

Hamlet abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 1

Resentment

Situation: The king, queen, Laertes and others enter the cemetery as Hamlet and Horatio are perusing the skulls uncovered by the gravediggers. As the royals enter, Hamlet and Horatio step aside. As Ophelia's body is placed in the grave, Laertes leaps into the grave, drawing the ire of Hamlet, who rushes forward.

HAMLET: What is he whose grief bears such an emphasis? This is I, Hamlet the Dane.

Laertes comes out of the grave.

LAERTES: The devil take thy soul!

They grapple.

HAMLET: I prithee take thy fingers from my throat. Hold off thy hand.

QUEEN: Hamlet, Hamlet!

ALL: Gentlemen!

Hamlet and Laertes are separated.

HAMLET: Why, I will fight with him upon this theme until my eyelids will no longer wag!

QUEEN: O my son, what theme?

Hamlet to Laertes, No. 1

I loved Ophelia. Some forty thousand
Brothers' love could not make up my sum, and
What wilt thou do for her, Laertes? Show
Me what thou'lt do. Wilt thou weep, wilt thou fight,
Wilt thou drink vinegar or eat a crow?
I'll do it. Dost thou come within my sight
To whine or to outface me with leaping
In her grave? Let all earth come cascading
On us, millions of acres, enough to
Bury us to the earth's burning zone. When
Thou'lt mouth, I will rant as thou. Why do you
Use me like this? But then so what. Even
Hercules could try to do what he may,
Yet cats will mew and dogs will have their day.