

Gertrude / Hamlet

~~Go, I hear him coming.
(Polonius hides. Hamlet enters.)~~

start

HAMLET

Why did you call me?

QUEEN

Your father is unhappy.

HAMLET

I should think so. He is dead.

QUEEN

Not your father. Claudius.

HAMLET

Oh, your husband's brother.

QUEEN

My husband, Hamlet. Have you forgotten who I am?

HAMLET

Never. You are your husband's brother's wife, and my mother. I wish that neither were true.

QUEEN

Hamlet, why must you torture me? I love you.

HAMLET

Love me?

(He grabs a mirror.)

Your love wanes too easily for it to mean much. Come, look in this mirror, so that you may see the innermost part of your flesh.

QUEEN

My flesh?! Would you murder me? Help!

POLONIUS

Help?

HAMLET

What? A rat? Dead for a ducat!

(Hamlet draws his sword and strikes at the curtain behind which Polonius is hiding.)

POLONIUS

~~Oh! I am slain...~~

~~(Polonius dies.)~~

QUEEN

What have you done?

HAMLET

Is it the king?

QUEEN

What a terrible and bloody deed you have done!

HAMLET

Bloody, my mother, but not nearly as terrible as killing a king, and marrying his brother!

QUEEN

Kill a king?

HAMLET

(Hamlet pulls back the curtain to reveal Polonius.)
You meddling fool. I hope you have more sense in death than you did in life.

(Queen goes to leave. Hamlet turns on her.)

HAMLET

SIT DOWN! You cannot leave until I'm finished with you.
Sit. SIT!

(She does.)

QUEEN

Why do you tear at my heart?

HAMLET

MOTHER, HAVE I NEEDED YOU?
MOTHER, HAVE I LEARNED FROM YOU?
MOTHER, WHAT IS TRUTH?
IS IT A MURDER SO FOUL?
WHAT WAS YOUR PART?
WHERE IS YOUR HEART?

MOTHERS ALWAYS FEED YOU THEIR MILK.
MOTHERS ALWAYS SING YOU THEIR SONG.
MOTHERS ALWAYS WRAP YOU IN SILK.
MOTHERS ALWAYS HOLD YOU TOO LONG.