



## **CHARACTERS**

**HAMLET**, prince of Denmark.

**CLAUDIUS**, king of Denmark and Hamlet's uncle.

**POLONIUS**, a nobleman.

**HORATIO**, Hamlet's friend.

**LAERTES**, Polonius' son.

**OPHELIA**, Polonius' daughter.

**ROSENCRAUS**, a courtier.

**GUILDENSTERN**, a courtier.

**OSRIC**, a courtier.

**PLAYER KING.**

**PLAYER QUEEN.**

**ANOTHER PLAYER.**

**THE QUEEN**, Hamlet's mother.

**GHOST** of Hamlet's father.

**A SOLDIER.**

**A MESSENGER.**

**Scene I**

*Elsinor Castle in Denmark.*

SOLDIER Who's there?

HORATIO A friend.

SOLDIER Good night, Horatio.

HORATIO Good night. Has the ghost appeared again?

SOLDIER I have seen nothing.

HORATIO I don't believe in ghosts. I think it's simply your fantasy.

*The ghost enters.*

SOLDIER Look! He's coming again!

HORATIO It's incredible!

SOLDIER He's the same I saw last night.

HORATIO He looks like king Hamlet!

SOLDIER Yes, but king Hamlet is dead!

HORATIO I know, my friend, I know.

SOLDIER Speak to him, Horatio, you are a cultivated man.

HORATIO Stop! Stop! Who are you?... It's not possible, he's leaving.

*The ghost leaves.*

SOLDIER What do you think now? Is it my fantasy?

HORATIO You were right, my friend. I must tell Prince Hamlet. I'll bring him tomorrow night.

**Scene II**

*A room in the castle.*

HAMLET     *(Speaking to himself.)* How could she do it? My father died two months ago and just a few days later, my mother married my father's brother, the new king. I'm so sad and they are so happy!

*Horatio enters.*

HORATIO    Hello, my good lord!

HAMLET     I'm glad to see you, Horatio.

HORATIO    My lord...

HAMLET     Tell me, Horatio.

HORATIO    I..., well...

HAMLET     Come on, my friend! What's the matter?

HORATIO    My lord, I think I saw your father last night.

HAMLET     Who? Please, Horatio, my father is dead.

HORATIO    Believe me, my lord. I saw him.

HAMLET     Where?

HORATIO    Outside the castle.

HAMLET     And what did he say?

HORATIO    He said nothing, my lord.

HAMLET     But...

HORATIO    Come with me tonight.

HAMLET     We'll go there, my good friend.

**Scene III**  
*Polonius' house.*

LAERTES    I'm leaving, my dear sister. Please, write to me.

OPHELIA I'll do it, my dear brother.

LAERTES I know Hamlet is in love with you. Remember he is the Prince and he can't choose his wife.

OPHELIA Don't worry, Laertes.

*Polonius enters.*

POLONIUS Laertes, hurry up! The ship is waiting for you.

LAERTES Goodbye, father! Goodbye, sister!

OPHELIA Goodbye, dear brother. Look after yourself.

*Laertes leaves.*

POLONIUS What were you talking about?

OPHELIA About Hamlet.

POLONIUS And?

OPHELIA He says Hamlet loves me.

POLONIUS I don't believe his words and I don't like him. He is the Prince, he's young, and he can do what he wants. Be careful and don't talk to him.

OPHELIA I'll obey, father.

**Scene IV**  
*Elsinor Castle.*

HAMLET It's cold here!

HORATIO Yes, my lord.

HAMLET What time is it?

HORATIO I think it's around midnight.

*The ghost enters.*

HORATIO Look, Prince! He's coming!

HAMLET Am I dreaming? He's my father!... Leave me alone, Horatio. I want to talk to him.

HORATIO Don't do that!

HAMLET Leave me alone!

*Horatio leaves.*

GHOST Listen. I'm your father's spirit.

HAMLET Oh, God!

GHOST I want you to revenge my murder.

HAMLET What? Your murder?

GHOST My brother, Claudius, killed me. He poured some poison in my ear while I was sleeping. Now he is the king and your mother is his wife. My wife is his wife!... I must go but remember... revenge my murder.

HAMLET Wait, father! Wait!

*The ghost leaves and Horatio enters.*

HORATIO Prince Hamlet! What did he say?

HAMLET I can't tell you. Listen: you must help me. I'll pretend to be mad from now on...

### **Scene V**

*A room in the castle. Claudius and his wife are talking about Hamlet.*

QUEEN I'm really worried. Hamlet's behaviour is very strange. He seems to be mad.

CLAUDIUS I have asked Guildenstern and Rosencraus to talk to him. Perhaps they may discover what's wrong with him.

QUEEN I'm sure he is sad because of his father's death.

*Polonius enters.*

POLONIUS My good lord, can I speak to you? I think I have found the cause of Hamlet's madness.

CLAUDIUS Tell us, Polonius.

POLONIUS I have a daughter, Ophelia, I'm sure she is the cause of Hamlet's madness. He loves Ophelia, his love for her has driven him mad.

QUEEN How can we be sure?

POLONIUS We may hide while they talk and listen to their conversation.

CLAUDIUS That's a good idea.

### **Scene VI**

*Rosencraus and Guildenstern visit their friend Hamlet.*

GUILDER My lord!

ROSENC My Prince!

HAMLET How are you, my friends?

GUILDER Fine, thanks.

HAMLET What are you doing here?

ROSENC Just visiting you.

HAMLET Visiting me? I think the king has sent you, hasn't he?

GUILDER Yes, my lord, we were sent.

ROSENC The king and the queen are worried about you.

HAMLET I'm sad, that's all.

ROSENC If you are sad, I have good news. A group of actors is coming to perform a play for the king and the queen. I remember you love theatre.

HAMLET Oh, I'd love to talk to them! Go and tell them.

*Guildenstern and Rosencraus leave.*

*(Speaking to himself.)* I have an idea. I'll ask them to perform "The Murder of Gonzago" but I'll put some extra lines in it.

### **Scene VII**

*The king, the queen, Polonius, Ophelia, Guildenstern and Rosencraus are talking.*

CLAUDIUS *(To Guildenstern and Rosencraus.)* So, you couldn't find the cause of his madness.

ROSENC He says he is sad but he doesn't want to talk about it.

CLAUDIUS I want to talk to Polonius and Ophelia. Please, leave us alone.

*Guildenstern, Rosencraus and the Queen leave.*

CLAUDIUS Hamlet is coming soon. Let's hide there and listen to their conversation.

POLONIUS Ophelia, walk around this room until Hamlet comes.

*The king and Polonius leave. Hamlet enters.*

HAMLET To be, or not to be, that is the question. If we die, our problems finish, we sleep... But, what happens after death? We are afraid of that... *(He sees Ophelia.)* Ophelia! What are you doing here?

OPHELIA I want to give you back something you gave me.



HAMLET I never gave you anything.

OPHELIA My lord, you know well you did.

HAMLET Ophelia, do you think I loved you?

OPHELIA Yes, I do.

HAMLET Ha, ha! I didn't love you and I don't.

OPHELIA Don't say that!

HAMLET Go to a nunnery! I hate women! Go to a nunnery!

OPHELIA My prince...

HAMLET Go away, I said. I don't want to see you, stupid woman!

OPHELIA Good heavens!

*Hamlet leaves. The king and Polonius enter.*

CLAUDIUS Love? That's not the problem, but I think he may be dangerous. I'll send him to England.

POLONIUS Before sending him to England, I have another plan: after the play, we'll prepare a meeting between Hamlet and his mother, the queen; I'll hide and listen to their conversation.

CLAUDIUS OK. We'll do it.

### **Scene VIII**

*The room where the play is going to take place.*

HAMLET Hello, Horatio!

HORATIO I'm at your service, my lord.

HAMLET You are my best friend and I'm going to tell you a secret.

HORATIO Tell me, my lord.

HAMLET      Tonight there is a play before the king, one scene is about my father's murder. If the king gets angry, we will know that he is the murderer.

HORATIO     I'll pay attention, my prince.

HAMLET      Be ready, they are coming.

*The king, the queen, Polonius, Ophelia, Rosencreaus and Guildenstern enter. Everyone takes a seat.*

CLAUDIUS    The play can start.

*Two players, king and queen, enter.*

(p) QUEEN    I love you so much!

(p) KING      I know you love me but; if I die, you will marry another man.

(p) QUEEN    Never! I won't marry again!

(p) KING      Leave me alone. I want to get some sleep.

*Player-queen leaves and player-king falls asleep. Another player enters and pours some poison into the king's ear.*

CLAUDIUS    (*Shouting.*) Stop the play! Stop the play!

*Everybody leaves but Hamlet and Horatio.*

HAMLET      Have you seen that?

HORATIO     Yes, my lord.

HAMLET      There's no doubt, the king killed my father.

*Polonius enters.*

POLONIUS    My lord, the queen would like to speak to you.

HAMLET      Then, I'll go to see my mother.

**Scene IX**  
*The queen's room.*

- POLONIUS Hamlet is coming. I'll hide behind the curtains.
- QUEEN Don't worry.
- Polonius hides and Hamlet enters.*
- HAMLET Hello, mother! What's the matter?
- QUEEN Hamlet, your father is very angry with you.
- HAMLET Mother, my father is very angry with you.
- QUEEN *(Angrily.)* Don't be rude! I'm your mother *(She tries to leave the room.)*
- HAMLET *(Holding her.)* Come, come! You won't go anywhere!
- QUEEN Are you going to kill me? *(Shouting.)* Help, help!
- POLONIUS *(Behind the curtains.)* What's the matter? Help, help!
- HAMLET What's that? Is it a rat? *(Hamlet pulls out his sword and kills Polonius through the curtains.)*
- QUEEN You have killed Polonius! You are a criminal!
- HAMLET Criminal? I think that killing a king and marrying his brother is worse.
- QUEEN Killing a king?
- HAMLET Yes, Claudius killed my father and now you are his wife.
- QUEEN That's enough! You are lying!
- HAMLET This is the truth. Good night, mother! *(He leaves.)*

**Scene X**  
*A room in the castle. The king and the queen are talking.*

- CLAUDIUS My dear wife, you must understand that Hamlet is really dangerous.
- QUEEN I know, Claudius, I know. It was terrible the way he killed Polonius.
- CLAUDIUS Yes, it was really terrible, so last night I sent him to England with Guildenstern and Rosencraus.
- QUEEN Last night?
- CLAUDIUS Yes, I gave Rosencraus a letter for the English king.
- QUEEN My poor son!
- CLAUDIUS *(To himself.)* That letter contains my orders: Hamlet must be executed as soon as he arrives in England.
- QUEEN Have you heard about Ophelia?
- CLAUDIUS What's wrong with her?
- QUEEN She has lost her mind after her father's death.
- CLAUDIUS It's a pity!
- QUEEN What's that noise?
- Laertes enters angrily.*
- LAERTES Claudius! My father is dead and my sister mad!
- CLAUDIUS Be patient. I'm not responsible. I'm your friend.
- LAERTES I want an explanation! I want revenge!
- CLAUDIUS Please, my queen, leave me alone with Laertes.
- The queen leaves.*
- LAERTES I want to know the truth!

CLAUDIUS Hamlet is responsible for everything.

LAERTES Where is he? I'll kill him!

CLAUDIUS I sent him to England.

*A messenger enters.*

MESSENGER My lord, a letter from Hamlet.

CLAUDIUS From Hamlet? Give me the letter.

*The messenger leaves.*

CLAUDIUS *(Reading.)* "My lord, I have returned to Denmark. Tomorrow I'll explain you everything. Hamlet".

LAERTES What does it mean?

CLAUDIUS I don't know, but I have a good plan.

LAERTES Tell me.

CLAUDIUS I know that you are very good at fighting with swords.

LAERTES Yes, I am.

CLAUDIUS Hamlet loves fighting with swords. If you invite him for a friendly match of swords, he will agree.

LAERTES And...?

CLAUDIUS We will put some poison on the tip of your sword. If you cut him, he will die.

LAERTES We'll do it.

CLAUDIUS In case the plan fails, I'll prepare a poisoned drink.

*The queen enters.*

QUEEN Very bad news, Laertes. Your sister is dead.

LAERTES     Dead? Where?

QUEEN       She fell into the river. I think it was an accident.

CLAUDIUS    I'm sorry, good Laertes.

**Scene XI**

*A room in the castle. Hamlet and Horatio are talking.*

HORATIO     What are you doing in Denmark, my Prince?

HAMLET      I thought my journey to England was very strange. So I stole the letter for the English king.

HORATIO     And what did the letter say?

HAMLET      It said that I had to be executed.

HORATIO     Oh! What did you do, my lord?

HAMLET      I escaped when we were attacked by a pirate ship.

HORATIO     So Claudius killed your father and now tries to kill you.

HAMLET      Silence! Someone is coming.

*Osric enters.*

OSRIC       My lord, welcome to Denmark.

HAMLET      Thanks. What do you want?

OSRIC       I bring a message from the king.

HAMLET      Tell me.

OSRIC       Laertes would like a friendly match of swords with you and our king is sure you will win. The king has bet six horses.

HAMLET      Tell the king I agree.

**Scene XII**

*A room in the castle. The king, the queen, Hamlet, Laertes, Horatio and Osric enter.*

HAMLET *(To Laertes.)* I'm sorry for your father's death. It was because of my madness.

LAERTES Your words sound nice. Now, let's start.

HAMLET Give me my sword, Horatio.

CLAUDIUS *(To Laertes.)* Here you have the poisoned sword, and I have the poisoned drink ready.

HAMLET *(To Laertes.)* Come on, sir.

LAERTES Come on.

*They fight for a while.*

CLAUDIUS Stop, stop! Hamlet, would you like a drink?

HAMLET No, thanks. Later.

QUEEN I'll drink. *(She takes the cup and drinks.)*

CLAUDIUS My queen, don't drink!

QUEEN I'm thirsty, my king.

CLAUDIUS *(To himself.)* It's the poisoned drink. It's too late.

LAERTES Come on. Let's fight again.

*They fight and Laertes wounds Hamlet with the poisoned sword. Later, during the fight, they exchange their swords and Hamlet wounds Laertes with the poisoned sword.*

OSRIC Stop! The queen feels bad!

*The queen falls.*

QUEEN The drink, the drink! The drink was poisoned! *(She dies.)*

HAMLET My mother is dead!

LAERTES And we are dead too. My sword and the drink were poisoned.  
Claudius planned everything.

HAMLET The sword is poisoned! Then, poison for you! *(He kills Claudius.)*

CLAUDIUS Help me, please! *(He dies.)*

LAERTES I beg your pardon, noble Hamlet. *(He dies.)*

HAMLET Horatio, I'm dying.

HORATIO My lord, I'll kill myself too.

HAMLET No, you must live to tell Hamlet's story. *(He dies.)*