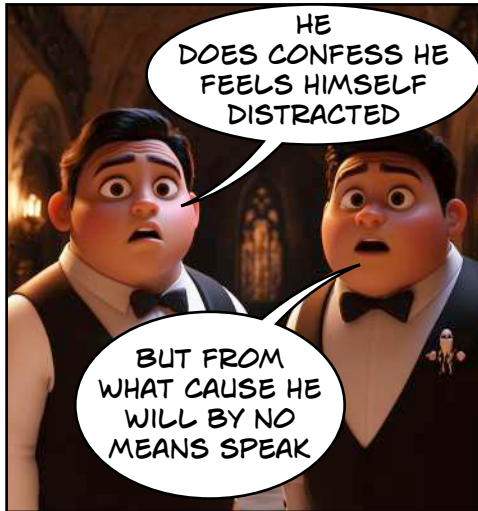


# ACT 3

## TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

AT THE START OF ACT 3, ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE REPORTING BACK TO CLAUDIUS THAT THEY HAVEN'T FOUND OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH HAMLET...



HE DOES CONFESS HE FEELS HIMSELF DISTRACTED

BUT FROM WHAT CAUSE HE WILL BY NO MEANS SPEAK



BUT THEY HAVE A BIT OF GOOD NEWS...

THE PLAYERS ARE HERE, AND THERE DID SEEM IN HIM A KIND OF JOY TO HEAR OF IT

THEY ALREADY HAVE ORDER THIS NIGHT TO PLAY BEFORE HIM

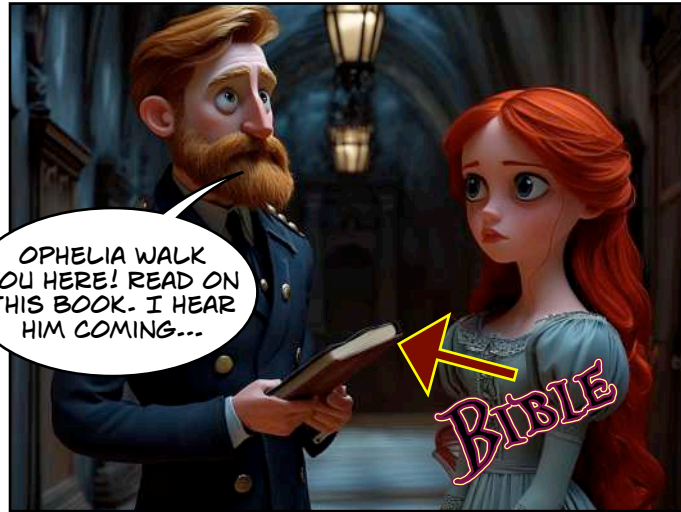


'TIS MOST TRUE, AND HE BESEECED ME TO ENTREAT YOUR MAJESTIES TO HEAR AND SEE THE MATTER



WITH ALL MY HEART AND IT DOTH MUCH CONTENT ME TO SEE HIM SO INCLINED

SO THAT'S SETTLED, CLAUDIUS AND GERTRUDE WILL GO TO SEE THE PLAY LATER ON, BUT FIRST POLONIUS AND CLAUDIUS CONTINUE THEIR PLAN. BORING OLD POLONIUS IS CONVINCED THAT HAMLET'S LOVE FOR OPHELIA IS WHAT'S MAKING HAMLET MAD - NOW HE WILL USE HIS DAUGHTER TO PROVE THAT IT'S TRUE...



OPHELIA WALK YOU HERE! READ ON THIS BOOK. I HEAR HIM COMING...

**BIBLE**

POLONIUS WANTS HAMLET TO BELIEVE THAT OPHELIA CAME HERE TO PRAY, EVEN SNEAKER THAN BEFORE!



HIM AND CLAUDIUS HIDE BEHIND A CURTAIN TO WATCH...

AT FIRST, HAMLET DOESN'T EVEN SEE OPHELIA



HE'S LOST IN HIS DARK THOUGHTS OF DEATH AND DYING...

TO BE, OR NOT TO BE: THAT IS THE QUESTION: WHETHER 'TIS NOBLER IN THE MIND TO SUFFER THE SLINGS AND ARROWS OF OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNE, OR TO TAKE ARMS AGAINST A SEA OF TROUBLES, AND BY OPPOSING END THEM? TO DIE, TO SLEEP: TO SLEEP: PERCHANCE TO DREAM, AY, THERE'S THE RUB. FOR IN THAT SLEEP OF DEATH WHAT DREAMS MAY COME WHEN WE HAVE SHUFFLED OFF THIS MORTAL COIL...

HAMLET CAN'T WORK OUT WHETHER IT'S BETTER TO SUFFER EVERYTHING THAT LIFE THROWS AT YOU, OR JUST TO END IT IF TIMES GET TOO TOUGH. DYING IS JUST LIKE SLEEPING HE THINKS - BUT, THERE'S THE PROBLEM. WHEN YOU SLEEP, YOU CAN'T CONTROL THE DREAMS THAT COME, AND THEY MIGHT WELL BE NIGHTMARES.... SUDDENLY HE SEES OPHELIA, BUT BECAUSE HE WASN'T EXPECTING HER, HE HASN'T GOT TIME TO PRETEND TO BE MAD...



THE FAIR OPHELIA!

OPHELIA HAS HER BIBLE, BUT ALSO WANTS TO GIVE HAMLET BACK A BOOK OF POEMS THAT HE GAVE HER...



GOOD MY LORD, I HAVE REMEMBRANCES OF YOURS, THAT I HAVE LONGED TO RE-DELIVER: I PRAY YOU NOW RECEIVE THEM.

HAMLET IS ABOUT TO TAKE IT...



WHEN HE SUDDENLY SEES SOMETHING...

POLONIUS ISN'T VERY GOOD AT HIDING...

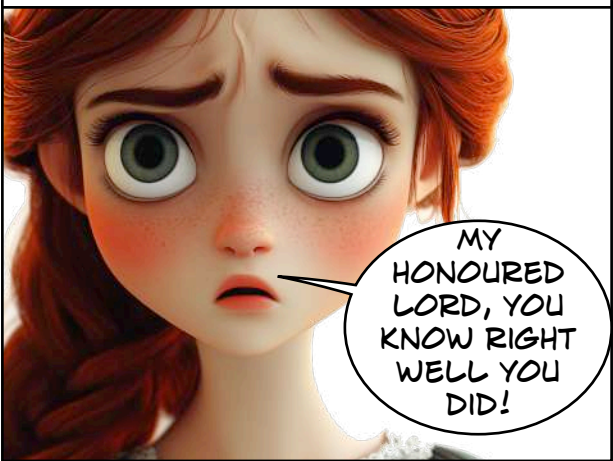


HAMLET REALISES HE'S BEING WATCHED, SO HE SPRINGS INTO MAD ACTING AGAIN!



NO, NO: I NEVER GAVE YOU AUGHT!

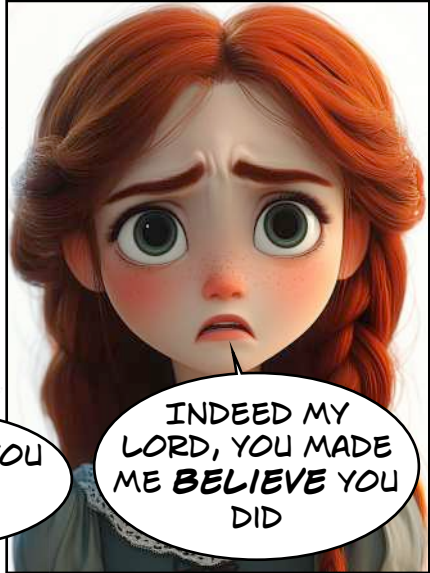
THIS CAN'T BE RIGHT, THINKS OPHELIA - SHE'S TREASURED THIS BOOK EVER SINCE HAMLET GAVE IT TO HER!



MY HONoured LORD, YOU KNOW RIGHT WELL YOU DID!



I LOVED YOU NOT



INDEED MY LORD, YOU MADE ME BELIEVE YOU DID

EACH WORD IS LIKE A DAGGER TO HER HEART. HIS MANNER AND WORDS ARE SO STRANGE...



YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE BELIEVED ME. I AM VERY PROUD, REVENGEFUL, AMBITIOUS. GO THY WAYS TO A NUNNERY. WE ARE ARRANT KNAVES ALL: BELIEVE NONE OF US, TO A NUNNERY GO!



OH HELP HIM YOU SWEET HEAVENS!



O, WHAT A NOBLE MIND IS HERE O'ERTHROWN!!! AND I, OF LADIES MOST DEJECT AND WRETCHED. O, WOE IS ME, TO HAVE SEEN WHAT I HAVE SEEN, SEE WHAT I SEE!



SO HERE'S A QUESTION, FROM ME TO YOU...

DO YOU THINK WHAT HAMLET'S DONE IS RIGHT? HE'S CERTAINLY PERSUADED OPHELIA THAT HE'S MAD - SHE SAYS HIS MIND IS "O'ERTHROWN" - BUT HE'S ALSO BROKEN HER HEART. HE'S ON A MISSION TO AVENGE HIS FATHER'S MURDER, BUT THAT'S NOT OPHELIA'S FAULT IS IT? WHAT DID SHE EVER DO BUT LOVE HIM?

MEANWHILE, THE MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN WHO IS NEVER WRONG...



IS WRONG!



LOVE! HIS AFFECTIONS DO NOT THAT WAY TEND, SOME DEEPER THING IT IS THAT TROUBLES HIM...

POLONIUS CAN'T LET HIMSELF BE WRONG!



BUT YET I DO BELIEVE THE ORIGIN OF HIS GRIEF SPRUNG FROM NEGLECTED LOVE! MY LORD, DO AS YOU PLEASE, AFTER THE PLAY LET HIS QUEEN -MOTHER ALL ALONE ENTREAT HIM TO HIS GRIEF, IF SHE FIND HIM NOT, TO ENGLAND SEND HIM.

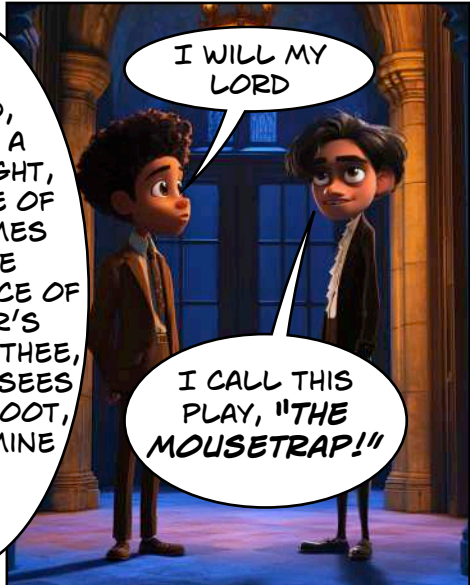
AND SO THE NEW PLAN IS TO SEE IF GERTRUDE CAN GET THE TRUTH OUT OF HAMLET - AFTER THE PLAY. THE PLAY! I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN ABOUT THAT, REMEMBER THE PLAY? IT'S ALMOST READY TO BEGIN..



THE AUDIENCE ARE ARRIVING, BUT HAMLET HAS SOMETHING TO DISCUSS WITH HORATIO...



HORATIO, THERE IS A PLAY TONIGHT, ONE SCENE OF WHICH COMES NEAR THE CIRCUMSTANCE OF MY FATHER'S DEATH. I PRITHEE, WHEN THOU SEES THAT ACT AFOOT, OBSERVE MINE UNCLE!



I WILL MY LORD

I CALL THIS PLAY, "THE MOUSETRAP!"



THE AUDIENCE HAVE TAKEN THEIR SEATS...



THE KING AND QUEEN ARRIVE...

SO REMEMBER, HAMLET AND HORATIO ARE GOING TO BE LOOKING AT CLAUDIUS'S FACE AT THE MOMENT WHEN THE MURDER TAKES PLACE ON THE STAGE...

POLONIUS INTRODUCES...



THE ACTORS ARE COME HITHER! THE BEST ACTORS IN THE WORLD! FOR COMEDY, TRAGEDY, HISTORY, THESE ARE THE ONLY MEN!

EVERYONE IS READY FOR THE PLAY...



THE PLAY BEGINS AND AT FIRST ALL SEEMS WELL...



FULL THIRTY TIMES HAS PHOEBUS' CART GONE ROUND...

WHERE LOVE IS GREAT, THE LITTLEST DOUBTS ARE FEAR...



EVERYONE IS ENJOYING IT SO FAR...



SWEET, LEAVE ME HERE AWHILE, MY SPIRITS GROW DULL, AND FAIN I WOULD BEGUILLE THE TEDIOUS DAY WITH SLEEP

NOW WE ARE COMING TO THE MOMENT HAMLET HAS BEEN WAITING FOR...



LET'S SEE IF IT'S FAMILIAR TO YOU TOO...

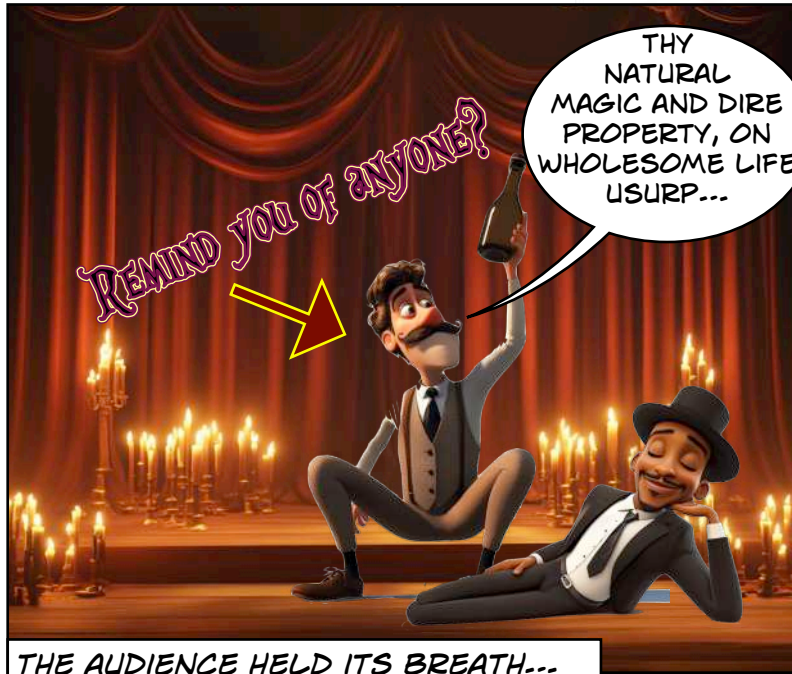
AS HAMLET WATCHES, THE GHOST'S WORDS ECHO IN HIS MIND...AS I WAS SLEEPING IN MINE ORCHARD.....



THOUGHTS BLACK, HANDS APT, DRUGS FIT AND TIME AGREEING



THOU MIXTURE RANK, OF MIDNIGHT WEEDS COLLECTED



REMINDE YOU OF ANYONE?

THY NATURAL MAGIC AND DIRE PROPERTY, ON WHOLESOME LIFE USURP...

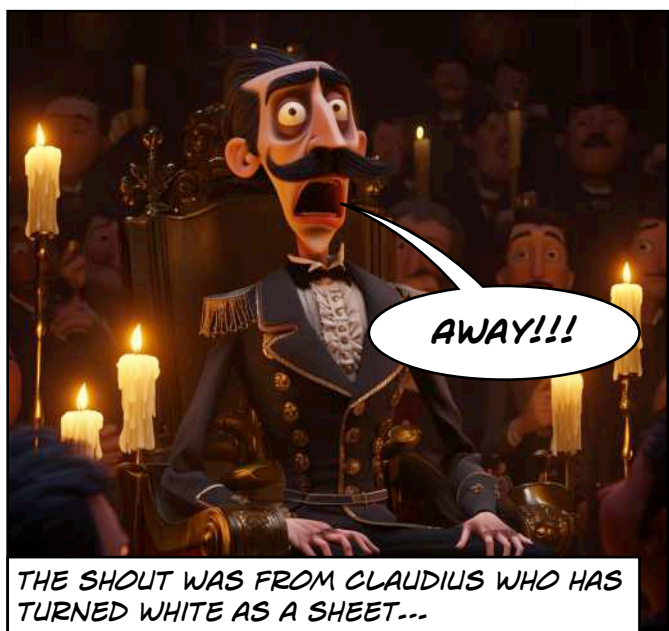
THE AUDIENCE HELD ITS BREATH...



IMMEDIATELY!!!

GIVE ME SOME LIGHT. AWAY!!!

A CRY RINGS OUT FROM THE AUDIENCE!!!



AWAY!!!

THE SHOUT WAS FROM CLAUDIUS WHO HAS TURNED WHITE AS A SHEET...



THE ENTIRE COURT IS SHOCKED!

GIVE SOME LIGHT, AWAY!

THE KING RISES!



AWAY, AWAY!

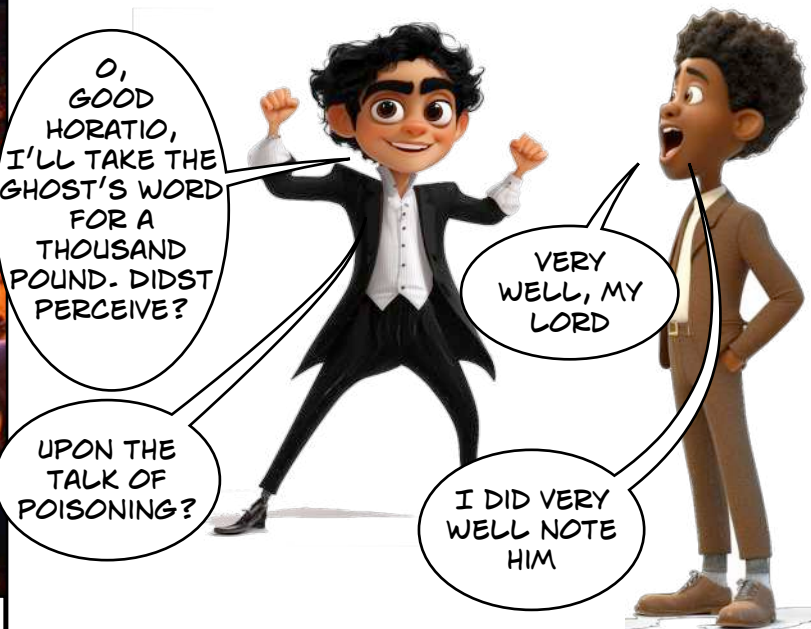
THE KING HAS RUN OFF AND SO THE AUDIENCE BEGIN TO DEPART

BUT AS THEY LEAVE EVERYONE IS ALREADY WHISPERING TO EACH OTHER...



WHY IS THE KING SO UPSET AND ANGRY? WHAT WAS IN THE PLAY THAT AFFECTED HIM SO MUCH?

HAMLET'S TRAP HAS WORKED. THE GHOST SPOKE TRUE! CLAUDIUS IS GUILTY OF MURDER. HAMLET IS ALMOST HAPPY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS...



O, GOOD HORATIO, I'LL TAKE THE GHOST'S WORD FOR A THOUSAND POUND. DIDST PERCEIVE?

VERY WELL, MY LORD

UPON THE TALK OF POISONING?

I DID VERY WELL NOTE HIM



THE QUEEN YOUR MOTHER DESIRES TO SPEAK WITH YOU ERE YOU GO TO BED

WE SHALL OBEY, WERE SHE TEN TIMES OUR MOTHER



AS HAMLET WALKS THE CORRIDORS ON THE WAY TO VISIT HIS MOTHER...



HE HEARS A VOICE COMING FROM THE CASTLE CHAPEL...

TIPTOEING IN, HE CAN'T BELIEVE HIS LUCK. THERE'S CLAUDIUS....



O, MY OFFENCE IS RANK: IT SMELLS TO HEAVEN

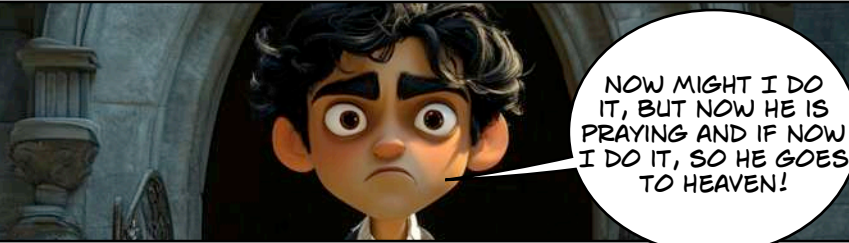
WITH NO WITNESSES AND NOW CERTAIN THAT CLAUDIUS KILLED HIS FATHER, THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR REVENGE...

CLAUDIUS IS TORMENTED BY WHAT HE'S DONE, BUT HAMLET IS TOO FAR AWAY TO HEAR WHAT HE'S SAYING



A BROTHER'S MURDER, PRAY CAN I NOT.

AND IS CONVINCED THAT CLAUDIUS IS PRAYING



NOW MIGHT I DO IT, BUT NOW HE IS PRAYING AND IF NOW I DO IT, SO HE GOES TO HEAVEN!

**STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW**

HAMLET BELIEVES THAT, IF CLAUDIUS IS ASKING GOD FOR FORGIVENESS AS HE IS BEING KILLED, HE WILL GO STRAIGHT TO HEAVEN. THAT'S NOT WHERE HAMLET WANTS CLAUDIUS TO GO AFTER HE'S DEAD!

THE QUEEN IS IN CRISIS, WHAT IS SHE TO DO ABOUT HER SON?



POLONIUS DOES THE THING HE LOVES MOST, PLANNING AND TELLING PEOPLE WHAT TO DO...

POLONIUS DOESN'T KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT THE OLD KING'S DEATH, HE THINKS HAMLET'S PLAY WAS JUST A PRACTICAL JOKE...



HE WILL COME STRAIGHT. TELL HIM HIS PRANKS HAVE BEEN TOO BROAD TO BEAR WITH!

POLONIUS DECIDES TO HIDE BEHIND THE CURTAINS AND LISTEN...



I'LL SCONCE ME EVEN HERE...

EVEN THOUGH WE KNOW HE'S RUBBISH AT HIDING...

HAMLET IS READY FOR A FIGHT...



MOTHER!!!

HAMLET, THOU HAST THY FATHER MUCH OFFENDED

THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR HAMLET, CLAUDIUS IS NOT HIS FATHER!!!

YOU CAN'T GET MORE OFFENSIVE THAN MARRYING YOUR DAD'S MURDERER!



MOTHER, YOU HAVE MY FATHER MUCH OFFENDED

GERTRUDE IS SHOCKED THAT HAMLET IS BEING SO DISRESPECTFUL...



HOW NOW, BOY! HAVE YOU FORGOT ME?

HAMLET IS GOING TO GET HER TO LISTEN...



SIT YOU DOWN, YOU SHALL NOT BUDGE!!!

GERTRUDE IS TERRIFIED...



WHAT WILT THOU DO? THOU WILT NOT MURDER ME? HELP, HELP, HO!

DON'T WORRY GERTRUDE, THE MAN WITH THE PLAN WILL HELP...



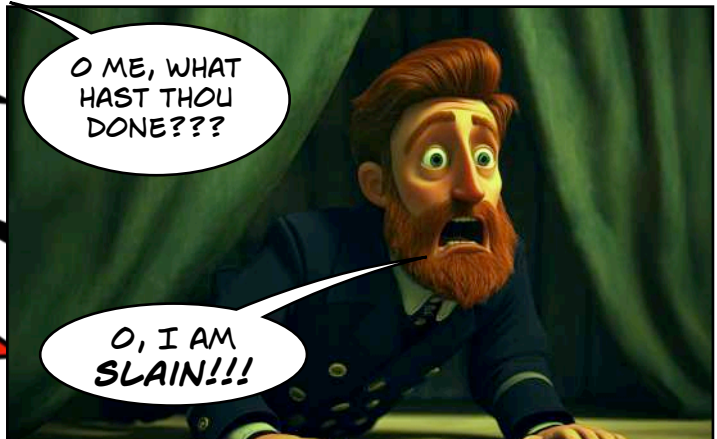
WHAT, HO! HELP, HELP, HELP!

HAMLET IS ASTONISHED! IT MUST BE CLAUDIUS BEHIND THE CURTAIN - AND THIS TIME HE ISN'T PRAYING! IT'S THE PERFECT TIME TO TAKE REVENGE. HAMLET GRABS A SWORD FROM THE HALLWAY AND...



HOW NOW! A RAT? DEAD FOR A DUCAT DEAD!

HAMLET STABS STRAIGHT THROUGH THE CURTAIN!



O ME, WHAT HAST THOU DONE???

O, I AM SLAIN!!!

A LIFE FOR A LIFE, BUT IT'S THE WRONG ONE...

O, WHAT A RASH AND BLOODY DEED IS THIS!

A BLOODY DEED, ALMOST AS BAD GOOD MOTHER, AS KILL A KING AND MARRY WITH HIS BROTHER!

O, SPEAK TO ME NO MORE, THESE WORDS LIKE DAGGERS ENTER IN MY EARS!

I'LL LUG THE GUTS INTO THE NEIGHBOUR ROOM, MOTHER GOODNIGHT INDEED!

WELL! SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED IN ACT 3, TIME FOR A RECAP! LET'S SEE WHERE OUR CHARACTERS ARE AND HOW THEY ARE FEELING ABOUT THEIR PLACE IN ELSINORE CASTLE RIGHT NOW...

CLAUDIUS IS PANICKING - HE THINKS THAT HAMLET KNOWS THE TRUTH

OPHELIA IS STILL VERY SAD ABOUT THE WAY THAT HAMLET TREATED HER

ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE GETTING MORE AND MORE WORRIED ABOUT HAMLET'S BEHAVIOUR

GERTRUDE IS WHERE WE JUST LEFT HER, SAD AND SHOCKED

POLONIUS IS WELL, GONE, AND HAMLET IS PUTTING THE BODY SOMEWHERE SECRET...

HAMLET ON THE OTHER HAND, IS FEELING BOLD AND BRAVE!



WHAT COULD POSSIBLY HAPPEN IN ACT 4?