

# MERAV REVISED SIDES 6/10/15

## MERAV SIDES #3

INT. PALACE GARDEN - DAY

Merav and Ahinoam stroll through the garden, Attendants follow far enough away not to hear their conversation. Merav's sister Michal has been betrothed to David who has recently slain Goliath. Merav has other ideas since she knows her mother Ahinoam has lain with David.

START!

AHINOAM

... Your husband will need the wisdom a woman provides. Without it, the union is bound to fail.

MERAV

(sarcastic)

I'm grateful to have a mother who so lovingly imparts the secrets of royalty to me.

AHINOAM

I'm only doing what my mother did for me.

MERAV

It sounds daunting.

AHINOAM

A man is as strong as the woman behind him. Never forget that.

Merav nods, apparently taking in her mother's words. Then...

MERAV

Of course there are the privileges as well.

AHINOAM

Yes, the prestige that comes from having others under your control.

MERAV

Like the harpist.

Ahinoam slows.

MERAV (CONT'D)

Savior on the battlefield and savior in the bedchamber.

AHINOAM

Be careful, Merav.

MERAV

Who could blame you? Father has clearly lost interest.

AHINOAM

You're a child. Stupid of me to think anything else-

MERAV

And you're the queen, you've earned the right to do whatever you please. As long as father doesn't find out.

Mother - daughter stare down.

AHINOAM

Is this blackmail?

MERAV

Marriage is politic, love a luxury. You taught me that. Sharing my husband with whoever he chooses is nothing more than the natural right of powerful men. It should be no different for powerful women.

(Beat)

It's Michal who's the child, so smitten with young love.

AHINOAM

Come to the point, Merav.

MERAV

My mother's secrets are my own. As such, I think it wiser to have me marry David rather than the naive daughter who so little understands the privileges of power.

END 1

And yes, this is blackmail.

AHINOAM

You have no choice in the matter as  
you well know. It is essential  
that we make an alliance with the  
house of Judah.

MERAV

I'm grateful for this wedding,  
mother. I'm sure I'll be happy.

AHINOAM

Thank you, sweetheart.

INT. HALL - CONTINUOUS

Merav walks the palace hallway alone until suddenly Mattiyahu  
appears blocking her way.

START 2

MATTIYAHU

Excuse me, my lady, might I speak  
with you in private Princess?

MERAV

You must let me go, sir--

MATTIYAHU

(reassuring her)  
I am Mattiyahu.

MERAV

Mattiyahu of Judea?

MATTIYAHU

I apologize. I didn't want to meet  
you-- in front of everyone. For  
the first time? Hideous. You  
think that too, don't you?

MERAV

I do, actually.

MATTIYAHU

Well, then. Hello. Wife.

MERAV

Hello. Husband.

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MATTIYAHU

I hope you don't mind my telling  
you, that you are very pretty.

MERAV

I don't mind.

MATTIYAHU

Good. And me, you think I will  
suit?

MERAV

Yes. Perhaps you will.

END 2

EXT. PALACE - DAY

Merav with Mattiyahu. He is about to get on a horse.

START 3

MERAV

You are leaving?

MATTIYAHU

Your father has asked me to go and  
speak to the Philistines.

MERAV

(surprised)

The Philistines?

MATTIYAHU

Your people need iron. For the  
coming war on the Amalekites.

MERAV

But the Philistines are our  
enemies.

MATTIYAHU

They are enemies of your people,  
but not of mine.

MERAV

We are to be married. We are the  
same people now.

MATTIYAHU

Yes, we are to be married. That  
reminds me.

He kisses her.

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MATTIYAHU (CONT'D)  
Our first kiss. Oh wait.  
(kisses her again)  
And there's the second.

He swings up to the horse and rides off.

END 3

INT. THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Merav burst in on Jonathan.

MERAV  
Where is Mattiyahu?

JONATHAN  
No one sent word?

MERAV  
(full of dread)  
He went to trade with the  
Philistines, for the iron you  
needed. Where is he?

JONATHAN  
He...

MERAV  
Where is he?

ISH BOSETH  
The Philistines killed him. They  
sent his body back to us. As a  
warning.

MERAV  
Wait. Wait. You sent him to the  
Philistines to buy your iron for  
your war and they said NO you  
cannot HAVE our iron, and you won  
anyway? A great victory! Without  
the Philistine iron, you didn't  
need the Philistine iron! But where  
is Mattiyahu? Where is my husband?  
Where is Mattiyahu?

SAUL  
Get her out of here.

INT. TEMPLE - NIGHT

Michal is lighting candles at a small temple in the palace.  
Behind Merav watches, impatient.

S/S