANNA

(Smiles and nods head yes. - To Abie.)

It will be my pleasure, now would you mind telling me what the hell is a bestseller, Abie? He started making up these words like his brother Leyzer, they're like two peas in a pod and I can't stand pods. He takes pleasure in driving me *ga ga*, don't you Abie?

RACHEL

You can't eat words you can't eat words and with all the words he makes up he loves to drive me nuts too, don't you Leyzer? And now you're saying it's a bestseller, *nu*? Once he gets a new word in his head he says it night and day, until it comes out of my ears and I can throw up. Go a head Mr. Lingerie maker who only sold one woolen panty in six years and I bought it like a dope and you know why no one else bought your *facockte* woolen panties, because they itch and don't say it the sheep's fault. Did you ever see a sheep scratch, no, only me. And thanks to you I haven't stopped scratching. And if you say BESTSELLER BESTSELLER BESTSELLER, *oi*, I think I'm going to throw up.

LEYZER

Wait a minute, don't throw up, don't throw up, Abie came up with the BESTSELLER idea, I had nothing to do with it, I didn't know what it was either, so ask my brother and leave me out of it, he made it up, but I wish I did, and don't throw up, when you throw up, I throw up, so please, don't throw up, throwing up makes me nauseous.

(ALL look at ABIE.)

ABIE

Hey, don't throw up, I get nauseous when people throw-up. And a bestseller, is a tome, a manuscript that everyone will be dying to read, because everybody wants to know how HE started it all, right partner? Trust me, they're all dying to know, right Leyzer?

ANNA

HOW WHAT STARTED, WOULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME HOW WHAT STARTED? AND STOP MAKING UP NEW WORDS, YOU'RE NOT YOUR BROTHER, SO, STOP WITH THE NEW ROTTEN WORDS! I HATE EVERY NEW

WORD! NEW ROTTEN WORDS MAKE ME HUNGRY AND I'M STARVING, SO STOP WITH THE NEW ROTTEN WORD!

ABIE

How the world started sweetheart, how the world started. It's about how *Elohim* created the world. Don't you think it's time you and everybody else found out the truth about how it all started? Why should they and you live in the dark? That's why I believe it's my duty to tell the world how and why G-d created the whole *shebang*. Would you let me tell you, sweetheart, don't you want to know?

ANNA

If it has anything to do with your bestseller, forget it, out of the question, absolutely not!

ABIE

Why, don't you want to know where you came from, where we all came from?

ANNA

I came from my mother like you came from your mother, and in case you don't know it, everyone came from their mothers including you, you loser.

ABIE

(Emotional.)

What about the light, sweetheart, don't you want to know where the light came from?

ANNA

The only thing I care about light is I wish we had some light in this rotten cave. I hate every cave because it's so dark in every cave!

ABIE

Tell her what G-d said about the light, Leyzer, maybe she'll finally understand?

LEYZER

In the beginning, *Adonoi* said, "*Let there be light,*" and there was light and it was good.

RACHEL

We could sure use some good light in here, don't you think Anna?

LEYZER

Then he made after hours and day.

RACHEL

Not interested.

LEYZER

Then HE made the mountains and the desert. Why? Don't ask me, ask HIM.

RACHEL

Not interested.

LEYZER

Then HE made fruits and vegetables and lambs and cows. Boy, could I go for something.

RACHEL

So could I, especially a juicy steak, couldn't you Anna?

ANNA

Why taunt me, I don't remember the last time we had a piece of meat to eat, do you?

RACHEL

What's the sense in getting our hopes up, with those two losers, they're useless.

ANNA

First he was in hardware making axes. Didn't sell any, said it was because there wasn't enough trees. Then Mr. Genius became a veterinarian. Said he would fix dogs and cats. When was the last time you saw a dog or a cat? Where does he get these brain storms from?

RACHEL

And my genius one time found a poor crippled bug and tried to fix it and predicted that with G-d's help, in the future, for all computers there will be a bug free world. You know what a *facockte* computer is and with bugs no less? I don't!

RACHEL and ANNA

We're not interested in your meatless bestseller, your bug free world, or your computers, so forget it! And what the hell are computers?!

LEYZER

I PREDICT EVERYONE WILL BE DYING TO READ MY BESTSELLER, EVERYONE! You see I remembered, I didn't call it best feller, Abie.

ABIE

So what do you want a medal you deaf predictor?

LEYZER

IT'S ABOUT HOW *ADONAI* CREATED THE EARTH IN SEVEN DAYS AND SHE'S NOT INTERESTED, *NU?*! Can you believe it, I can't.

ABIE

Not seven, five days Leyzer, remember HE took a nap on the sixth day, how soon we forget. HE took a nap HE took a nap on the sixth day and so did you!

LEYZER

(Smiles and nods to Leyzer.)

Oh yeah, I forgot how tired HE was, that's why everyone is dying to read my bestseller because they want to know how tired HE was when HE created it in five days, right?

RACHEL

Did you just say everyone is dying to read your bestseller? It seems that most of your everyone can't read. Except for us, and the Rabbi, I don't think there are 10 EVERYONES that will be able to read your, what did you call it, a Bestseller?

(Laughs.)

Ha, ha, and I hope your bestseller won't require too much parchment, because if it does, it's either your bestseller or me, and what's your prediction Anna?

ANNA

(Raises goblet and drinks.)

I predict you and I have had enough bad predictions and starving, and living with these two losers long enough, and come to think of it, your father, my Uncle Yunye also tried writing, didn't he, well didn't he and where did it get him? In the poor house and I'm not

(Raise goblet as if to throw.)

going to live in the poor house like your mother did any longer, are you Rachel? Shall we?

RACHEL

Why not, *buhby*?

(RACHEL and ANNA throw goblets in fire.)

RACHEL (cont'd)

That's what I think of your bestseller! Shall we?

ANNA

I predict we shall!

(ANNA and RACHEL sing.)

IF ONLY WE HAD THE NERVE

ANNA

I predict we'll soon leave these two *schmucks*.

RACHEL

And I think these two *schmucks* are merely yuks.

ANNA

Two sitting ducks and all they do is cluck.

RACHEL

As far as I'm concerned both these ducks suck.

ANNA and RACHEL

If only we had the nerve,
We'd leave them.
This marriage we don't deserve,
Its mayhem.
Our life we must preserve,
Or condemn.
We'll eat an hor d'oeuvre in
Bethlehem.

ANNA

I say we pack it up and then lets split.

RACHEL

I've had more than enough of their cesspit.

ANNA

As far as having sex I won't submit.

RACHEL

Take his thing and shove it up his armpit.

ANNA and RACHEL

If only we had the nerve,
We'd leave them.
This marriage we don't deserve,
Its mayhem.
Our life we must preserve,
Or condemn.
We'll eat an hor d'oeuvre in
Bethlehem.

(ANNA and RACHEL exit as ABIE and LEYZER are amazed and remove the goblets from the fire.)

End of Scene 2

That **BESTSELLER**

ACT I

Scene 3

The next day.

LEYZER and ABIE, forlorn are walking in the desert. WE hear Underscoring of “What’s My Destiny?”

ABIE

Can you believe it?

LEYZER

Can you?

ABIE

I asked you first I asked you first and don’t forget I’m your older brother, that’s why I always ask you first *you*...

LEYZER

You know what bothers *me*? Not that Rachel left me, don’t worry she’ll come back, because she loves what I do for her; trust me no man would do, what I do for her, no man, but how can she think that a bestseller comes along everyday, she’s *meshugeh*.

ABIE

You’re telling me, do you know how hard it was, to come up with the idea of a bestseller? It was murder, and don’t forget whose idea it was Mister, it was yours truly.

LEYZER

But whose idea was it to write about G-d and creation, Mister? All those predictions were yours truly, Mister.

ABIE

You, are so pompous, so ungrateful, you’ve always been a braggart, don’t tell me you want, 60, 70% of the profits, you ungrateful chiseler!

LEYZER

No, no 50, 50 is fine, it’s just...

ABIE

...It's just what, tell me it's just what?!

(Underscoring ends.)

LEYZER

(Sings. ♪)

I'M A LEGMAN

I'm a legman.
Go ahead and call me nuts.
I'm a legman.
Don't give me if and or buts.
I'm a leg man.
A leg man, I'm a legman..

I can't sleep without Rachel's leg touching my...
If her leg doesn't touch my, I'd rather die.
And when her leg touches my, well it stands straight up.
I jump on top of her and then I giddy up.

I'm a legman.
Go ahead and call me nuts.
I'm a legman.
I say no if and or buts.
I'm a leg man.
A leg man, I'm a legman..

As soon as Rachel touches my *shmeckle*.
I get so hot I get a freckle.
You know where, it's on my erection.
And she just laughs without objection.

I'm a legman.
Go ahead and call me nuts.
I'm a legman.
I say no if and or buts.
I'm a leg man.
A leg man, I'm a legman..

ABIE

(Endearingly hits Leyzer in the head.)

You, were always a little nuts, but me, I, I miss Anna's juicy, succulent breasts. You're an educated legman, and I'm a breast man, *nu?* You suckle what you want, and I'll suckle what I want, because I love them I just love them! Maybe the right one a little more, because it's gorgeous.

LEYZER

What do you think I don't like Rachel's *buhbies*? I like to imbibe just as much as you, the only thing is Rachel's are not as big or juicy as Anna's, and she always says when I try to cop a little *cuhtchy*, "*Don't they're too sensitive and better I should concentrate on down there where it counts,*" so she pushes my head down you know where.

ABIE

(Surprised.)

How disgusting, she actually wants you to nurture her *schmutzsky* down there, and she really lets you? *Oi*.

LEYZER

She doesn't let me, she makes me suckle night and day, all the time, that's why you don't see me all the time, she, doesn't leave me alone. She thinks that's the only thing I have to do is *cuhtchy* her *schmutzsky*, munch on her crunchy .

ABIE

And...?

LEYZER

So, I munch on her crunchy, what can I do?

ABIE

And...?

LEYZER

Let me tell you, after awhile you get to like anything. What can I do, she says she's the boss, and you know what, she is the boss, since the day we were married she's been the boss.

ABIE

Are you saying that the night you got married...?

LEYZER

...I *cuhtchied*, boy did I *cuhtchy* that *schmutzsky* and I learned to love it, I LOVE IT! We drank a little wine, what little, we drank two jugs and we both got loaded and when I went to make love to her; it was the first night and it was my obligation to consummate our marriage, right? So, to get her started, first, I thought I'd suckle her little breasts, you're lucky, Anna has big breasts. Especially the right one...

ABIE

(Endearingly hits Leyzer in the head.)

...Forget about Anna's big *buhbies*, forget about Anna's big *buhbies*, will you and tell me about the *schmutzsky* down there, I never saw what it looks like, it's always so dark down there, who can see what it looks like? Is it cute?

LEYZER

Rachel said don't, because she has very sensitive *buhbies*...

ABIE

...I know she has sensitive breasts, you just told me you just told me, now tell me about the *schmutzsky* down there, I want to know about DOWN THERE!

LEYZER

Down there, I like down there, sometimes it doesn't look that appetizing, it's not the most beautiful *nosh* to look at, but once you're past the smell you got it licked ...

ABIE

...It's what it's what and what does she do when you're ...?

LEYZER

She does it too, what else should she do, go for a walk?

ABIE

SHE DOES IT TOO SHE DOES IT TOO, *OI, I DON'T BELIEVE IT*, AND HOW DOES IT FEEL? TELL ME G-DDAMNIT!

LEYZER

I love it I love it, and I suckle her and she suckles me and you know what, we both learned to love suckling each other. You, should try it, it's gorgeous

ABIE

You love it you devil you, don't you?

LEYZER

You'd love it too.

ABIE

Tell you the truth and I never thought I would say this, because I'm older and smarter
(Sings. ♪♪)
than you, I was always smarter than you, but I have to admit I'm a little jealous..

SUCKLING

Why didn't you tell me
About the nurturing,
A long time ago?

What's the matter,
You don't want me to have a good time too?
Pitter-patter.
Selfish, it's always about you.

I thought you loved me?
Hey I'd like a suckling too.
And you didn't know?

What's the matter,
You don't want me to have a good time too?
Pitter-patter.
Selfish, it's always about you.

How should I do it?
Come on spill the beans.
I'm getting horny.

What's the matter,
You don't want me to have a good time too?
Pitter-patter.
Selfish, it's always about you.

And don't say screw it.
'Cause we have two queens.
Man you're so corny.

What the matter,
You don't want me to have a good time too?
Pitter-patter.
Selfish, it's always about you.

What's the matter, you don't want me to have a good time like you too?

LEYZER

What do you think you can suckle just like that? You think I knew how to do it just like that? You have to learn, she had to teach me to be very gentle. Stick out your

(Moves lips.)

tongue and *muhgi* your lips like this.

ABIE

(ABIE sticks out his tongue and moves his lips.)

Nu, so?

LEYZER

(Moves lips.)

You got some big tongue, boy, I think you'll be a killer, but the lips, you have to *muhgi* them like your kissing a baby, a delicate flower, a sweet petunia.

(ABIE moves his lips.)

LEYZER (Cont'd)

Much better, much better, and remember, even though you came up with MY bestseller, see, I remembered bestseller, but your tongue has to also be very soft, gentle on that sweet petunia. Now, enough with the *doing it*, we better get back to our bestseller, where were we?

(WE hear Underscoring of "Bestseller" throughout.)

ABIE

(Hits Leyzer on the head.)

I say G-d took a nap, a little snooze, because HE must have been exhausted, and I don't blame HIM, because if you created the whole thing in five days, you'd take a nap too.

LEYZER

(Rubs ear.)

Stop hitting me in the ear, you're giving me a headache, now, I think it's time we talk about how HE came up with the first man, don't you? After all there has to be a first man.

ABIE

Good idea, you may continue.

LEYZER

WHAT?

ABIE

YOU MAY CONTINUE YOU DEAF BASTARD!

LEYZER

BECAUSE YOU KEEP HITTING ME, I THINK I'M GOING DEAF!

ABIE

(Grins.)

WHAT?

LEYZER

Let's see, *Elohim* made water right? Let's say HE sprinkles a few drops, snaps his fingers and *wallah*, Herman appears, I give you Herman, the first man! Great huh?

ABIE

No good, if you want to call him Herman and that's how you want HIM to do it with water, I'm taking my bestseller back and I quit, I'm out.

LEYZER

What do you mean no good, and you're out? You can't quit, we made a deal, we're partners, 50-50 remember, and what's no good?

ABIE

First of all, G-d didn't make the first man out of water, THAT'S REDICULOUS, Mr. **(Rubs brow ala Leyzer and smiles.)**

Genius, this is how HE did it; I predict, see you're not the only seer, HE, picked up some earth, kissed it and breathed life into it and just like that HE made a man from whom we all come from. Now, you see who the real genius is, Mister? Not you, definitely not you.

LEYZER

I think I like it, no I love it I love it.

ABIE

And his name is not Herman, too Jewish, his name has to be Franklin a real *goyishe*, Gentile name, which means honesty, Franklin, a man that honestly honesty cometh frometh, I vote Franklin.

LEYZER

Almost, but no *ceegar*, his name has to be Morris, which will become a name that will live for time and anon, for all ages, Morris. I just like the way it sounds, Morris, don't you?

ABIE

YES, I LOVE THE NAME MORRIS I LOVE MORRIS, PARTNER! Morris, what a beautiful name, now what?

LEYZER

First we have to figure out where Morris is going to live, right?

ABIE

Not in a cave like ours I hope, Morris deserves something better.

LEYZER

Since he's the first man, it has to be the most beautiful place imaginable.

ABIE

Yeah, like a place where everyone wishes they could be, like the most beautiful garden...

LEYZER

...What did you just say?

ABIE

A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN! Are you going deaf?

LEYZER

WHAT?

ABIE

You are going deaf you deaf bastard!

LEYZER

I'm going what?

ABIE

(Rubs head as if predicting the future.)

DEAF, I predict you're going deaf you deaf bastard! What do you think you're the only one that can predict? Now, what shall we call your garden?

LEYZER

What we'll, I'll call it Miami Beach Miami Beach.

ABIE

Miami Beach Miami Beach, what the hell is Miami Beach?

LEYZER

(Rubs head as if predicting the future.)

You may be older but you don't know everything and I predict one-day Miami Beach will be a place where all the *alte cockers*, the old Jews will go to eat, I mean I'm talking

about really eating up a storm and *rocker* in there rocking chair all day. Boy, I could sure go for something to eat too.

ABIE

Now it's Miami Beach, what the hell is going on here, and how many words are you going to make up? And don't tell me you predict, I hate your predictions and all your new words! And stop reminding me how hungry I am damn it, bad enough I know it!

LEYZER

(Rubs head as if predicting the future.)

I predict, one day there will be a card game called pinochle that old Jews will love to play, they'll love it they'll just love it...

ABIE

(Sarcastic.)

...I know, they play Pinochle in Miami Beach of course, but what about that beautiful garden that Morris, that's my name remember for the first man, Morris is my name that is supposed to live in? *Nu*, can't you think of something and some place that's utterly gorgeous, and why do you always leave everything up to me?

LEYZER

To me it has to be the most beautiful, the most gorgeous place imaginable.

ABIE

(Grins.)

What?

LEYZER

IT HAS TO BE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACE IMAGINABLE, WITH TREES AND LOTS OF FRUIT, are you hungry?

ABIE

What the hell are you screaming about, what do you think I'm deaf like you? And of course it has to be the most beautiful place with trees and lots of fruit and, because you're always hungry, and since it's my bestseller I'll call it *Eatin'* in your honor.

LEYZER

...Yeah, the *Garden of Eatin'*, I like how it sounds...

ABIE and LEYZER

... *THE GARDEN OF EATIN'*...! GORGEOUS!

LEYZER

Must you remind me how hungry I am?

ABIE

(Laughs.)

Oh, I'm sorry, *THE GARDEN OF EATIN' THE GARDEN OF EATIN' THE GARDEN OF EATIN'!* Tell me, are you still so hungry? I am.

End of Scene 3

That **BESTSELLER**

Act I

Scene 4

That night.

About to enter Murray's cave, ABIE and LEYZER are reassuring themselves.

ABIE

Any predictions Mr. Predictor, mind telling me what's going to happen that I don't know about? And it better be good.

LEYZER

(Rubs brow as if thinking.)

I predict that Rachel will welcome me with open arms, but you, I'm not so sure about.

ABIE

Why will Rachel welcome you and Anna not me?

LEYZER

I'll tell you something but it's a secret that Rachel told me; She can't live a day without me nurturing her *schmutzsky*, and who nurtures better than me, you, you don't even know how to *do it big shot*.

ABIE

I wish I could ask *Mother Nurture*, maybe she'd tell me? After all, who knows more about nurture than Mother Nurture?

LEYZER

(Rubs brow as if thinking.)

That's Mother Nature not nurture, *putz*. And I predict that Anna's still so annoyed

(Sings. ♪)

because all you do is buy parchment...

SCHMUTZSKY

But if you nurtured her *schmutzsky*,
By giving her a *muhgi*.

In order to be happy,
 A *schmutzsky* needs a *muhgi*.
 And if you sneak a peek?
 At least three, four time a week.
 Yes it's all the technique,
 Just make sure you don't shriek.

When you,
 Kiss it, hug it and love it.
 It's true when you
 Love it, kiss it and hug it,
 She'll love it and love you.

Once you give her that sensation,
 You will end all her frustration.
 You'll get a standing ovation,
 And thank you for that vibration.

You no longer will feel sully.
 You will get out of that gully.
 Then you'll smile and not feel sully.
 I call it the Hully Cully.

When you,
 Kiss it, hug it and love it.
 It's true when you
 Love it, kiss it and hug it.
 She'll love it and love you...

I bet she would forgive and forget and then you could buy all the parchment you want.

(Sings.)

You see, when a woman has a good *muhgi*, nothing bothers her because she *feels* "*She's sittin' on top of the world, just rollin' along and singin' a song.*"

ABIE

You think she'd let me?

LEYZER

The next time you're going to fool around, surprise her, tell her to close her eyes, go down there and start to sop it up, but remember to *muhgi* her *schmutzsky*, munch on her crunchy. A good *muhgi* will do it all the time. Why do you think Rachel will take me back, because I'm so good lucking?

ABIE

(Moves lips.)

Is this how you *muhgi*?

LEYZER

The tongue, don't forget about your *facockte* tongue. *Muhgi* is important but the tongue is what makes them drool, an educated tongue will make them scream with delight all the time. *YA EEEEEEE*, that's how she screams, *YA EEEEEEE*!

ABIE

(Sticks out tongue and wiggles it.)

How's this, educated enough?

LEYZER

You'll learn you might even get a diploma before you're through?

ABIE

What the hell is a diploma? Don't tell me, I don't want to know about your diploma or your future, I'm having a hard time dealing with the present, and why the hell is Anna so annoyed at me? Like me, I'm sure she never dreamed of me munching her crunchy, or heard of a *muhgi*, so why is she so annoyed?

LEYZER

How soon we forget. She blames you because all she eats is barley, potatoes and sometimes an orange if she's lucky. She wishes you'd go back to hardware, she has all your axes; says you waste all her money on parchment, and you know, I think she's right, instead of writing on parchment, why don't you write a paperback?

ABIE

What the hell is a paperback what the hell is a paperback? Where does he get these words from, and why do I listen to this deaf and blind bastard, and what the hell is a paperback, will you tell me what the hell is a paperback?

LEYZER

It's something I saw that they all will read in the future, because its much cheaper than the parchment you use. Alas, my poor brother was born 3,000 years too soon, *nehbok*, what a shame; alas all he needed was a paperback.

ABIE

HOW THE HELL CAN YOU SEE THE FUTURE WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE TEN FEET IN FRONT OF YOUR BIG NOSE? That's why you're always falling. I'll give you the future right up your paperback, or whatever the hell you made up...

LEYZER

...I, am a seer that merely predicts the future, Miami Beach, Pinochle, paperback, remember, and there's more, lots more, but, that's all in the future and that can wait, right now I suggest, instead of writing a paperback, write a parchment-back, it seems more apropos.

ABIE

Parchment-back, paperback, parchment-back, you and your lunatic words are driving me ga ga, *meshugeh*, crazy. What the hell is a paperback; parchment-back will you tell me before I kill you?

(THEY stop in front of MURRAY'S cave.)

LEYZER

Don't kill me because it looks like we finally got to Murray's cave, which is only 20 feet from ours and how did you get him to give it to us?

ABIE

(Sings.)

"*You gotta have friends.*" Hey, I was the one who taught him and you how to write, so, he's paying me back and besides, he went to visit his wife's parents in Jerusalem, and wait'll see you see his cave, a dream come true; he's got all the parchment, ink and quills and goodies you could want, the man has a regular smorgasbord, delicious!

LEYZER

Enough to write our bestseller?

ABIE

Enough to write ten best sellers, he's rich, I mean he and his wife eat lamb chops for breakfast.

LEYZER

I can't wait for that smorgasbord and then I'll start writing my bestseller, I mean OUR bestseller partner, okay?

ABIE

I think you should put quill to parchment as soon as we get there before you forget, that smorgasbord can wait. Can you imagine if you start losing your memory too? Deaf, almost blind and with no memory not only will you forget, you won't see where to lap it up and Rachel will never take you back. Hmmm,

(ABIE and LEYZER sing duet 🎶)

TWO'S MORE FUN THAN ONE

After Rachel throws you out,
 And I don't blame her.
 I assure you there's no doubt,
 It's me she'll prefer.

She'll become my second wife.
 Two's more fun than one.
 A life that's without strife.
 We'll laugh 'cause it's fun.

Since Rachel knows how to suckle.
 She'll teach Anna and she'll chuckle.
 I'll have two wives who will knuckle.
 They'll love me Mr. Swashbuckle.

LEYZER

(Annoyed, sings. ♫)

You are definitely nuts.
 You can't have Anna.
 Why you're nothing but a klutz.
 You're a banana.

I'm ashamed but I hate you.
 We ate the same bread.
 And its me you want to screw.
 Slept in the same bed.

Just because we're still unemployed
 You act just like a mongoloid
 Instead of being a humanoid.
 You make me feel like I'm schizoid.

ABIE

Don't be such a wise guy and lets get to work.

**(Lights flicker and LEYZER and ABIE are in MURRAY'S CAVE.
 LEYZER is writing and ABIE is walking and dictating. A torch is burning.)**

LEYZER

Hey, Murray's cave looks exactly like ours, dark.

ABIE

Ya know what they say, ya seen one cave, ya seen them all.

LEYZER

And what did we call that beautiful garden again?

ABIE

I think you said Miami Beach or Pinochle.

LEYZER

Not Miami Beach, not Pinochle, you think I'm losing my mind, take a look in the water, look at your reflection Mister, and you'll see *YOU* are losing your mind not me. You said Eatin', don't you remember and I thought it was a wonderful name, the Garden of Eatin'. I'd like to go there because I'm always... aren't you?

ABIE

Finished? Yes and I called it the Garden of Eatin', really? I must be a genius.

LEYZER

Yes you did and instead of looking in the water, if I was you, I'd jump in the ocean, bad enough your deaf and almost blind, your...

ABIE

...Wait a minute, you're deaf and almost blind, you're deaf and almost blind, not me!

LEYZER

Really, and you're losing your kabooty and with no kabooty you might as well end it all.

ABIE

KABOOTY! WHAT THE HELL IS KABOOTY AND DON'T TELL ME MY MIND!

LEYZER

Exactly and I wish you would leave me alone and let me work.

(LEYZER writes and ABIE paces. After a beat.)

ABIE

Ya know I was thinking, we can't leave him alone in the Garden of Eatin', he has to have a little action or he'll go crazy like you.

LEYZER

Who'll go crazy if he doesn't have a little action?

ABIE

What did you forget already? Morris, the guy that G-d made from earth, it was your idea dummy, how could you forget?

LEYZER

I got so much on my mind lately, I'm trying to write a bestseller, remember?

ABIE

Really?

LEYZER

But I think you're right, Morris definitely needs a little action, a little *hootchy cootchy*. I know, I'll have the Big Guy, *Adonoi* pick up a little earth, not a lot just a pinch, I'm talking about a handful, breathe into it, kiss it and he'll have a woman just like that, fantastic, huh?

ABIE

Boring, you can't do the same thing twice, G-d is omnipotent, HE can do anything HE wants to, HE'S creative, and can't you come up with a good idea for a change?

LEYZER

Like what, Mr. Know-it-all, like what?

ABIE

Like Morris closes his eyes and goes to sleep, and *Elohim*, using his noodle takes one of Adam's spare toes while he's sleeping; one that he wouldn't miss, that's why we have only five toes, you see the first man had six toes, big ones, but G-d had to take one, can you believe it, I could've had six toes, and HE created a beautiful woman, I mean a knock out, with only five toes, now that's an idea, buster.

LEYZER

That's an idea, you call that an idea? I call that baloney. Do you think anyone would believe such a far-fetched lie about the six toes? Absolutely not! I will not put Morris's spare toes in my best seller. Maybe a little fried liver, but no spare toes.

ABIE

Then I quit, and the idea for a bestseller was mine, so go write a parchment-back and leave me out of it, and put the parchment and quill back where you got them. Murray is my friend and he said I, not you could have anything I want and I want you to get the hell out and I'll eat all the goodies myself, so there.

LEYZER

All right all right, calm down, I'll do it, I'll write that G-d took one of Morris's spares toes, personally I could go for well done spare ribs, and made a gorgeous woman, are you satisfied...?

ABIE

...With juicy, succulent breasts...

LEYZER

Should I call her Anna?

ABIE

No, Leslie.

LEYZER

Who ever heard of a Leslie, what kind of name is Leslie?

ABIE

Leyzer, I'm warning you...?

LEYZER

All right, her name will be Leslie, are you satisfied? But no one will believe it. Who ever heard of a name like Leslie and anyway, what about the goodies? I'm starving.

(ABIE smiles.)

End of Scene 4

That **BESTSELLER**

ACT I

Scene 5

The following day.

ANNA and RACHEL, trying to keep busy and forget about ABIE and LEYZER are making idle chatter.

ANNA

So tell me, do you miss Leyzer?

RACHEL

As much as you miss Abie.

ANNA

That much, huh?

RACHEL

More.

ANNA

Me too.

RACHEL

You know I saw them go into Murray's cave, the one next to ours, should I go and tell them we forgive them?

ANNA

(Looks in fire.)

Too soon, I want him to suffer like he makes me suffer. I see one of them took the goblets out of the fire and cleaned them no less. It's about time they did a little good housekeeping around here. Want a little wine?

RACHEL

Why not, you have something better to do?

(ANNA pours wine and gives mug to RACHEL.)

RACHEL (Cont'd)

Hey, I know what we should do, lets toast to their bestseller, but we won't tell them.

(ANNA and RACHEL drink, laugh and sing. ♫)

SOUNDS CRAZY TO ME

ANNA

He always says how smart he is.
If you ask me he's not a wiz.

RACHEL

And Leyzer who harps and brags.
My luck his penis just sags.

ANNA

And all he does is write write write.
And just in spite we fight fight fight.

RACHEL

And why I ever married him.
To me it's been my biggest sin.

ANNA and RACHEL

Bestseller, sure sounds crazy to me.
Bestseller sounds like something to hate
Bestseller, just what could it be?
Bestseller we must liquidate.

RACHEL

When I ask Abie for money.
All he says is don't be funny.

ANNA

Mama used to say don't trust him.
I'd like to tear him limb from limb.

RACHEL

With Leyzer there's no nobility.
And absolutely no civility.

ANNA

To me he's become a big waste.

As for that steak I'll never taste.

ANNA and RACHEL

Bestseller, sure sounds crazy to me.
Bestseller sounds like something to hate
Bestseller, just what could it be?
Bestseller we must liquidate.

(With trepidation LEYZER and ABIE sneak in.)

LEYZER and ABIE

SURPRISE!

RACHEL and ANNA

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?

LEYZER

I missed you honey, I really did...

ABIE

...And I missed you sweetheart, I really did.

ANNA

(Looks around.)

Am I hearing things, is there an echo in here?

ABIE

Won't you give me another chance, sweetheart?

ANNA

Why should I?

ABIE

Because I love you.

ANNA

Do you love me or are you in the mood for a little action again you sex maniac?

ABIE

Both.

RACHEL

(To Leyzer.)

And you?

LEYZER

(Sticks out and wiggles tongue.)

Need you ask? Don't you miss my *muhgi* just a little, darling?

RACHEL

Need you ask?

(RACHEL embraces LEYZER and THEY kiss. ABIE looks at ANNA.)

ABIE

(To ANNA.)

Need you ask?

(WE hear IF WE ONLY HAD THE NERVE Underscoring. ANNA kisses ABIE who afterwards sticks his tongue out and both ANNA and LEYZER shout, "YES!")

ANNA

What yes, what yes, this animal sticks his big fat tongue out, the one that he slobbers and drools all over me with when he kisses me and you shout yes, *feh* and what's with the yes?

RACHEL

Because that's the start of the...

LEYZER and RACHEL

MUHGI, YESSSSSS!

ANNA

And, will someone please tell me what the hell is a *muhgi*? Is that another one of your words, Abie? If it is a *muhgi* I'm going to murder you!

(RACHEL signals ANNA to come with her and she whispers in ANNA'S Ear. After a beat, ANNA is pleasantly surprised.)

ANNA (Cont'd)

YOU'RE KIDDING WHY THE HELL DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS YEARS AGO? I'D LOVE A *MUHGI*! Do you know how to *muhgi* sweetheart?

ABIE

Need you ask, and would you suckle me?

ANNA

We'll get to the suckling, but would you really give me *muhgi* Abie...?

ABIE

(ABIE moves his lips and wiggles his tongue.)

We'll learn together my beloved, we'll learn together.

LEYZER

And, remember Abie, it's not a leg of lamb you're eating, so be nice and gentle when you munch that crunchy, it's a petunia...

ABIE

I'm telling you, not only is my brother deaf, he's losing his memory and I know it's not a leg of lamb, not that I can remember eating one, but you forgot gentle and delicate, gentle and delicate like kissing a baby and flower, and you forgot it's a sweet Petunia, dummy?

ANNA

Do you really know how to do it Abie?

LEYZER

Forget about that loser, I'm your brother in-law, and we're related, right, and you know how much I love you Anna, I've always loved you, so, until this *yutz* learns, and it will probably take him a long time because he's such a slow learner, I'll show you and it will be my pleasure. What can I do, I'm a dedicated teacher and there's no one I'd

(Whispers to Anna and SHE shakes her breasts and smiles.)

rather teach than you, my beloved sister-in-law, because you got some pair of *knockers*.

ABIE

And if that rat bastard shows your sister Rachel, and you know how crazy I am about

(Sticks out tongue and moves lips.)

you, would you teach me? Look, I can do it; all I need is a little practice, look I can do it. Teach me how to *muhgi*, how to suckle, how to munch the crunchy, is that asking so much Rachel? Please, pretty please...

(ALL have quizzical looks, should they or shouldn't they play switch?)

End of Scene 5

That **BESTSELLER**

ACT I

Scene 6

**The following day.
Cave.**

**ABIE is pursuing RACHEL who is
annoyed, and pushing him away.**

RACHEL

Will you stop touching me? You sex maniac!

ABIE

Not that I saw him because it's so dark in here, but didn't you hear how they both were screaming and laughing?

RACHEL

Must you remind me?

ABIE

If he munched her crunchy and if he... I'll kill him.

RACHEL

Knowing him he more than nurtured her, and I say lets kill them both!

(Other side of cave. ANNA is coming on to LEYZER.)

LEYZER

Nu, so how was it?

ANNA

Fantastic! Would you do it again?

LEYZER

I thought you'd never ask.

ANNA

(Sings. ♪)

RIGHT NOW! Start imbibing, if you so please. *"Love is lovelier, the second time around."*

LEYZER

You know what your sister says, don't you?

ANNA

Do tell.

LEYZER

A *muhgi* a day will keep the doctor away.

ANNA

A *muhgi* a day will keep the doctor away A *muhgi* a day will keep the doctor away. I

(Loud.)

love it! HEY RACHEL, WOULD YOU PLEASE TAKE A WALK?

LEYZER

YOU TOO ABIE, WOULD YOU PLEASE TAKE A WALK?

ABIE AND RACHEL

WHY THE HELL SHOULD I TAKE A WALK?

ANNA AND LEYZER

BECAUSE WE WANT TO BE ALONE!

ABIE AND RACHEL

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE ALONE?

ANNA AND LEYZER

WE DON'T WANT YOU TO HEAR!!!

ABIE

(To Rachel.)

Do you think he...?

RACHEL

Knowing that sex maniac, I bet he hasn't stopped imbibing her *schmutzsky*.

ABIE

(Loud.)

DID YOU...?

RACHEL

(Loud, almost singing.)

BOY DID HE AND DID HE DO IT GOOD!

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That BESTSELLER

1-1-47

ANNA

HOW GOOD...?

RACHEL

(Loud, almost singing.)

YOU KNOW!

ABIE AND RACHEL

I say we kill them.

(ABIE AND RACHEL race to other side of cave and confront LEYZER and RACHEL.)

ABIE

How could you?

LEYZER

How could I what?

ABIE

Make love to my wife, you sonofabitch?!

LEYZER

I didn't make love to your wife, would I do that?

ABIE

You didn't?

ANNA

Absolutely not! All he did was... Would you please tell them Leyzer?

LEYZER

All I did was suckle her, what's the big deal...?

ANNA

...That's all he did and boy did he. We didn't do IT, we didn't *schtup*, who wanted too? That would be cheating and do you think I would ever cheat on you, Abie.

ABIE

(Happy.)

He didn't *schtup* her he didn't he didn't do IT he didn't *schtup* her, you hear Rachel?

RACHEL

But I'm sure he gave her a *muhgi* and to me that's worse than *schtuping*.

ANNA

And why is that?

RACHEL

Because as far as I'm concerned, Leyzer's *schtuping* wasn't such a big deal, but his giving me a *muhgi* was the only reason I stayed with him this long.

ANNA

And I can see why.

(THEY sing. ♪)

IF THAT'S THE WAY IT'S MEANT TO BE

LEYZER

We're two brothers,
Who always share.
We're two brothers,
That really care.

ABIE

Leyzer predicts,
I'm telling you.
He makes me sick,
Thought he would screw.

LEYZER and ABIE

If that's the way it's meant to be.
Let's keep it in the family.
Yes all is fair in love and war.

LEYZER

I won't tell you.

ABIE

I won't keep score.

RACHEL

We're two sisters,
Who always care.
We're two sisters,
That really care.

ANNA

Rachel would smile,
I didn't know.
And now I smile,
Because I know..

ANNA and RACHEL

If that's the way it's meant to be.
Let's keep it in the family.
Yes all is fair in love and war.

RACHEL

I won't tell you.

ANNA

I won't keep score.

ANNA, ABIE, RACHEL and LEYZER

If that's the way it's meant to be.
Let's keep it in the family.
Yes all is fair in love and war.

RACHEL and ANNA

I won't tell you.

ABIE and LEYZER

I won't keep score.

End of Scene 6

That **BESTSELLER**

ACT I

Scene 7

In Murray's cave.

There is silence and LEYZER speaks.

LEYZER

I'm going bananas. This silence is driving me crazy. Are you ever going to talk to me?

ABIE

Never.

LEYZER

Why, because I gave Anna a *muhgi*?

ABIE

You bastard and she liked it!

LEYZER

Well, why don't you give her one?

ABIE

I did, but she said you did it better.

LEYZER

Stop being such a cry baby will you? Give it time; remember practice makes perfect.

ABIE

Are you saying the more I do it the better I'll get? Will I get as good as you?

LEYZER

Treat it as a sweet petunia and she'll love it.

(LEYZER looks at the parchment. WE hear the Underscoring of "BESTSELLER," throughout.)

ABIE

Nu, MR. Predictor, stop with your shitty, *facockte* petunias, stop wasting time, stop reading and start predicting, G-ddamnit, what the hell did I make you a partner for, my health? Tell me what's next?

LEYZER

Sex, whose talking about sex, I'm talking about our award winning, international bestseller and this *meschugeneh* bastard is still talking about sex, *nu*?

ABIE

I DIDN'T SAY SEX, I SAID NEXT, NOT SEX NOT SEX, NEXT, WHAT'S NEXT IN OUR STORY YOU DEAF BASTARD!

LEYZER

Why didn't you say what's next in the first place? And give me a break will you please? Can't you see I'm thinking, what do you think it's easy thinking on an empty stomach?

(Looking at parchment.)

Are you hungry, I could go for a mushy banana. Oh, I see I made a little boo boo, a slight misnomer, no big deal; before HE took Morris's spare toe, gee I wish I had six toes, don't you? and you made your *facockte* Leslie, can't you change her name, please? I see there was no burning bush yet, but give it time, no fruit, no trees, nothing on Earth except earth and G-d suddenly came up with one of HIS brilliant ideas, I mean the GUY always knows what we need, don't HE? I mean, G-d saw they could us a little *spritz*, so, HE gave a *blooz*, HE sneezed and did it start to rain, I mean it started raining like cats and dogs and soon, as I predicted everything started to grow, I mean everything, apples and oranges, watermelons, tomatoes and string beans and carrots, you name it and especially trees, you should have seen those trees, big ones that could knock your eyes out, what a guy.

ABIE

Trees are good trees are good, please continue.

LEYZER

Then HE said, "*Remember after you cultivate from what hath been giveth to thee so freely, thou may eat from everything given except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, that's in the center of my garden.*"

ABIE

Why, what's so special about a tree in the center of the garden?

LEYZER

Stop interrupting and I'll tell you. And what do you want from me? That's what G-d said, not me, "*Remembereth, you are not allowed to eat from the tree in the center of my garden, for on the day thou do, it will become certain that thou will die*" and don't forget!

ABIE

And because they ate from HIS *facockte* tree they have to die, isn't that a little ridiculous? I mean who's going to believe such a cockamamie story?

LEYZER

I told you stop interrupting me, how many times do I have to tell you, and then, oh yeah, now I got it, THAT'S when HE made your Leslie, yeah, not before. Hey, I made a little mistake, no big deal, don't tell anybody, I'm not perfect, are you? And I'm making it up, what do you want? And maybe they should both be naked? Yeah I like naked, after all, there was no Bloomingdales yet. You don't know it, but I could have lived forever if they heeded the Big Guy.

ABIE

BLOOMINGDALES, WHAT THE HELL DOES BLOOMINGDALES HAVE TO DO WITH THE GARDEN OF EATIN'? WHERE DO YOU GET ALL THESE WORDS FROM AND WHAT THE HELL IS BLOOMINGDALES ANYWAY?

LEYZER

Oh, one day that will be a hell of a store where everybody and anybody that has some cash will shop and buy clothes and *ala schvartz yor*, everything you could think of, because your Leslie didn't have a stitch of clothing on, I mean I see her as completely naked, you should see what a pair of *knockers she* has and so did Morris, and was he crazy about her big *buhbis*, I think I just discovered the original suckler, *nu?* I bet that's where, we get suckling from? Go know.

ABIE

I guess that's where we all get it from and are you telling me you have to rewrite it? What do you think parchment grows on trees, dummy?

(Underscoring ends.)

LEYZER

Talking about trees, I just got an idea, what an idea. Remember when I said *Adonoi* told Morris not to eat from HIS tree of knowledge of good and evil or he will die? Well, in my bestseller, your Leslie never heard him and that's where their troubles, their *tsores*

begins. She will be the culprit, there's always culprit isn't there and she's the original one.

ABIE

Talk about culprits?

LEYZER

You mean like who threw us out, Rachel and Anna and where did they come from, from your Leslie, the original culprit that G-d created in the beginning, remember?

(LEYZER and ABIE sing.)

ABIE and LEYZER

CULPRITS

Back in the beginning,
His hair wasn't thinning.
Morris was the first guy.
And he looked to the sky.
When Leslie shook her hips.
And kissed him on the lips.
Nothing would be the same.
Now you know who to blame.

ABIE

Culprits, that's who they are.
With Rachel and Anna we won't go far.

LEYZER

Could have been an all star.
They're all waiting to read my memoir.

ABIE

Leyzer we have to write,
How G-d separated morning from night.

LEYZER

That was on the first day,
And there's so much more we have to say.

ABIE and LEYZER

Back in the beginning,
His hair wasn't thinning.
Morris looked to the sky.
Morris was the first guy.
When Leslie shook her hips.
And kissed him on the lips.
Nothing would be the same.
Now you know who to blame.

ABIE

Wait a minute, hold your horses, you said YOUR bestseller, I thought we were partners and it was OUR bestseller OUR bestseller and since WE'RE making this story up, why give Morris or Leslie any *tsores* at all, what do they need all that trouble for, they're in the Garden of Eatin', why should they have any problems when they have so much food to eat?

(WE hear SOUNDS CRAZY TO ME Underscoring throughout.)

LEYZER

Because I never promised you or them a rose garden, did I? And as we both know, no matter who you are, there's always a problem, a little snag, a character defect that we all suffer from; greed and lust and larceny and not listening and doing what G-d wants us to do is where all their *tsores* emanated from. I want the world to know and identify with who they come from and if Morris and your Leslie, you're sure you don't want to change her name, if they committed a sin and if we get them to ask for forgiveness, maybe they'll all ask for forgiveness like Morris and Leslie will? They made a boo boo and they have to say they're sorry and so does Rachel and Anna, that's it!

ABIE

Since when did you become such a philosopher?

(LEYZER smiles.)

ABIE (Cont'd)

All right all right get on with your story.

LEYZER

Now, the monkey was craftier than any wild animal which G-d, *Adonoi* had made.

ABIE

Wait a minute, where the hell did this monkey come from. Two minutes ago there was no monkey, what kind of monkey? Where do you get all these monkeys from?

LEYZER

HE, made him, I had nothing to do with that monkey? Do I like monkeys; did you ever see me with a monkey? Don't be ridiculous and stop interrupting me, this is how the story goes. I predict not only will you, but they'll all love it. Somebody in the future and I'm not saying when will say, "*Lead me not unto temptation,*" and something else I'm sure will follow. Then the Big Guy wanted to see how much temptation they could take, so HE got this monkey to tempt Leslie. I know you're going to ask me who is this monkey and I'll tell you, that monkey is one of the devil's cohorts, a regular *momza* bastard.

ABIE

All right all right get on with your *momza* monkey bastard, G-ddamnit, I'm starving!

LEYZER

So that monkey says to your Leslie, "*Did your G-d really say to Morris you can't eat from any tree in this Garden of Eatin'?*" that's ridiculous. "*No, we may eat fruit from any of the trees except the tree in the middle of the garden, and if we do, we will die and I don't want to die, I don't,*" Leslie cried and the monkey says, "*Boy is your G-d selfish, he you gives all the rotten fruit, but the most delicious apples HE keeps for himself.*"

(Picks apple from tree and eats it.)

Come on, take a bite, HE won't know, there's so many apples, millions of them, do you think he'll know that one little apple is missing? And you know why HE doesn't want you to eat HIS apple don't you? He said it was from the tree of knowledge, right, well, he doesn't want you to be as smart as HIM, HE doesn't want anybody to be as smart as him, the MAN'S an ego maniac. Come on, be smart and take a bite, it's delicious and then I'd give a couple to your husband. Don't you want him to be as smart as you, gorgeous?"

ABLE

What a cockamamie story. I hate to say this but you are out of your mind!

LEYZER

Blind, blind I'm not blind. First you call me deaf and now you call me blind? Can YOU see into the future, can you predict, I'm not blind, you're blind you blind bastard.

ABIE

All right so you're not blind but you're definitely deaf, please continue with your rotten monkey, that *momza* bastard.

LEYZER

Never mind the monkey, G-d said to your Leslie, "*Because you ate from my tree, I will greatly increase your pain when you bear children in childbirth. You will bring forth*

children in pain and to you Morris, because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree from which I forbade you, you will work hard and tedious to produce the food you must eat. You will eat bread by the sweat of your forehead till you return to the ground, for you were taken from it: you are dust and you will return to dust. So be it."

ABIE

I have to tell you, you are the greatest predictor I ever met, that's a hell of a story.

LEYZER

You think I'm something, I predict in about the year 1400 or so, take a few years, in a place called France, you can't trust those French, too finicky, he was he fat, a blimp and you know why he was so fat? Fatso didn't stop eating. I think his name was Costradamus, no... Hostradamus, no... Postradamus, no... Nostradamus, that fat bastard Nostradamus will out predict me, can you believe it, that sonofabitch will out predict me and he will become famous no less, is that fair, and do you think anyone will remember my name, Leyzer, the original predictor?

ABIE

Or mine and what did you say his name was again?

LEYZER

Nostradamus and was he fat, a regular blimp.

ABIE

Must you always repeat yourself? You said that already you said that already, Postradamus! What a rotten name! Postradamus is worse than Leslie!

End of Scene 6

That **BESTSELLER**

ACT I

Scene 8

A while later.

MURRAY'S cave, **ABIE** and **LEYZER** are pacing and trying to think of what is next.

ABIE

Nu?

LEYZER

Nu yourself *nu* yourself. Leave me alone with your *facockte nus*. I hate every *nu* in the world especially your *nus, nu?*” And did you...?

ABIE

She said it was a little better. I told her I wouldn't stop trying until I did it as good as you.

LEYZER

So what did she say?

ABIE

What say? She pushed my head down there and made me try again. Enough with the petunias. What's next what's next on the agenda G-ddamnit what's next? I don't have all day, you know I'm a busy man, what's next?

LEYZER

Again with the sex, can't you think of anything else but sex? What is it with this guy, all he thinks of is sex sex sex, what are you a sex maniac you sex maniac?

ABIE

(Remorseful.)

Some sex maniac, how can I think of sex when my Anna is there and I'm here, but since you told me about suckling down there. Why did you tell me why did you tell me why did you wet my whistle? Now that I've tried it, all I've been thinking about night and day night is nurturing, suckling, sopping it up and lapping up a *schmutzsky*, and it's driving me crazy. I'm dying to give her a suckle, I have to give her a good *muhgi* and I

want it too, ya know what I'm talking about, I want to hear her scream for a change, what I don't deserve a good scream, I'm not as good as you? I'm older than you Leyzer, why can't I enjoy a good scream like you once in a while? Why don't I know how, what's wrong with me, will you tell me why don't I know how? You think that maybe you could ask Rachel to teach me I'm your oldest brother ain't I?

LEYZER

You're my oldest brother and Rachel's my only wife, so teach yourself and forget it...!

ABIE

...Yes your only brother and her brother in-law, we're family right and I want to keep it in the family, is that asking so much? One, two, three times tops, you know what a fast

(Snaps fingers.)

learner I am and I bet I learn just like that and then I'll give her back to you, I promise, what's the big deal, One, two, three times tops. You did it to my Anna, why can't I at least do it to Rachel. What are you afraid of, that she'll like how I do it better than you?

LEYZER

What are you crazy, do you think she would let you who is just a pipsqueak? and you don't know how, remember, you don't know how. But I do and I'm surprised that a

(Sticks tongue out.)

man your age doesn't know how, shame on you. You see this tongue, educated, a genius

(Moves lips.)

tongue and you see how I *muhgi* the *schmutzsky*, are you watching are you watching you blind bastard? Rachel goes for pros, I'm a pro, why do think she's laps it up and you're a, what are you, would you tell me?

ABIE

No comment.

LEYZER

Ya know, with all your *muhgying* and suckling, munching the crunchy down there, I think I'm in the mood for a little action.

ABIE

Now you know how I feel.

(ANNA and RIVKA sneak in MURRAY'S cave.)

ANNA and RIVKA

SURPRISE!

LEYZER and ABIE

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?

ANNA

(To Abie.)

I missed you honey, I really did...

RACHEL

(To Leyzer.)

...And I missed you sweetheart, I really did.

ABIE

(Looks around.)

Am I hearing things, is there an echo in here?

ANNA

Won't you give me another chance, sweetheart?

ABIE

Why should I?

ANNA

Because I love you.

ABIE

Do you love me or are you in the mood for a little action again you sex maniac?

ANNA

Both, and to tell you the truth, I like kissing you more than your brother..

LEYZER

(To Rachel.)

And you?

RACHEL

(Sticks out and wiggles tongue.)

Need you ask, don't you miss my nurturing just a little, darling?

LEYZER

Need you ask?

(LEYZER embraces RACHEL and THEY kiss. ANNA looks at ABIE.)

ANNA

(To ABIE.)

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That BESTSELLER

1-1-60

Need you ask?

(THEY ALL kiss and shout, "YES!")

RACHEL and ANNA

(Very sexy.)

We brought some wine...

ABIE and LEYZER

For us?

RACHEL and ANNA

(Very sexy almost singing. ♪)

Yes, for *youuuuuuuu*.

ABIE and LEYZER

(Very sexy almost singing. ♪)

Really, are you in the *moooooood*?

RACHEL

Why don't we go to our cave and we'll suckle a little.

(ABIE jumps up and takes RACHEL'S hand.)

ABIE

I never thought you would ask. I'd love to suckle with you, sweetheart.

RACHEL

(Sort of laughs.)

Not you, my husband Leyzer, you're crazy, not you Abie, you're a pip squeak.

ABIE

Why not, just one time. Anna wants me to do it as good as Leyzer and who taught

(Sings. ♪)

Leyzer? YOU! "*Teach me tonight...*"

(ALL sing. ♪)

HE WANTS TO PLAY SWITCH

LEYZER

He wants to play switch with my wife.

RACHEL

Hmm, giving Abie a tumble.

ABIE

Too bad we only have one life.

ANNA

I'd teach him how not to fumble.

ABIE

We're brothers and partners aren't we supposed to share?

LEYZER

With you I've shared ev'rything but my wife better beware.

ANNA

You know Rachel it just might be fun for a change, who'd know?

RACHEL

With Leyzer I might be in the mood to put on a show.

LEYZER

He wants to play switch with my wife.

RACHEL

Hmm, giving Abie a tumble.

ABIE

Too bad we only have one life.

ANNA

I'd teach him how not to fumble.

LEYZER

He's jealous sweetheart, in a moment of weakness I told him about our wedding night.

RACHEL

Not about that first *muhgi* on our wedding night, you didn't?

LEYZER

And he's dying to learn, aren't you?

ABIE

YESSSSS! I WANT TO LEARN!

ANNA

(To Abie, sexy.)

Well, why didn't you say so big boy. Lets leave these two lovebirds and follow me into my cave and I'll give you a few lessons. Before we go, stick out you tongue.

(Grinning, ABIE sticks out his tongue and moves his lips.)

ANNA (cont'd)

I think you'll do just fine handsome, and away we go.

End of Scene 7

That BESTSELLER**ACT I****Scene 9**

The next day.

ABIE and LEYZER are walking in the desert and very content.

ABIE

I have to thank you kid, suckling a *schmutzsky* down there is the most exciting, the most fulfilling, the most rewarding experience I ever had and I can't wait to do it again. I love it I just love it and Anna said, as long as I keep *muhgying* her, I can buy all the parchment I want, can you believe it and she said soon as she stops smiling she's going to

(Sings. ♪)

read our bestseller. "*Isn't it romantic?*" it's like magic just like magic.

LEYZER

Tragic, what the hell's so tragic, I thought you said she liked the way you gave her a *muhgi*. You didn't do what I told you did you? You never listen because you're a Mr. Know-it-all who never listens to me and I'm the dope that always listens to you. Ever ask yourself why Rachel never said it was tragic to me, in fact she always says it's *magic*. Are you sure you kissed *IT* like a baby, like a flower, like a sweet Petunia?

(ABIE sticks tongue out, moves lips and smiles.)

LEYZER (cont'd)

Not bad, not bad for a beginner, so tell me why did she call it so tragic?

ABIE

I said magic, magic not tragic you deaf bastard, magic!

LEYZER

Listen, maybe after you learn she'll get to like it like my Rachel and tell me, did you like

(Sings. ♪)

the suckling, wasn't it wonderful ...? Now that's magic.

GIVE ME A...

Give me a suckle all the time,
And I'm happy.
With a *muhgi* I'm more than fine
I'm slap-happy.

You can keep all your lamb and steak,
Just give me sex.
I feel like a king I feel great,
That's my reflex.

Is that asking so much,
Kissing her down below?
That's what I want to touch.
That's where I want go.
Kissing her down below.
Is that asking so much?

So dark I felt my way around.
I couldn't see.
Down there I didn't make a sound.
I made whoopee.

As far as the smell what the hell.
Next time perfume.
So hot that I wanted to yell.
Va va va voom.

Is that asking so much,
Kissing her down below?
That's what I want to touch.
That's where I want go.
Kissing her down below.
Is that asking so much?

ABIE

That's the best part. Going down is not my favorite thing, because its so dark down there, but I found my way, I groped a little but I managed to find my way, and don't worry, when she started to moan it was like music to my ears. I mean she was moaning and groaning with delight, I love it I love it, don't stop I love it and when she screamed, I got so frightened that I screamed too, I must have woken up the whole neighborhood.

(MY LUCK YOU'RE MY NEXT OF KIN, *Underscoring throughout.*)

LEYZER

We were on the other side of the cave when we heard the both of you scream, even though we knew what you were doing it, we already did it, and when you screamed we screamed too and then Izzy and Rivka in two caves down started screaming and then Eddie and Sylvie started screaming and before long, the whole G-d damn neighborhood was screaming, and then Rachel who couldn't stand all that tumult screamed "*shut the hell up, stop all that tumult I'm trying to sleep,*" and the screaming stopped except for you and Anna. Why did the both of you keep screaming so much?

ABIE

It was the first time it was the first time, and of course I screamed, I just got... what should I have done, take a crap?

LEYZER

A nap a nap, why should I take a nap, it was the afternoon and I wasn't tired! G-d takes a nap on the sixth day, what dope takes a nap in the afternoon?

ABIE

I give up, I just can't take it, instead of you going to take a nap and where are you going to sleep, in the middle of the desert, next to a smelly, *faschtunkeneh* camel? Instead of sleeping next to that *faschtunkeneh* camel, why don't you try to think of what's next and don't say sex, please don't say sex, I said next.

LEYZER

All right where were we?

ABIE

Morris and Leslie were in the *Garden of Eatin'*, don't you just love that name and remember I thought of it, the *Garden of Eatin'* and after they ate the forbidden fruit and G-d told them they would eventually die. Can you imagine? If it wasn't for them I could've lived forever. Now you go Mr. Predictor, start predicting G-ddamnit, I haven't got all day, start predicting and make it good.

LEYZER

You forgot that they were the original sucklers and I say they got married and had a son.

ABIE

Good idea, keep going and what do they should call their son, Mr. Genius?

LEYZER

Wayne Newton.

ABIE

Wayne Newton, what kind of name is Wayne Newton?

LEYZER

Bobby Darin

ABIE

Bobby Darin, where do you come up with these names? You're crazy you know you're crazy you crazy bastard?

LEYZER

Bill Clinton.

ABIE

Wayne Newton, Bobbie Darin, Bill Clinton, nobody in their right mind would name a kid Wayne Newton, Bobbie Darin or Bill Clinton. Can't you come up with a normal name for a change?

LEYZER

What about Crane?

ABIE

Like sugarcane? Sugarcane is not a name, sugarcane is something you eat, dummy.

LEYZER

I'm not talking about sugar cane, I mean CRANE!

ABIE

All right, if that's what you want to call the first kid ever born, Crane, that's fine with me, just don't tell them that Crane was my idea. All right, now you have a Crane, is that it?

LEYZER

That's not it that's not it, they have to have two kids, every middle class family has to have two kids and I'm not sure, they might have three, but we'll see, don't rush me.

ABIE

Then make this one a girl I like girls.

LEYZER

(Rubs brow and thinks.)

In your parchment back, you make her a girl, in my bestseller, I see another little boy.

Sidney Goldberg

That BESTSELLER

1-1-67

ABIE

Whose name is...?

LEYZER

...Bill Gates...

ABIE

...BILL GATES...?

LEYZER

...Elton John...

ABIE

...ELTON JOHN...? Where do you come up with these names? You're crazy you know you're crazy you crazy bastard.

LEYZER

...Michael Douglas...

ABIE

... WHAT KIND OF *GOYISHE* NAMES ARE BILL GATES, ELTON JOHN AND MICHAEL DOUGLAS, WHERE DO YOU GET THESE LUNATIC NAMES FROM ,WILL YOU PLEASE TELL ME? BILL GATES, ELTON JOHN, MICHAEL DOUGLAS, ARE OUT OF THE QUESTION! Can't you come up with a normal name for a change?

LEYZER

Then you come up with a name, lets see you come up with a name.

ABIE

I don't know, how about Izzy? Izzy is a nice name.

LEYZER

Izzy, Izzy lives two caves down. Can't you be creative, can't you be oblique, can't you think of a name that will go down in history as name everyone will always remember, what you're not able you're not able?

ABIE

Cable, that's the name, perfect I love it!

LEYZER

I said able not cable. What kind of name is Cable?

ABIE

CABLE IS A GOOD NAME!

LEYZER

Cable, because you're not able to come up with a name like me, you want to call their first son Cable? How infantile, how cheap can one get? You really want Cable? Alright, I predict one day everyone will have cable. I think I just said that? Are you satisfied?

ABIE

Hey you called the first one Crane and I call the second one Cable, Crane and Cable sounds like a winner to me, deal?

LEYZER

Feel, the way I feel right now is I'm disgusted that my own brother can't come up with a decent name like Stevie Wonder or Michael Jackson, but do I have a choice, you're my oldest brother and you always say I have to listen to you, so I'll listen to you and we'll call the second one Cable, but you tell everyone Cable is your name and Crane is mine and we'll see who they like better, deal?

ABIE

FEEL, how do you know how I feel? I'm only kidding, deal, brother, deal. You tell everybody you named yours Crane and I named mine Cable, and what's next?

LEYZER

(Rubs brow and sees into the future.)

I see that these two brothers are the advent of a sibling rivalry.

ABIE

A sibling what, what the hell is a sibling whatever you said and how can you be so sure?

LEYZER

A sibling rivalry for your edification is a battle between two siblings, two brothers like me and you, and this is the reason why.

ABIE

I can't wait to hear this, you may precede your honor.

LEYZER

In due time, so Cable kept horses and Crane picked rocks. In the course of time, Crane brought some rocks to be his offering to the Lord, and Cable brought the fat portions of the first born of his horses. *Adonoi* looked with favor on Cable and his offering, but on Crane and his offering of rocks, HE did not look with favor. Crane was very angry and his face was downcast.

ABIE

What kind of job is picking rocks?

LEYZER

A rocky one.

ABIE

Continue? I'm not making up this story, your are, so continue, you, you deaf bastard.

LEYZER

May I continue?

ABIE

Be my guest.

LEYZER

Then the Lord said to Crane, "*Why are you angry why are you so downcast? If you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door, it desires to have you, but you must master it.* Now Crane said to his brother Cable, "*Let's go out to the field.*" And while they were in the field, Crane attacked his brother Cable and killed him with one of those rocks just like that.

ABIE

Wait a minute, you're making him into a murderer. Do you think anyone will believe that a brother would actually kill a brother, and why, because all he could do was pick rocks and he was jealous? You gotta be kidding, and don't give me any of your sibling whatever baloney, I don't buy it.

LEYZER

Wait, there's more, maybe you'll buy it? Then the Lord said to Crane, "*Where is your brother?*" "*I don't know,*" he replied, "*Am I my brother's keeper?*" Outraged, Adonoi said, "*What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground.*"

ABIE

Oi, I've heard enough, I can't take anymore. I think we should go back, with Cable tending horses and Crane picking rocks, this is getting a little too heavy for me.

LEYZER

I say we give our Bestseller to the girls to peruse.

ABIE

You took the words right out of my mouth.

Sidney Goldberg

That BESTSELLER

1-1-70

You don't say?

LEYZER

End of Scene 9

That **BESTSELLER**

ACT I

Scene 10

**Some time later.
Cave.**

**Torches are lit. ANNA is holding a torch
and reading parchment as RACHEL
Looks over her shoulder.**

ANNA

Forget about being a writer. We have so many axes, I told him to stick to hardware, but did he listen...?

RACHEL

...And Leyzer never made it as a veterinarian because he couldn't find a dog or cat.

ANNA

Must you look over my shoulder?

RACHEL

Well, excuse me! Just what is it, would you mind telling me?

ANNA

You slept with Abie, that's what is it, thank you.

RACHEL

I told you a dozen times and so did he; we didn't do IT, did you?

ANNA

With Leyzer, are you kidding, not chance.

RACHEL

Not a chance yourself! But did Leyzer nurture you?

ANNA

Did Abie suckle you?

RACHEL

All I can tell you is he sure tried, but he's no Leyzer, not by a long shot.

ANNA

I know Leyzer really knows how to please a woman. I still haven't stopped smiling.

RACHEL

Now you know why I stay with him.

ANNA

Do I, but Abie's determined and so am I. I'm sure in due time he'll learn how to suckle my petunia as good if not better than Leyzer, because I am determined.

RACHEL

Knowing you he'll break Leyzer's record.

ANNA

Thank you.

RACHEL

Don't mention it. Now what do you think of this garbage they wrote?

ANNA

This is hysterical. They say that in the beginning G-d created up stairs and down stairs.

RACHEL

I say we call it upstairs heaven and downstairs hell.

ANNA

Should we tell them that after hours is night?

RACHEL

Just tell them to forget about upstairs and downstairs.

ANNA

Have it your way. And Leyzer said that *Adonoi* called night, after hours.

RACHEL

How do you know Leyzer and not Abie wrote that?

ANNA

Trust me, I know Abie. And then he said G-d made mountains and the desert.

RACHEL

Who wrote that?

ANNA

You tell me.

(ABIE and LEYZER are excited as THEY enter cave because ANNA and RACHEL promised THEY would read Their BESTSELLER. Having drunk already THEY are slightly loaded. WE hear “HE WANTS TO PLAY SWITCH,” Underscoring.)

ABIE and LEYZER

SURPRISE!

ANNA

Oh, hi honey.

ABIE

That’s it, no big hug and kiss? Did you forget about...?

ANNA

...Until you learn to give multiple *orga...* like Leyzer, please, don’t remind me.

ABIE

You didn’t like it?

ANNA

Are you kidding, I loved it and I can wait for the multiples, after all multiples are not everything, and if my sister and your brother weren’t here I’d...

ABIE

...You would you really would?

ANNA

Would I!

RACHEL

But before you get your engine going I think we should tell them about their bestseller.

ABIE and LEYZER

PLEASE!

RACHEL

You go first Anna.

(ANNA and RACHEL will look at parchment.)

ANNA

And *Elohim* said, “*Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to divide the day from the night; let them be for signs, seasons, days and year,*” and I hate to tell you this, but that is how it was.

ABIE

Didn’t I tell you that no one would believe it, Mr. Predictor, didn’t I tell you?

ANNA

First of all, we’re going to skip around. Some of it was right on, but most of it sucks, like in the beginning, *Adonoi* didn’t make mountains and the desert, HE made water and the sky.

ABIE and LEYZER

Oi.

RACHEL

And for your edification I believe that G-d would say, “*Let the water swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open dome of the sky.*” And I’m sure G-d saw it was good. Then *Elohim* blessed them saying, “*Be fruitful, multiply and fill the water of the seas and let birds multiply on the earth...*”

ANNA

And HE didn’t call the first man Morris he called him Adam, which is a derivative of Adom, which means the earth.

RACHEL

You see, G-d took some earth, blew into it and then kissed it from which Adam cometh.

LEYZER

Hey, you got that from me; I said that I said that.

ANNA

And as far as your Morris is concerned, sorry, but no *ceegar*, and HE didn’t take one of Morris’s toes, when he was asleep, he took one of Adam’s spare ribs, one he wouldn’t miss.

RACHEL

(Looking at parchment.

Laughs.)

And G-d didn’t call her Leslie HE called her EVE and your Morris didn’t have six toes..

ABIE

What kind of predictor are you, damnit, what kind of predictor are you? A rotten predictor is what you are.

ANNA

Now we'll jump to the fifth day.

RACHEL

And G-d saw it was good and there was morning *nu*?

ABIE

You hear what was the fifth day? That was the fifth day Mr. Predictor.

LEYZER

No comment.

RACHEL

Wait, you ain't heard nothing yet. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished along with everything in them and now we'll skip to the seventh day, on the seventh day *Adonoi* was finished with his work, so he rested on the seventh day and made it holy.

LEYZER

You see, HE finished on the sixth day and took a nap, not on the sixth day like you said and HE rested on the seventh day,. Why couldn't you wait another day? I knew he rested, only a dope like you takes a nap on the sixth day, why couldn't you wait another day like G-d?

ANNA

And on the seventh day, which he rested on, HE made it holy and called it the Sabbath...

ANNA and RACHEL

...*Shabbes*.

RACHEL

And last but not least, I hate to be the bearer of bad fortune, but it's not *the Garden of Eatin'* it's the Garden of Eden the Garden of Eden.

ABIE

I've had it with you Leyzer, no more partners, I'll write my own bestseller.

LEYZER

If that's the way you want it, I'll write my own bestseller too!

ANNA and RACHEL

And so will we.

ABIE and LEYZER

WHAT?

ANNA

We decided that since your bestseller stinks, we are going to write our own bestseller.

ABIE

Go ahead, see if I care, but you can't call it a bestseller, because it's copyrighted and that's my name.

(Underscoring ends.)

RACHEL

We won't, we might call it the latest theory...

RACHEL

...Of World Creation...

ANNA and RACHEL

...And EVOLUTION!

(ALL sing. ♪♪)

EVERY JEW

ANNA and RACHEL

Every Jew can write a bestseller.
If you have ink and enough papyrus.
Trust us,
Unfortunately we all turn to dust.

ABIE and LEYZER

They don't know that not all Jews get great ideas.
If you ask us there's nothing to discuss.
And thus,
Now it seems that they are laughing at us.

ALL

Hurray for ev'ry Jew
Where fantasies come true.
If you love me then I'll love you.
But don't make love to ev'ry Jew.

For if you do,
You'll get in trouble
And on the double,
They'll burst your bubble

ANNA and RACHEL

I just close my eyes and learn to bear it.
And they are lucky we're such amusers.
Those boozers
Why else would we stay with those losers?

ABIE and LEYZER

If it wasn't for sex think I need them?
They won't admit that we are upper class.
Don't ask,
I did it for a little piece of ass.

ALL

Hurray for ev'ry Jew
Where fantasies come true.
If you love me then I'll love you.
But don't make love to ev'ry Jew.
For if you do,
You'll get in trouble
And on the double,
They'll burst your bubble

The END