

ACT 4 GOODNIGHT LADIES, GOODNIGHT

AT THE START OF ACT 4, CLAUDIUS IS PRETTY SURE THAT STABBING WAS MEANT FOR HIM. WHAT'S WORSE IS THAT THE DANISH PEOPLE LOVE HAMLET, SO HE CAN'T EVEN PUNISH HIM, - AND HAMLET MIGHT REVEAL WHO KILLED HIS FATHER. BEST TO GET HAMLET OUT OF HERE...

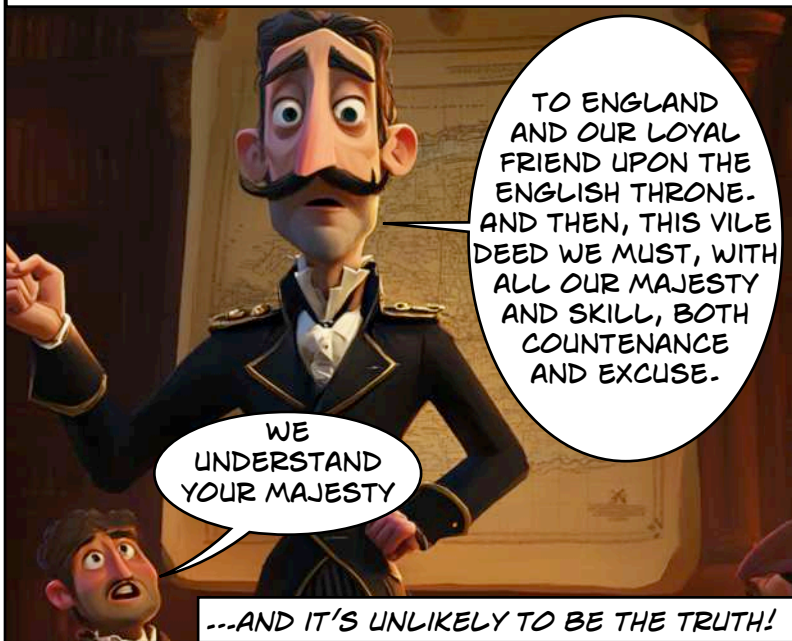
TIME TO START PLOTTING AGAIN...



TO ENGLAND YOUR MAJESTY?

THE SUN NO SOONER SHALL THE MOUNTAINS TOUCH, BUT HE SHALL SHIP TO ENGLAND

CLAUDIUS IS GOING TO HAVE TO USE ALL HIS CUNNING TO COME UP WITH AN EXPLANATION FOR HOW POLONIUS DIED...



TO ENGLAND AND OUR LOYAL FRIEND UPON THE ENGLISH THRONE. AND THEN, THIS VILE DEED WE MUST, WITH ALL OUR MAJESTY AND SKILL, BOTH COUNTENANCE AND EXCUSE.

WE UNDERSTAND YOUR MAJESTY

...AND IT'S UNLIKELY TO BE THE TRUTH!

GULDENSTERN RUSHES IN LOOKING WORRIED - HAMLET'S BEHAVIOUR SEEMS TO BE GETTING EVEN STRANGER...



WHERE THE DEAD BODY IS BESTOWED MY LORD, WE CANNOT GET FROM HIM

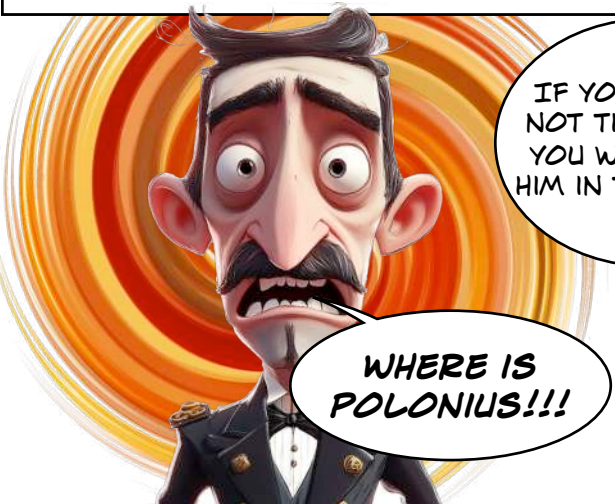
HAMLET HAS HIDDEN POLONIUS'S BODY AND NOBODY KNOWS WHERE IT IS!



NOW HAMLET, WHERE'S POLONIUS?

BRING HIM BEFORE US!

AT SUPPER. NOT WHERE HE EATS, BUT WHERE HE IS EATEN. WORMS ARE E'EN AT HIM



WHERE IS POLONIUS!!!

IF YOU FIND HIM NOT THIS MONTH, YOU WILL NOSE HIM IN THE LOBBY!

GO SEEK HIM THERE!



CLAUDIUS PUTS HIS PLAN INTO ACTION, HE TELLS HIM THAT THE JOURNEY TO ENGLAND IS FOR HAMLET'S SAFETY, NOT HIS. WHAT A LIAR!!!



HAMLET, THIS DEED, FOR THINE ESPECIAL SAFETY MUST SEND THEE HENCE, WITH FIERY QUICKNESS: THEREFORE, PREPARE THYSELF FOR ENGLAND!

BUT HAMLET DOESN'T SEEM BOTHERED BY BEING SENT AWAY

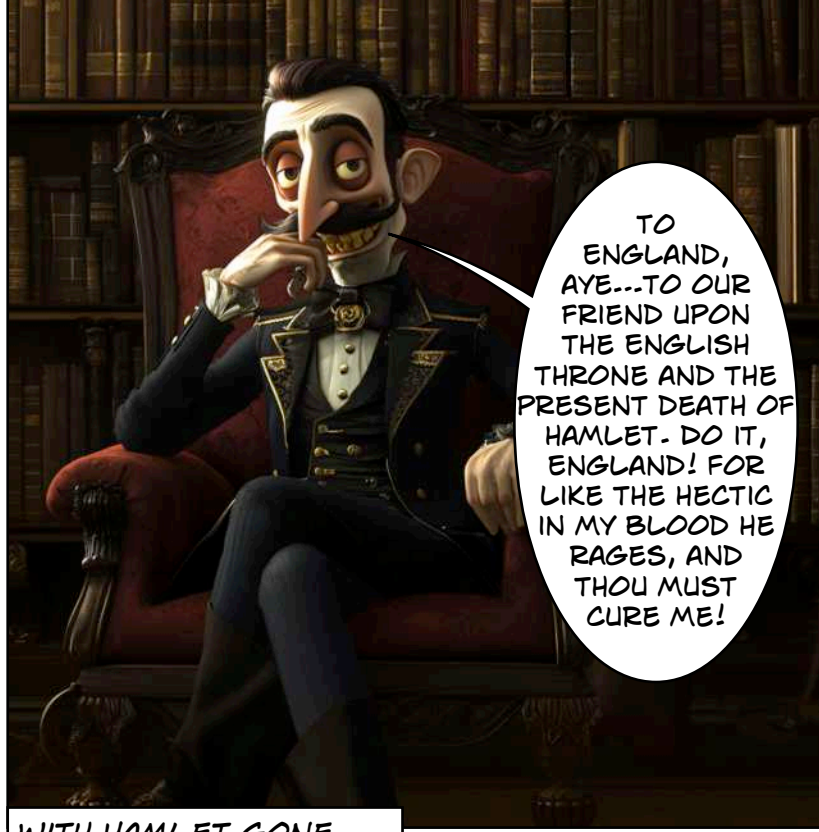


GOOD, FAREWELL, DEAR MOTHER. COME FOR ENGLAND!



FOLLOW HIM AT FOOT, DELAY IT NOT. I'LL HAVE HIM HENCE TONIGHT.

BUT WHAT NOBODY KNOWS IS THAT IN CLAUDIUS'S PLAN, HAMLET WILL NEVER COME BACK ALIVE!!!



TO ENGLAND, AYE...TO OUR FRIEND UPON THE ENGLISH THRONE AND THE PRESENT DEATH OF HAMLET. DO IT, ENGLAND! FOR LIKE THE HECTIC IN MY BLOOD HE RAGES, AND THOU MUST CURE ME!



ROSENCRANTZ, GUILDENSTERN!



CLAUDIUS HANDS THEM THE LETTER FOR THE ENGLISH KING THAT WILL SEAL HAMLET'S FATE...

WITH HAMLET GONE FROM DENMARK, AND ON HIS WAY TO CERTAIN DEATH IN ENGLAND, CLAUDIUS MIGHT THINK HIS PROBLEMS ARE SOLVED. BUT HE'S SO WRONG...- WHEN WORD REACHES LAERTES IN PARIS THAT POLONIUS, HIS FATHER, IS DEAD, HE RUSHES BACK TO DENMARK, CONVINCED THAT CLAUDIUS IS THE KILLER. NOW HE'S OUTSIDE THE PALACE, DEMANDING JUSTICE!



AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, OPHELIA - HER HEART ALREADY BROKEN BY HAMLET - IS OUT OF HER MIND WITH GRIEF FOR HER FATHER...

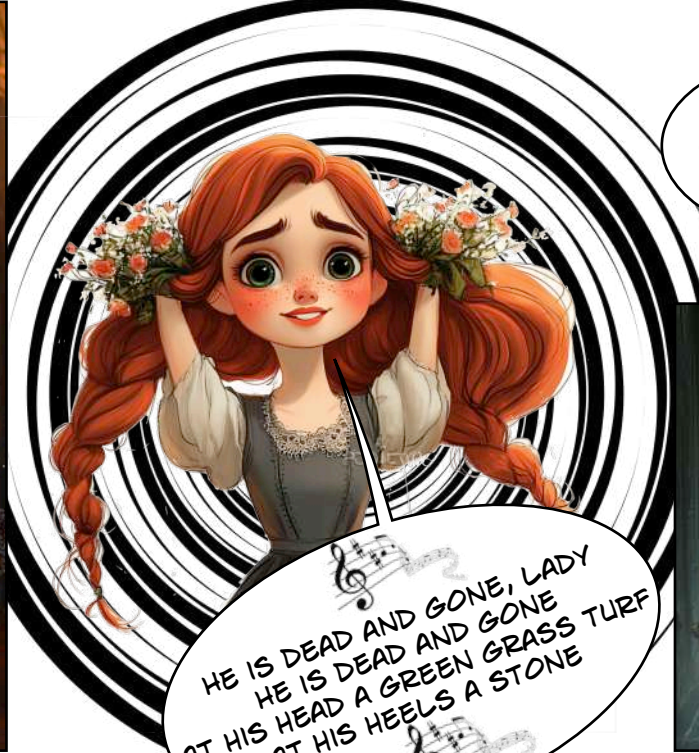


MY LORD, THIS MISCHANCE OF OLD POLONIUS HATH PIERCED SO THE YOUNG OPHELIA THAT SHE, POOR MAID IS QUITE BEREFT OF WITS

ALAS,
LOOK HERE MY
LORD



HOW DO YE,
PRETTY LADY?



FOLLOW HER
CLOSE, GIVE HER
GOOD WATCH

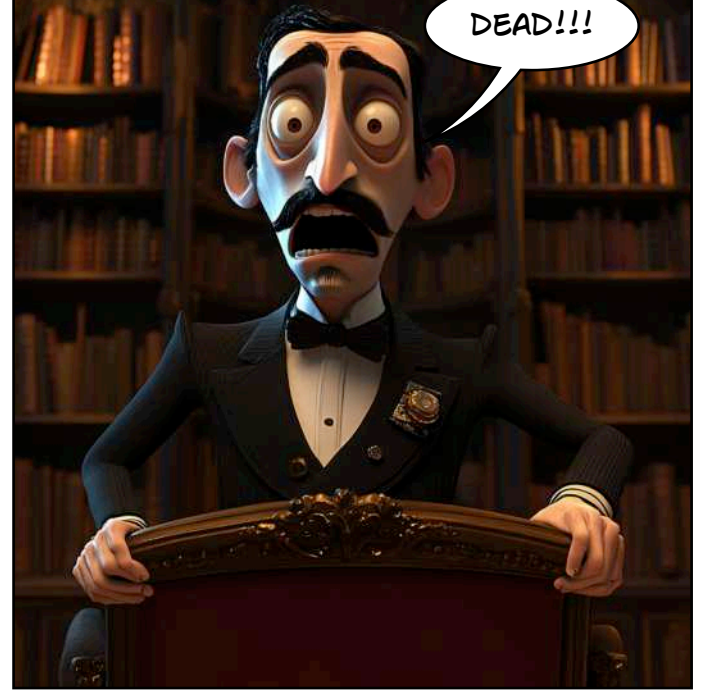


HE IS DEAD AND GONE, LADY
HE IS DEAD AND GONE
AT HIS HEAD A GREEN GRASS TURF
AT HIS HEELS A STONE

JUST THEN LAERTES BURSTS IN...



O
THOU VILE
KING, GIVE ME
MY FATHER!
WHERE'S MY
FATHER?



DEAD!!!



HOW CAME HE DEAD, I'LL
NOT BE JUGGLED WITH,
HOW CAME HE DEAD???


I AM
GUILTLSS
OF YOUR
FATHER'S
DEATH AND AM
MOST
SENSIBLE IN
GRIEF FOR
IT!!!



MAYBE IT'S
BECAUSE, FOR
ONCE,
CLAUDIUS IS
TELLING THE
TRUTH, THAT
LAERTES LETS
HIM GO. NOW,
CLAUDIUS IS
DESPERATE TO
KNOW, IS
LAERTES
GOING TO HAVE
VENGEANCE ON
EVERYONE, OR
JUST
POLONIUS'S
ENEMIES?




TO HIS GOOD FRIENDS THUS WIDE I'LL OPEN MY ARMS



BUT HIS ENEMIES, I'LL BE REVENGED MOST THOROUGHLY FOR MY FATHER

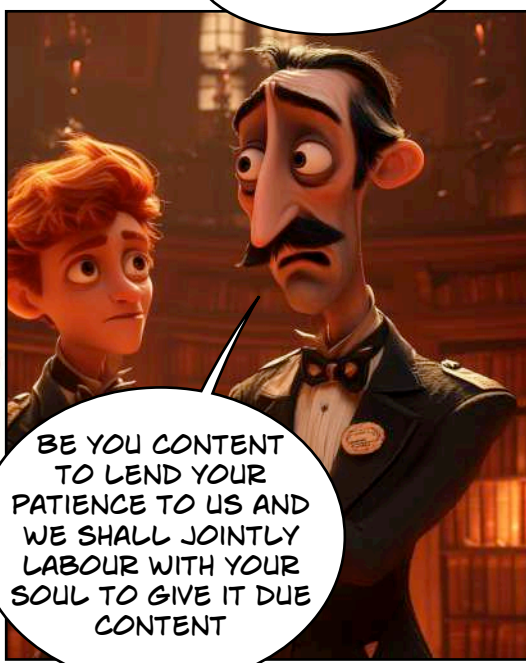


WHAT NOISE IS THAT?



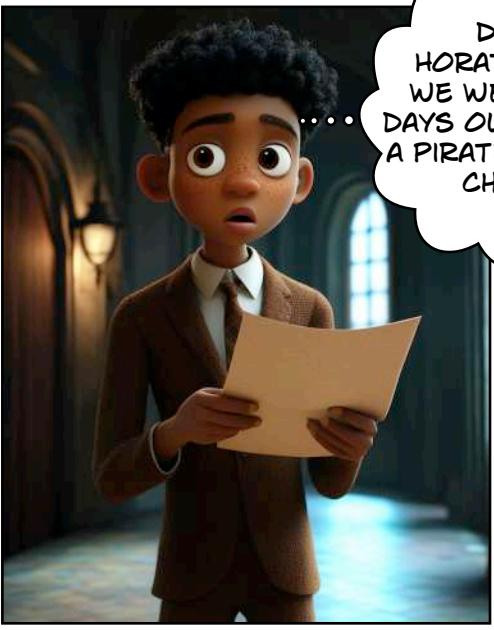
SWEET OPHELIA, KIND SISTER, DO YOU SEE THIS YOU GODS?

AND WILL HE NOT COME AGAIN?
NO, NO, HE IS DEAD
GO TO THY DEATH BED
HE IS GONE, HE IS GONE



BE YOU CONTENT TO LEND YOUR PATIENCE TO US AND WE SHALL JOINTLY LABOUR WITH YOUR SOUL TO GIVE IT DUE CONTENT

LAERTES SEES HIS POOR SISTER GOING MAD AND CLAUDIUS HAS MANAGED SOMEHOW TO CALM HIM DOWN AND GET HIM TO LISTEN. LAST THING I REMEMBER ABOUT HAMLET WAS THAT HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO ENGLAND WITH ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN. THEY HAD LETTERS FOR THE ENGLISH KING THAT TOLD THE KING TO GET RID OF HAMLET, YES? WELL, HERE COMES A PLOT TWIST ABOUT AS BIG AS THEY GET!!! HORATIO RECEIVES A LETTER...



DEAR HORATIO, ERE WE WERE TWO DAYS OLD AT SEA, A PIRATE GAVE US CHASE!



I ALONE BECAME THEIR PRISONER, THEY HAVE DEALT WITH ME LIKE THIEVES OF MERCY



ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN HOLD THEIR COURSE FOR ENGLAND, OF THEM I HAVE MUCH TO TELL THEE, HAMLET X

I HAVE WORDS TO SPEAK IN THINE EAR WILL MAKE THEE DUMB!!!

SO HAMLET WAS CAPTURED BY PIRATES WHO WERE MERCIFUL AND ARE BRINGING HIM BACK TO DENMARK!

CLAUDIUS HAS MANAGED TO CONVINCE LAERTES THAT HE DIDN'T KILL POLONIUS, AND THAT HAMLET DID!



WHY YOU PROCEEDED NOT AGAINST THESE FEATS?

FOR TWO SPECIAL REASONS, THE QUEEN HIS MOTHER AND THE GREAT LOVE THE PUBLIC BEAR HIM

JUST THEN A SERVANT RUSHES IN WITH A LETTER...



THIS LETTER ALSO CAME FROM THE PIRATE SHIP



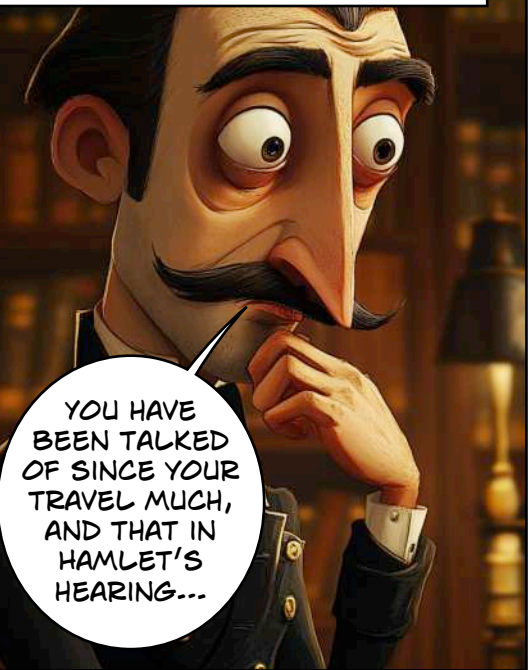
High and Mighty
I AM SET ON YOUR KINGDOM
TOMORROW I SHALL BEG LEAVE TO
SEE YOUR KINGLY EYES
HAMLET X

LET HIM COME!!!



HOW CAN HAMLET BE COMING BACK??? TIME FOR CLAUDIUS TO THINK FAST AGAIN...

AS ALWAYS, A PLAN FORMS QUICKLY...



YOU HAVE BEEN TALKED OF SINCE YOUR TRAVEL MUCH, AND THAT IN HAMLET'S HEARING...

CLAUDIUS TELLS LAERTES THAT WHILE HE WAS IN FRANCE, THEY KEPT HEARING ABOUT HOW GOOD HE WAS AT STUFF, ESPECIALLY SWORD FIGHTING, FENCING TO BE PRECISE. NOT ONLY THAT, BUT EVERY TIME HAMLET HEARD ABOUT IT, HE GOT VERY JEALOUS. BECAUSE OF COURSE, HAMLET FANCIES HIMSELF AS AN EXPERT FENCER. MAYBE, SAID CLAUDIUS, JUST MAYBE A COMPETITION COULD BE ARRANGED BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM, JUST FOR SPORT OF COURSE...



AND FOR THAT PURPOSE I'LL ANOINT MY SWORD, THAT IF I GALL HIM SLIGHTLY IT MAY BE DEATH

CLAUDIUS REALISES LAERTES IS SAYING THAT HE'LL PUT POISON ON THE BLADE OF HIS SWORD, SO THAT IF HE EVEN SCRATCHES HAMLET, HE'LL DIE! WHAT A CHEAT!!!



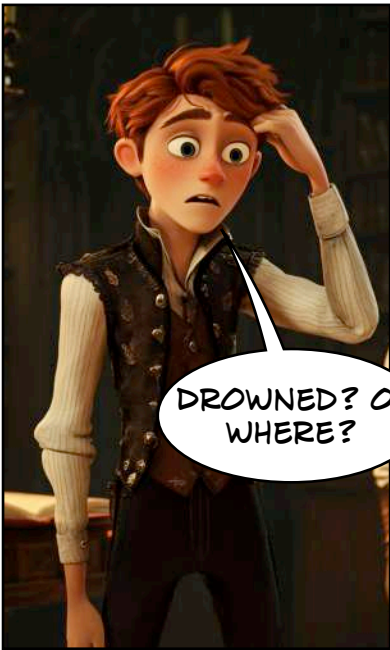
IF THIS SHOULD FAIL, AND HE CALLS FOR A DRINK, I'LL HAVE PREPARED HIM A CHALICE, IF HE BY CHANCE ESCAPE YOUR VENOMED STUCK, OUR PURPOSE MAY HOLD THERE...

CLAUDIUS KNOWS HOW TO USE POISON HIMSELF, NOW HE'S SAYING THAT HE'LL POISON A DRINK SO THAT WHEN HAMLET GETS HOT AND TIRED, HE'LL DRINK THE POISON, DOUBLE CHEAT!!!

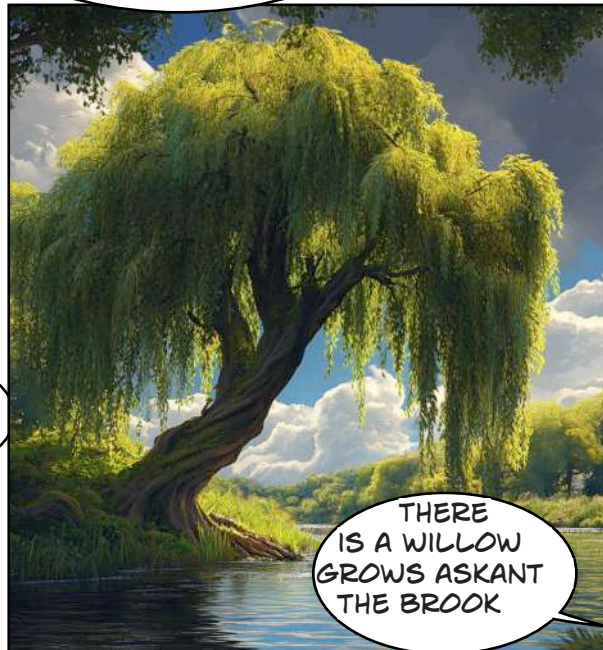
GERTRUDE RUSHES IN...



YOUR SISTER'S DROWNED LAERTES!!!



DROWNED? O, WHERE?



THERE IS A WILLOW GROWS ASKANT THE BROOK



THERE ON THE PENDANT BOUGHS...



...CLAMBERING TO HANG, FELL IN THE WEEPING BROOK...



AND WILL HE NOT COME AGAIN...

WHICH TIME SHE CHANTED SNATCHES OF OLD SONGS



ALAS THEN SHE IS DROWNED

NO ONE IS SURE IF OPHELIA FELL FROM THE BRANCH OR WHETHER SHE JUMPED, WHETHER SHE WAS TOO WEAK TO SAVE HERSELF OR IF SHE JUST DIDN'T WANT TO, BUT SHE IS GONE. AS WE REACH THE SAD FINALE OF ACT 4 THE TENSION IS BEGINNING TO RISE, THE END IS IN SIGHT, BUT FOR WHOM? HAMLET IS ARRIVING BACK INTO DENMARK AND HORATIO IS READY TO MEET HIM. LAERTES WHILE GRIEVING FOR HIS SISTER IS PREPARING FOR HIS FIGHT, CLAUDIUS THINKS HE MIGHT FINALLY GET RID OF HAMLET, WITH ONLY ONE ACT TO GO THINGS ARE GOING TO GET SOLVED ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, DARE YOU READ ON?