

# Side #3

~~ROYAL DANCING COUPLES:~~ **Father:**  
It's perfectly delightful!

FATHER OF THE PRINCESS:  
Won't you give a little smile?

~~ROYAL DANCING COUPLES:~~ **Father**  
It's just delightful!

PRINCESS WHO WON'T LAUGH [*writing in her journal*]:  
So I told them:

[*She addresses the ROYAL DANCING COUPLES.*]

I wouldn't smile for all the gold in the mountains, I wouldn't laugh for all the treasure in the sea. Not if you fastened every star in the sky into the hems of all my gowns. Not if the muses themselves came to sing to me, nor if the philosophers and poets of the world were to write for me. You can take the charm of the ocean and the plains and the meadows in springtime, and you can take the sound of the larks and the sparrows and the scent of the grass and shove it all in a box. This kingdom will blacken and crumble and everything in it will wither and die and everyone here and their children and their children's children and their children's children's dogs and cats and goldfish and fuzzy little rabbits will be cold and buried and rotten and decomposing with maggots crawling out of their eyes before I consent to laugh, because I know what the world is really like.

FATHER OF THE PRINCESS:  
Oh,

# Father / Princess

FATHER OF THE PRINCESS AND ROYAL DANCING COUPLES:  
You don't mean that!

PRINCESS WHO WON'T LAUGH [*writing in her journal*]:  
Everybody said. So then my stupid father goes

FATHER OF THE PRINCESS:  
I know!

PRINCESS WHO WON'T LAUGH AND HER FATHER:  
Let's have a contest!

FATHER OF THE PRINCESS:  
Whoever can make my daughter laugh, or even smile, she may wed.

PRINCESS WHO WON'T LAUGH:  
Whatever. Like I am so totally, totally sure. So I go: Agreed.

[*The ROYAL DANCING COUPLES disperse. The three men become the SUITORS, preening on the side; the three ladies become three LADIES-IN-WAITING.*]

But if a suitor tries to make me laugh and doesn't succeed, we cut off his head.

FATHER OF THE PRINCESS:  
Well, sounds fair enough to me!

PRINCESS WHO WON'T LAUGH:  
So now they're coming, like I can hardly wait.