

*HAMLET*

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(SCENE SUMMARIES)

# HAMLET ACT 3; SCENE 4

- Polonius hides in Gertrude's room
- Hamlet and Gertrude argue; Polonius worries about Gertrude's safety and cries out for help
- Hamlet thinks the crier is Claudius and stabs him
- Hamlet fusses at his mother for her marriage; he compares the two men
- The ghost appears and reminds Hamlet to get Claudius; Gertrude cannot see or hear the ghost; she thinks Hamlet is hallucinating
- Hamlet tell Gertrude to stay away from Claudius and tells her that Claudius is sending him to England
- Hamlet drags Polonius's body from the room

# HAMLET ACT 4; SCENE 1

- Gertrude tells Claudius that Hamlet has killed Polonius
- King Claudius sends Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to get Polonius's body

# HAMLET ACT 4; SCENE 2

- Hamlet refuses to tell Rosencrantz and Guildenstern where Polonius's body is located
- Hamlet offers to go with them to the king

# HAMLET ACT 4; SCENE 3

- Hamlet finally tells where he has hidden Polonius's body
- Claudius tells Hamlet that he will immediately leave for England
- While alone, Claudius plots having England kill Hamlet for him

# HAMLET ACT 4; SCENE 4

- On the way to the ship, Hamlet sees Fortinbras and his army marching off to war
- Fortinbras and his men will battle for the worthless land of Poland; they do this for honor and not for the land, itself
- Comparing his lack of action against Claudius to Fortinbras's eagerness for war, Hamlet vows to only think bloody or evil thoughts about Claudius

# HAMLET ACT 4; SCENE 5

- Gertrude agrees to see Ophelia when she hears that Ophelia has gone mad
- Ophelia sings crazy songs about love and betrayal
- Laertes, back from France, demands to know what happened to his father
- Laertes starts to calm when Ophelia comes in still behaving madly/insane/crazy
- Claudius insists to Laertes that he is innocent

# HAMLET ACT 4; SCENE 6

- Sailors bring a letter to Horatio – from Hamlet
- Hamlet writes that he is being held in Denmark by pirates
- Horatio takes the sailors to see the king



# HAMLET ACT 4; SCENE 7

- Claudius explains that he cannot harm Hamlet because Denmark and Gertrude love him too much
- Claudius gets a letter - Hamlet is back in Denmark
- Claudius talks Laertes into challenging Hamlet to a fencing match – Laertes will use a sharp and poisoned weapon against Hamlet
- Claudius will have poisoned wine for when Hamlet gets thirsty
- Gertrude comes in and states that Ophelia has drowned

# HAMLET ACT 5; SCENE 1

- Hamlet and Horatio enter a graveyard where a man is digging a grave; Hamlet talks with the gravedigger
- A funeral procession comes into the graveyard
- Hamlet and Horatio step off to the side
- Laertes is angry at the priest; he refuses to give Ophelia full service because he feels that she committed suicide
- Laertes leaps into the grave & curses Hamlet
- Hamlet is offended by Laertes – insults him
- Hamlet jumps into the grave; they fight until pulled apart

# HAMLET ACT 5; SCENE 2 (1/2)

- Hamlet tells Horatio that Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are dead – Hamlet suspected that Claudius sent a letter to have him killed – he changed the letter to name R & G
- Hamlet hears that Laertes wants to have a fencing match with him – he suspects something is wrong, but accepts the challenge
- Hamlet wins the first two hits and the king pours a cup of wine for him – he refuses the wine, but Gertrude drinks it
- Laertes wounds Hamlet with his poisoned sword – Hamlet becomes angry because he felt the tip stab him – they fight and accidentally exchange swords
- Hamlet wounds Laertes
- The queen dies

# HAMLET ACT 5; SCENE 2 (2/2)

- Laertes tells Hamlet that the sword and the wine is poisoned; Hamlet uses both to kill Claudius
- Hamlet and Laertes forgive each other; Laertes dies
- Horatio tries to drink from the cup, wishes to follow Hamlet in death
- Hamlet insists that Horatio stay alive and tell the entire story for him (Horatio has been there through it all and knows the story)
- Hamlet dies
- Hamlet names Fortinbras as the next king; Fortinbras arrives on his way back from Poland
- Fortinbras orders a military funeral for Hamlet

# HAMLET ACT 1; SCENE 1

- Horatio has come to see a ghost that the night-watch soldiers are talking about
- Horatio agrees - it looks like the dead King Hamlet
- Horatio tries twice to talk to the ghost – he is unsuccessful
- Horatio will report this information to Prince Hamlet

# HAMLET ACT 1; SCENE 2

- Claudius, the new king of Denmark, makes an acceptance speech
- He's sending ambassadors to Norway to talk with Fortinbras, to try to keep from being attacked
- Claudius gives Laertes, Polonius's son, permission to return to college in Paris, France
- He fusses at Hamlet for being so sad; does not give him permission to return to college at Wittenberg
- Hamlet is mad over his mother marrying so quickly after his father's death and marrying his uncle
- Horatio (w/ Marcellus & Bernardo) come to tell Hamlet about the ghost; Hamlet will join them that night

# HAMLET ACT 1; SCENE 3

- While preparing to leave, Laertes warns Ophelia to not trust Hamlet's claims of love
- Polonius comes in and tells Laertes to behave in France
- Polonius asks Ophelia what she and Laertes were talking about
- Polonius agrees with Laertes and tells Ophelia to stay away from Hamlet

# HAMLET ACT 1; SCENE 4

- As Hamlet and the night-watch soldiers stand guard, the ghost appears
- Hamlet tries to find out the reason for the appearance
- The ghost motions for Hamlet to follow him
- Hamlet wants to follow it
- Horatio and Marcellus do not want Hamlet to go with the ghost; they fear for his safety



# HAMLET ACT 1; SCENE 5

- The ghost says he is King Hamlet, Hamlet's father
- He says he was murdered by Claudius
- The ghost describes the murder in much detail
- The ghost demands that Hamlet avenge his death
- Hamlet agrees to get even with Claudius
- Hamlet makes Horatio and Marcellus swear to not tell anyone about what they have seen

# HAMLET ACT 2; SCENE 1

- Polonius sends his servant, Reynaldo, to France to spy on Laertes
- Ophelia comes in, tells Polonius that Hamlet has scared her and that he is acting like he is insane
- Polonius thinks Hamlet is mad with love for Ophelia
- He takes Ophelia to King Claudius for her to tell her story to him of Hamlet's behavior

# HAMLET ACT 2; SCENE 2 (part 1/2)

- Claudius & Gertrude ask Rosencrantz & Guildenstern to find out what is wrong with Hamlet
- Norway (Fortinbras) will not attack Denmark
- Polonius claims to know what is wrong with Hamlet
- Claudius and Polonius will eavesdrop on Hamlet and Ophelia to see if Hamlet's love for her is driving him insane
- Hamlet is questioned by Polonius and then by Rosencrantz and Guildenstern

# HAMLET ACT 2; SCENE 2 (part 2/2)

- Hamlet accuses R & G of spying for the king & queen
- Hamlet is told that an acting group has arrived
- Hamlet welcomes the group and asks them to perform at the castle
- He is upset that he has not done what the ghost asked of him
- He will write a play (of the murder of his father) and see how Claudius reacts to it. Hamlet needs to see if he (Claudius) is truly guilty of killing his brother

# HAMLET ACT 3; SCENE 1

- Rosencrantz and Guildenstern report that they do not know the cause of Hamlet's behavior
- With Claudius and Polonius hiding nearby, Ophelia waits for Hamlet to appear – when he does, he is mean to her and rejects her coldly
- Claudius no longer thinks Hamlet is in love
- Claudius tells Polonius that he plans to send Hamlet to England
- Polonius says to wait until Gertrude can talk to Hamlet and that he (Polonius) will eavesdrop on their conversation and report back to Claudius

# HAMLET ACT 3; SCENE 2

- Hamlet instructs the actors on the play
- Hamlet asks Horatio to help watch Claudius during the play
- Everyone in the castle gathers and the play is acted out
- Claudius gets upset and leaves – Hamlet is certain of his guilt
- Rosencrantz & Guildenstern tell Hamlet that Gertrude wants to see him
- He goes to see her; reminds himself to not harm her

# HAMLET ACT 3; SCENE 3

- Claudius tells Rosencrantz & Guildenstern that they will soon take Hamlet to England
- Polonius goes to hide in Gertrude's room (to spy)
- Claudius tries to pray, but wonders if he can be forgiven when he still gains from the crime
- Hamlet starts to kill Claudius, but doesn't want to kill him during prayer (fears that Claudius would go to Heaven if killed during prayer) - Hamlet will wait until he catches Claudius in a sinful moment
- Hamlet leaves; Claudius says that he couldn't pray