

# King / Laertes / Ophelia

(Pause.)

KING

(To Queen.)  
Leave us.

QUEEN

Where will I go?

KING

It doesn't matter. Just go.  
(Pause. She turns to leave.)

QUEEN

It's only a play...  
(She exits.)

KING

Laertes, How would you punish your father's murderer, if I told you who he was?

LAERTES

Every way I could.

KING

It wouldn't matter if it was friend or foe?

LAERTES

Friend? What kind of man would kill his friend's father?

KING

The prince.

LAERTES

Hamlet?

KING

Yes.

(Ophelia re-enters.)

LAERTES

Ophelia!

OPHELIA

Ophelia. Oh...

(She sits on the floor and sings to herself.)

Will daddy come to the country fair?  
Will daddy come?  
No, No Daddy's dead and gone.  
Will Daddy ever again be there?  
Will Daddy come?  
Not till you are dead and gone.

(She continues humming.)

LAERTES

Ophelia, don't you remember me? I'm your brother, Laertes.  
(She does not respond to him.)  
What happened to her?

KING

Hamlet as well.

LAERTES

He will pay.  
(He walks up to Ophelia and puts his arms around her.  
Ophelia leaps away.)

OPHELIA

NO! Don't touch me! They're always touching...Stop! Leave  
me alone!  
(She exits running.)

(Pause.)

KING

I'm sorry.  
(Pause.)  
I sent Hamlet to England. I wrote a letter to the king,  
which said to behead Hamlet as soon as he arrives there.

LAERTES

It won't end that way. He will return.

KING

Yes. He will.

(Blackout.)

end