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Cordelia, his youngest daughter, is different from her sisters. Unlike them, she really loves her father but, also unlike them, she speaks honestly about her feelings. She loves him "as a child should love a father—that is all." Lear mistakes her simple honesty for coldness of heart and he angrily sends her away. After he gives Cordelia's part of the kingdom to her two lying sisters, his real problems begin. What will he do when he discovers the emptiness of his two other daughters' show of love for him? Will he learn from his mistakes, or is he too proud and angry?

In the world of King Lear, good people suffer and bad people win. Honest, loving people like Cordelia and Edgar cannot defend themselves against the attacks of their selfish, dishonest enemies. The two central people in the play, King Lear and the Earl of Gloucester, are not bad people but they have a similar weakness. They both hate the people who really love them. And they both believe the lies of their enemies. As a result of this, Lear loses his mind and Gloucester loses his eyes. Many other people die.

This is a story of madness, death and suffering—but there is a