**FORTINBRAS**by Lee Blessing *OPHELIA*

Yeah, yeah, yeah—I’m Ophelia. Big deal. Who cares? No one did in life—right Pop? Oh, huzzah, hooray, ring the bells. Ophelia the ghost speaks. Of course I spoke. What am I supposed to do? Stand around like him? Ghosts do what they like—haven’t you figured that out? We’re supernatural. Super-natural. Got it? At least compared to you. Why am I here? I haven’t come to you. I’m just here to collect this old idiot. I’ll tell you what ghosts know. They know what they did wrong in life. It’s all they can ever think about. That and a second chance—which never comes. Right, Dad? Dad talked too much in life. You see where that got him. Now he’s afraid to open his mouth. It’s really the only good thing I can say about being dead. Hey, Dad—I think I’m still in love with Hamlet. What should I do? (*She laughs*) Do you really want to know what he’s been yearning to say when he comes to see you? The truth—that’s all. About anything. When he was alive he couldn’t tell the truth even when he tried. Now he won’t say anything until he can be absolutely sure it’s true. Which, of course, is never. Isn’t that right, Dad? I was the fool in life. Now it’s him. Do you remember when we last met? Yeah, I was young and fair....you saying I’m not now? Yes, death is a pretty harrowing experience....It’s been hell on my looks, I’ll admit it. You still look great. Didn’t know you could feel me,, eh? It usually comes as a shock. I can turn it on and off. Comes in handy. Say, why don’t you get rid of the girls. We can, um....talk.....unless you’re getting other ideas....Are you coming or not? ...It’s not only possible, it’s terrific. Did you know women don’t reach their sexual peak until after they’re dead? You’re afraid you won’t satisfy me, aren’t you? Don’t worry. You’ll still be the only one who ever tried.