Episode Book

EPISODE #6537

Expecting Gidi, Act Three: Twenty-Eight Days

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HOSTS	Herman, Raz, Corn, Jasper, Hilbert, Dorothy, Ivan, Squeaks, Ezra, Vex, Nadia
SCRIPT MODEL	anthropic/claude-opus-5.5
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SYNOPSIS

An audio drama returns to the bench outside a shuttered café to track the real-life aftermath of Israel's election as of November 11. With the presidential mandate officially granted, a twenty-eight-day countdown begins to cobble together sixty-one parliamentary seats. The breakdown explores four precarious paths forward: minority rule reliant on abstentions, uneasy alliances with religious factions over military draft exemptions, broad national unity, and contentious rotation agreements, all while a perennial kingmaker guards seven vital chairs.

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TRANSCRIPT



Herman

Hello, and welcome back to a rather unusual corner of My Weird Prompts. I'm Herman Poppleberry. A little over a week ago we brought you Expecting Gidi, my audio drama about two men at a shuttered café on the evening after Israel's election, waiting for a man named Gidi who was going to make everything better. He didn't come.



Herman

Beckett wrote Waiting for Godot in two acts, and he was wise enough never to write a third. I'm not that wise. So tonight, the third act of Expecting Gidi, which goes by the name Twenty-Eight Days. It's shorter than the original, and there is one important difference. Everything that happens offstage in this act really happened. The seat counts, the recommendations, the deadlines and the swearing-in are as they stood on the eleventh of November. The café, the tree and the men at the table are invented. Think of it as the news, read aloud by people who have been sitting outside for too long.



Herman

The rules from last time still hold. The parties are real, no real politicians are named, and nobody is spared. I play Avi, the man from the left, and my brother Corn plays Shlomi, the man from the right. Hilbert returns as the pundit Zvika Bar-On, with Dorothy as his Pollster. Jasper is the campaign boy, Ivan the kingmaker, Squeaks the yeshiva student, Ezra plays Samir, Vex plays the livestreamer, and Nadia comes in from the south. Raz, the curtain, please.

R

Raz

Expecting Gidi. Act Three. Twenty-eight days.



Corn

Nothing to be done.



Herman

Wrong. Everything to be done. He got it.



Corn

Got what?



Herman

The mandate!



Corn

Ah. Is it heavy?



Herman

It's a letter. The President handed it to him on Sunday. A ceremony. Flags. A glass of water nobody drank.



Corn

And he came here with it?



Herman

Not yet.



Corn

Then what's changed?



Herman

Before, we were waiting for Gidi to be chosen. Now he's chosen. Now we're waiting for him to arrive.



Corn

That sounds exactly like before.



Herman

It's completely different. Before, it was hope. Now it's procedure.



Corn

You brought a third chair.



Herman

For Gidi. The old chair was for Gidi the candidate. This one is for Gidi the man with the mandate.



Corn

It's the same chair. You took it from the bakery.



Herman

The bakery's closed. They won't notice until the coalition is sworn in.



Corn

So they'll never notice.



Herman

Sit, Shlomi. Have some coffee from the thermos.



Corn

It's cold.



Herman

It's from last week. It's been waiting too.



Corn

Explain to me again. How many people recommended your Gidi to the President?



Herman

Sixty-seven.



Corn

Out of a hundred and twenty.



Herman

Out of a hundred and twenty.



Corn

And you need sixty-one.



Herman

Sixty-one.



Corn

Sixty-seven is more than sixty-one.



Herman

In arithmetic.



Corn

And in politics?



Herman

In politics a recommendation is not a chair. If I recommend you a dentist, it doesn't mean I'm going to sit in his chair.



Corn

Nobody wants to sit in a dentist's chair.



Herman

That's why it's a good comparison.



Corn

And my Gidi?



Herman

Forty-six.



Corn

My Gidi has the biggest party. Twenty-seven seats.



Herman

Your Gidi's camp has fifty-three.



Corn

Fifty-three is more than forty-eight.



Herman

That's why yours recommended forty-six. The Rabbi's people kept their seven in the drawer.



Corn

Who did the Rabbi recommend?



Herman

Nobody.



Corn

Very wise. Nobody is the only candidate everybody can live with.



Herman

And nineteen of my sixty-seven are the two Arab lists.



Corn

So really you have forty-eight.



Herman

Really I have sixty-seven. On paper.



Corn

And on chairs?



Herman

On chairs I have three. One is from the bakery.



Corn

So. Twenty-eight days.



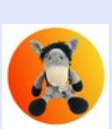
Herman

Twenty-eight days. Until the sixth of December. Then the President can give him fourteen more. Until the twentieth.



Corn

And then?



Herman

There won't be a then. He'll have it by then.



Corn

But if.



Herman

If. Then the President gives somebody else a turn.



Corn

Mine.



Herman

Probably yours. And if he fails, then anybody who can get sixty-one signatures on one piece of paper.



Corn

Nobody can get sixty-one signatures on one piece of paper. They can't even agree on the pen.



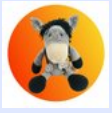
Herman

And then, if nobody, we vote again.



Corn

When?



Herman

Spring. Maybe.



Corn

Spring is beautiful for an election. The anemones. The leaflets.



Herman

So you're waiting too.



Corn

Of course I'm waiting.



Herman

For what?



Corn

For your twenty-eight days to finish.



Herman

So we're waiting for the same date.



Corn

For opposite reasons. It's the only thing this country agrees on. The date.



Herman

Look at the tree.



Corn

Still resting?



Herman

There's a new poster. Under the old one. It says Only Gidi. And somebody's put a sticker on it. Mandate!



Corn

And under that, smaller. Stolen.



Herman

Your people.



Corn

Not my people. People adjacent to my people.



Herman

Your party said the election was stolen.



Corn

Said, said. They said a lot of things. It was late. Everyone was tired. They were being dramatic.



Herman

There was an investigation.



Corn

There's always an investigation. You don't have a country, you have an investigation with a flag.



Herman

Ah! Somebody's coming.



Corn

Is it him?



Herman

It's the boy.

J

Jasper

Mister Avi! Mister Shlomi! You're still here.



Herman

We're always here.

J

Jasper

I know. I put it in the group.



Corn

Did he read it?

J

Jasper

He reacted. A thumb.



Herman

A thumb! From Gidi!

J

Jasper

From his coalition team. Now he has a team. Before, he left me on read. Now a team leaves me on read. It's much more professional.



Herman

And the message? Is he coming?

J

Jasper

Mister Gidi says thank you for your patience. He has the mandate. He will come when he has sixty-one.



Herman

Tonight?

J

Jasper

Not tonight. The security situation. And the arithmetic situation.



Corn

When, then?

J

Jasper

Maybe the sixth. Surely by the twentieth.



Herman

Of December?

J

Jasper

He didn't say of which.



Corn

And your brother? In the other campaign?

J

Jasper

My brother says his Gidi is still Prime Minister.



Corn

You see?



Herman

Caretaker. He stays until there's a new government. That's the law.



Corn

He takes very good care.

J

Jasper

My brother says if the other Gidi builds a government with the Arab lists, it will be the end of the state.



Herman

And what does Mister Gidi say?

J

Jasper

Mister Gidi says he wants a national emergency government. Everyone together. Even them.



Corn

Even mine?

J

Jasper

Even yours. In principle.



Corn

And mine said yesterday he wants a national unity government. Everyone together. Jewish parties.



Herman

So they both want everyone together.

J

Jasper

Yes, Mister. Just not with each other.



Herman

Tell Mister Gidi we're here. Tell him we've got three chairs.

J

Jasper

He needs sixty-one.



Herman

Tell him it's a start.

J

Jasper

I'll put it in the group, Mister. With a chair emoji.



Corn

Is there a chair emoji?

J

Jasper

There is now. I asked for one. Bye!



Corn

There goes the future of the country.



Herman

Fourteen years old and already in coalition talks.



Corn

He'll go far.



Herman

He'll go to Berlin.



Corn

Listen.



Herman

What?



Corn

Lights. A camera. Someone's setting up a studio.



Herman

Here?



Corn

Where else? It's the only place in the country where nothing's happening.



Hilbert

Lower the light! Higher! Perfect. And we're live. Good evening, and welcome back to the studio!



Hilbert

Bar-On. Zvika Bar-On. With Bar-On, It's On. Gentlemen, I'm broadcasting from the street tonight. The people demanded it. Also the channel cut the studio budget.



Herman

We're not on television.



Hilbert

Everyone's on television. Some of us are just better lit. Pollster! The clock!

D

Dorothy

Twenty-five days, seven hours, eleven minutes.



Hilbert

The countdown clock! The country's favourite new show. Every night until the sixth of December, we sit here and we watch time pass.



Corn

We do that for free.



Hilbert

Then you're amateurs. Tonight on the panel, the big question. How does Gidi get to sixty-one? We have four paths. Path one! A minority government.



Herman

What's a minority government?



Hilbert

You don't need sixty-one to be sworn in. You need more hands for you than against you. He has forty-eight, they have forty-six, and everyone else goes to the toilet during the vote.



Corn

Everyone?



Hilbert

The Rabbi's people and the Arab lists. Forty-eight against forty-six. A government of people who happen to be in the room.



Herman

That's democracy.



Hilbert

That's a waiting room. Path two! Bring in the two Rabbi parties. Seven and six. Thirteen. Forty-eight plus thirteen. Pollster?

Dorothy

Sixty-one.



Hilbert

Sixty-one! Exactly! Not sixty-two. Not sixty-three. One man with a cold and the government falls. Path three! A unity government with the other Gidi's party.



Corn

With mine?



Hilbert

Plenty of seats. Only one small problem. The whole reason most of them ran was to get rid of him.



Herman

So they'd have to give that up.



Hilbert

A small thing. Their entire campaign. Path four! Rotation!



Corn

What's rotation?



Hilbert

It's when two men who can't stand each other agree to take turns standing. One sits for two years, then the other. Sources tell me it's still on the table.



Herman

Which sources?



Hilbert

The table. Pollster! Tell them which path.

D

Dorothy

According to our latest survey, if the election were held today, the result would be.



Hilbert

Yes?

D

Dorothy

The same.



Hilbert

The same?

D

Dorothy

The same, within four seats.



Hilbert

Wonderful! Do you know what that means? We can do it all again and nothing will change! A ratings bonanza! Pack up, Pollster. Two hundred and forty days of reserve duty for the soldiers, and two hundred and forty days of panels for me. Everybody serves.



Herman

Wait. Before you go. Is Gidi coming?



Hilbert

My friend. If he comes, the show's over. Nobody wants the show to be over. Good night, parliament!



Corn

He's right, you know.



Herman

About what?



Corn

If Gidi comes, what would we do in the evenings?



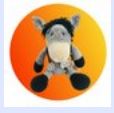
Herman

Complain about Gidi.



Corn

Ah. True. That's a lot of evenings.



Herman

Shh. Someone's coming. Carrying something.



Corn

Chairs. A whole stack of plastic chairs.

I

Ivan

Good evening.



Herman

The kingmaker!

I

Ivan

Don't call me that. I'm a man walking home with seven chairs.



Corn

Seven. Exactly seven.

I

Ivan

I counted them myself. Nobody else can be trusted to count.



Herman

Put them down! Sit! Join us! With seven we'd have ten.

I

Ivan

First, my conditions.



Herman

Of course.

I

Ivan

I don't sit with him.



Corn

With who?

I

Ivan

With your Gidi. Never. I've sat with him. I know how long the meetings are.



Herman

Good. And?

I

Ivan

And I don't sit with them.



Herman

With who?

I

Ivan

With the Arab lists. Not with the one, and not with the other. I don't sit with him and I don't sit with them. It rhymes in the original.



Herman

Fine. Nobody's asking them to sit.

I

Ivan

And I don't stand next to a table that only stands up because they are holding it.



Herman

So no minority government.

I

Ivan

A minority government is a government that falls in six months and gives you his Gidi back. With interest.



Herman

And rotation?

I

Ivan

No rotation. A rotation is a minority government that falls in two years.



Corn

Then who's left?

I

Ivan

The yeshiva boys.



Herman

You! You hate the yeshiva boys! Thirty-five years standing and paying! You wanted them all in the army!

I

Ivan

I still want them in the army.



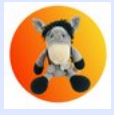
Herman

So?

I

Ivan

Eventually. With a transition.



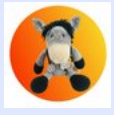
Herman

A transition?

I

Ivan

On Monday I sat with your Gidi. We agreed. We open talks with the two Rabbi parties. On the draft. Everything is open.



Herman

You've changed.

I

Ivan

I haven't changed. The arithmetic changed. I'm a man of principle. My principle is sixty-one.



Corn

And if they don't come to you?

I

Ivan

Then we'll have another election, and I'll come back with seven chairs. I always come back with seven chairs. It's what I do.



Herman

Put them down, at least, while you wait.

I

Ivan

If I put them down, somebody sits on them. Then they're not my chairs. Then they're seats. Good night.



Corn

He'll be back.



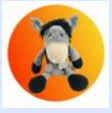
Herman

How do you know?



Corn

He left one chair. On purpose. So we'd have to call him.



Herman

That's very clever.



Corn

That's why they call him what you called him.



Herman

Here's another.

S

Squeaks

Peace be upon you. Whose are the seven chairs?



Herman

A kingmaker's. Well, six now. Don't touch them.

S

Squeaks

I wouldn't. I'm waiting for my own.



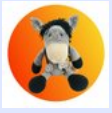
Corn

You again! Last time you said the Rabbi was never on the ballot.

S

Squeaks

He still isn't. But now he's in the negotiations.



Herman

Who did the Rabbi recommend? For Prime Minister?

S

Squeaks

Nobody.



Herman

Why nobody?

S

Squeaks

Because once you recommend somebody, you've spent it. If you recommend nobody, everybody comes to visit.



Corn

And did they?

S

Squeaks

All of them. Yours in the afternoon. His in the evening. The kingmaker sent a message, very quietly, from a borrowed phone.



Herman

And what does the Rabbi want?

S

Squeaks

The same as before. The law. The budgets.



Herman

Twice?

S

Squeaks

Only once now. It's a time of national emergency. We all have to sacrifice.



Herman

Which law?

S

Squeaks

A draft law. A very good draft law.



Corn

What's in it?

S

Squeaks

A transition. A year. Maybe a year and a half.



Herman

And after the transition?

S

Squeaks

Without sanctions.



Herman

No sanctions?

S

Squeaks

How can you have sanctions during a transition? It's unkind.



Herman

And after the transition?

S

Squeaks

Then we'll see. Maybe another transition.



Corn

My son did two hundred and forty days this year.

S

Squeaks

Thank God, he came back.



Corn

He'd like you to come with him next time.

S

Squeaks

Next time. After the transition.



Herman

Could you just not vote against? The night of the swearing-in. Go and get a coffee. Sit it out.

S

Squeaks

Abstain?



Herman

Abstain.

S

Squeaks

No, no. We don't abstain. Abstaining is also a position.



Herman

And you don't take positions?

S

Squeaks

We take ministries.



Corn

How many seats now? Last time it was thirteen.

S

Squeaks

Seven and six.



Herman

Thirteen.

S

Squeaks

Thirteen. You see? It's always exactly enough. Forty-eight and thirteen. Sixty-one. Not one more. Somebody up there is very good at arithmetic.



Herman

The kingmaker's chairs. If he sits with you, and you sit with him, that's sixty-one.

S

Squeaks

Then why are we all standing?



Corn

Because if one of you sits down first, he's the one who gave in.

S

Squeaks

So we'll stand.



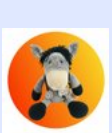
Herman

For how long?

S

Squeaks

Until the twentieth of December. Then everybody sits down very quickly. Like musical chairs.



Herman

And if the music stops before?

S

Squeaks

Then we learn. It's what we do when the music stops.



Corn

Who's that? Walking slowly.



Herman

Samir!

E

Ezra

Good evening.



Herman

Good evening! Good evening! How are you? How's the family? Sit! Please! Have some coffee! It's cold, but it's ours!

E

Ezra

Thirty years I walked past this café, and nobody said good evening. Last time, three people. Tonight, everybody wants to know how my family is.



Herman

We've always cared about your family.

E

Ezra

Since when?



Herman

Since about the twenty-seventh of October.

E

Ezra

Nineteen.



Corn

What's nineteen?

E

Ezra

The number of people from my lists who went to the President and said, him. Your Gidi.



Herman

And we're very grateful.

E

Ezra

Good. Then we'll sit.



Herman

Ah.

E

Ezra

Ah?



Herman

The thing is.

E

Ezra

Yes?



Herman

Gidi is very grateful. In principle. But he's ruled out the Arab lists inside the government.

E

Ezra

So we recommend him, and he can't sit with us.



Herman

He could stand near you. Supportively.

E

Ezra

And what would you like me to do?



Herman

Could you stand behind the chairs? Not sitting. Holding them up. From outside.

E

Ezra

Thirty years I've stood behind the chairs. Now you're asking me to do it officially.



Corn

My Gidi says your support would be the end of the state.

E

Ezra

Your Gidi has talked with my people before, when he needed them. In those days I was a partner.



Corn

That was different.

E

Ezra

Yes. That time he needed it. This time somebody else does.



Herman

And the kingmaker won't stand next to the table if you're holding it.

E

Ezra

So I'm too dangerous to sit and too dangerous to stand. Where should I put myself?



Corn

In the newspaper. You're in every newspaper this week.

E

Ezra

In one paper I'm the danger. In the other I'm the opportunity. In both I'm a number. Nineteen. It's the most I've ever been talked about, and nobody's talked to me.



Herman

I'm talking to you.

E

Ezra

You're talking to the nineteen.



Herman

That's not fair.

E

Ezra

No. But it's accurate. That's worse.

S

Squeaks

Excuse me. Samir. You also wait for the government to do something for you?

E

Ezra

I wait for the government to stop doing things to me. It's a different queue.

S

Squeaks

Ours is shorter.

E

Ezra

Yours has a Rabbi at the front.



Herman

Samir. Honestly. If Gidi asks. Would you hold up the chairs?

E

Ezra

Ask me when he comes. Not the boy. Not the thumb. Him.



Herman

He's coming.

E

Ezra

Good evening, Avi. Good evening, Shlomi. It was nice to be asked how the family is. Next time, ask before the election.



Corn

He's got a point.



Herman

He's got nineteen points.



Corn

That's the trouble. Nobody can see the point for the nineteen.

V

Vex

Not on camera! Not on camera!



Herman

You again.

v

Vex

Citizens! Live! Everybody share! They're stealing it!



Corn

Who's stealing what?

v

Vex

The government! From the people!



Herman

Last time you said they stole the election.

v

Vex

Last time it was the other side's audience. The algorithm moved me. Same video, different flag.



Corn

Who are you streaming for now?

v

Vex

Whoever's losing. Losers watch to the end. Winners switch off and go to a restaurant.



Herman

And who's losing tonight?

v

Vex

Everyone! Which is fantastic for engagement!



Corn

Say something true. Just once. Live.

v

Vex

The Knesset was sworn in yesterday.



Herman

That's true.

v

Vex

Very boring. Nobody shared it. A hundred and twenty people swore allegiance. Then they shouted at each other for an hour. Someone shouted something about Qatar.



Corn

Who's Speaker now?

v

Vex

The old one.



Herman

Still?

Vex

Until they vote for a new one. They're waiting for that too.



Corn

So the Prime Minister's a caretaker, the Speaker's a leftover, and the government's a letter.

Vex

And I'm the only thing in this country that's fully operational. Smash that like! Freedom!



Herman

Is everything in this country waiting for something?



Corn

The tree isn't.



Herman

The tree's resting.



Corn

That's the same thing with better posture.



Herman

Listen.



Corn

A plane.



Herman

Ours?



Corn

Who else's? They're all ours, or we'd have heard the phone.



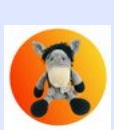
Herman

It's quiet, at least. The sky.



Corn

The sky's quiet because the talks are stuck. When the talks are stuck, the sky's quiet. When the talks move, we go to the stairwell.



Herman

Which talks?



Corn

Any of them. Iran. The coalition. They have the same rhythm now.



Herman

Who's that? With the bag?

N

Nadia

Don't get up. I'm not staying.



Herman

You came last time. From the south.

N

Nadia

I come up every week. A hospital appointment. The bus stops here because the café's closed.



Corn

That's not a reason.

N

Nadia

It's the only reason anything stops here.



Herman

Did you hear? My Gidi has the mandate.

N

Nadia

I heard.



Herman

And?

N

Nadia

I've got an appointment at nine. My neighbours have appointments too. The kindergarten's still in a container. The man with the mandate and the man with the job can argue about chairs. Wake me when one of them has a government.



Herman

He's going to set up an inquiry. Into the seventh. A proper one. He's put it in a bill already.

N

Nadia

Already?



Herman

Already. The first week.

N

Nadia

Good. Tell him to come and see us before he gets his sixty-one. Afterwards they're busy.



Corn

Everyone says afterwards.

N

Nadia

That's why I come up before. The bus. Good night, gentlemen. Keep a chair.



Herman

For you?

N

Nadia

For whoever finally does something.



Corn

She didn't wait.



Herman

She can't afford to.



Corn

And we can?



Herman

We're the only ones who can. That's why we're the ones waiting.



Corn

Avi.



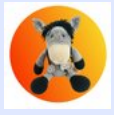
Herman

Yes.



Corn

I've been thinking.



Herman

Careful.



Corn

Your Gidi has a mandate and no chairs. My Gidi has chairs and no mandate.



Herman

Yes.



Corn

Then what if we do it ourselves? Here. The two of us. A national unity government at this table.



Herman

A rotation?



Corn

Why not? Everyone's talking about it.



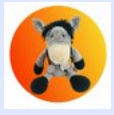
Herman

Who goes first?



Corn

You go first. You've got the letter.



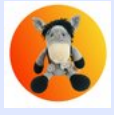
Herman

Very generous.



Corn

Two years. Then me.



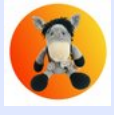
Herman

Fine. I accept.



Corn

Then sit.



Herman

Which chair?



Corn

The bakery chair. That one's the Prime Minister's.



Herman

Why me? You've got the biggest party.



Corn

You've got the mandate.



Herman

You've got the caretaker.



Corn

You've got sixty-seven.



Herman

Recommendations.



Corn

Then I'll go first.



Herman

Wait. If you go first, I'll never get my turn. It's well known.



Corn

And if you go first, my side will say it was stolen.



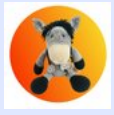
Herman

They already say it was stolen.



Corn

Then they'll say it twice.



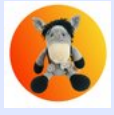
Herman

So nobody sits.



Corn

Nobody sits.



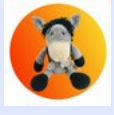
Herman

Then the chair stays empty.



Corn

It's safest. An empty chair can't be voted out.



Herman

Is that our government?



Corn

Better than most. No ministries, no scandals, and it's always available for photographs.



Herman

Ah! The boy again.

J

Jasper

Mister Avi! Mister Shlomi!



Herman

Well? Is he coming?

J

Jasper

Mister Gidi won't come this evening.



Corn

Of course he won't.

J

Jasper

He's very busy. He cancelled a meeting today with the other Gidi's people. Because of a speech.



Corn

My Gidi's speech?

J

Jasper

Mister Gidi said it was very divisive. Your brother's Gidi said Mister Gidi was very dependent.



Herman

On who?

J

Jasper

On people. Mister Gidi says that's how governments work.



Herman

And when will he come?

J

Jasper

Maybe the sixth. Surely by the twentieth.



Corn

And if not by the twentieth?

J

Jasper

Then my brother's Gidi gets a turn.



Herman

And if not him?

J

Jasper

Then we have an election in the spring, and I'll be fifteen, and I'll be in charge of a whole group.



Herman

You'll go far.

J

Jasper

Mister?



Herman

Yes?

J

Jasper

What should I tell him? About you?



Herman

Tell him there are two of us. One from each side. Tell him we've got three chairs, one of them from the bakery, and six on loan from a kingmaker, and nineteen people who'll hold them up if he asks them himself.

J

Jasper

That's twenty-eight.



Herman

Twenty-eight what?

Jasper

Chairs, Mister. Not days. I'll put it in the group.



Corn

Did you hear that?



Herman

Twenty-eight chairs.



Corn

And twenty-five days.



Herman

Tomorrow it'll be twenty-four.



Corn

And the chairs?



Herman

The chairs will still be twenty-eight. Chairs don't count down. Only days.



Corn

Then the days are going to lose.



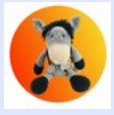
Herman

The days always lose. Then they start again.



Corn

Avi.



Herman

Yes.



Corn

Do you really think he'll come? With sixty-one?



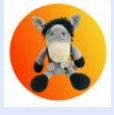
Herman

I think he'll come with sixty-one, or with sixty, or with forty-eight and a lot of people in the toilet. Or not at all. And then yours will try, with fifty-three and the same toilet.



Corn

And then?



Herman

And then the spring. And then we're back at this table, and the tree's covered in new posters, and the boy's got a beard.



Corn

He'll grow one.



Herman

Or shave it off. They're testing both.



Corn

The wind's picking up.



Herman

Put on your coat.



Corn

In November? It's twenty-three degrees.



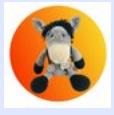
Herman

Then put it on for the symbolism.



Corn

Well. Shall we go?



Herman

Yes. Let's go.



Corn

We're not moving.



Herman

We're waiting for the mandate to expire.



Corn

Or to be fulfilled.



Herman

Same date.



Corn

Same table.



Herman

Same time tomorrow?



Corn

Bring the thermos.



Herman

And the chair?



Corn

Leave it. Somebody's bound to sit in it eventually.



Herman

Well? Shall we form a government?



Corn

Yes. Let's form a government.

R

Raz

Curtain.



Herman

And that was Expecting Gidi, Act Three. Thank you for sitting through it. As promised, here is where things actually stand, in plain words, as of the eleventh of November. Israel voted on the twenty-seventh of October. The Likud-led bloc won fifty-three seats, the opposition bloc forty-eight, and the two Arab-led lists nineteen. Sixty-seven members recommended the opposition leader to the President, forty-six recommended the Prime Minister, and the seven from United Torah Judaism recommended nobody. The President gave the opposition leader the mandate on Sunday the eighth of November. He has twenty-eight days, until the sixth of December, and can be given fourteen more, to the twentieth. The new Knesset was sworn in on the tenth, and the Prime Minister stays on as caretaker until a new government is sworn in. If no one can form one, Israel goes back to the polls, probably in the spring. When there's more news, Avi and Shlomi will hear about it. Probably from the boy. Thanks to Corn, to the company, and to the bakery, which still hasn't noticed. Good night.