

"If I Die Young"

By The Band Perry

If I die young bury me in satin
Lay me down on a bed of roses
Sink me in the river at dawn
Send me away with the words of a love song

Lord make me a rainbow, I'll shine down on my mother
She'll know I'm safe with you when she stands under my colors,
Life ain't always what you think it ought to be
Ain't even grey, but she buries her baby

The sharp knife of a short life, well
I've had just enough time

If I die young bury me in satin
Lay me down on a bed of roses
Sink me in the river at dawn
Send me away with the words of a love song

The sharp knife of a short life, well
I've had just enough time

And I'll be wearing white when I come into your kingdom
I'm as green as the ring on my little cold finger

I've never known the lovin' of a man
But it sure felt nice when he was holding my hand
There's a boy here in town says he'll love me forever
Who would have thought forever could be severed by

The sharp knife of a short life, well
I've had just enough time

So put on your best boys and I'll wear my pearls
What I never did is done

A penny for my thoughts, oh no I'll sell them for a dollar
They're worth so much more after I'm a goner
And maybe then you'll hear the words I been singin'
Funny when you're dead how people start listenin'

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The ballad of a dove
Go with peace and love
Gather up your tears, keep 'em in your pocket
Save them for a time when your really gonna need 'em

The sharp knife of a short life, well
I've had just enough time
So put on your best boys and I'll wear my pearls

Using the song and the play *Hamlet*, answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. How is the description of the "bed of roses" and "sink me in the river" similar to Ophelia's situation?
2. Think back. Is there any mention of Ophelia's mother? What could be the reasons for this? Based upon the women in *Hamlet*, do you think Shakespeare feels women are strong or weak members of society? Explain and provide specific examples.
3. In reference to *Hamlet*, what short lives can be compared to this song? To what else could this metaphor refer? Explain.
4. What is the significance of "wearing white" and being "green"? (There are two meanings here! Refer to the next stanza for a hint.)
5. How does the reference to "a boy here in town" resemble Ophelia's relationship with Hamlet?
6. "They worth so much more after I'm a goner." Think back about Ophelia's mad rant about flowers. What was the significance of the flowers? Each flower had a specific meaning. How are the meanings significant?
7. How are the lines "And maybe then you'll hear the words I been singing/Funny when you're dead how people start listenin'" similar to what Ophelia has gone through. Do you feel that Ophelia's feelings were overlooked during the play? Could her death have been prevented in someone had been paying attention to her?