

INTERNET ROYALTY: AN ADAPTATION OF SHAKESPEARE'S *HAMLET*

by

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HONORS THESIS

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ABSTRACT

Internet Royalty is an adaptation of Shakespeare's well-known tragic play, *Hamlet*, into a modern work that functions in a modern setting: the world of social media. Our goal in creating this series, and in modernizing the story and ideas of the play, was to eliminate the elitism surrounding Shakespearean works. We wanted the average person to be able to understand and connect with the characters without having to look up what all the words mean. That factor is primarily what makes this adaptation of *Hamlet* different from others; it keeps the themes of the original work while remaining relatable and understandable to a modern audience. The main body of the series takes place on YouTube, where most of the younger characters have established YouTube channels. We decided that, with all the soliloquies that Hamlet makes to the audience across the stage, those monologues would translate perfectly to the modern YouTuber speaking to an audience across the internet. Additionally, we placed Horatio, Laertes, and Ophelia on YouTube because we believe that their interactions, with Hamlet and each other, mirror the type of drama found on the platform. Older characters such as Claudius, Gertrude, and Polonius were relegated to Facebook, and transposed into middle-aged, out-of-touch parents. Additionally, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern will perform mainly on TikTok because we believe that the platform fits their personalities better than YouTube. We will also use their joint account as a form of social media promotion, to introduce the project to a potential audience and inform them of updates. The entire work will consist of a series of YouTube videos, Facebook posts, and TikTok clips, and will be released in "real time," as if the characters were recording, editing, and uploading the videos or posts themselves. After the thesis, we plan to produce our script as a multimedia project. We

hope to use this medium to foster interaction with a live audience, having them leave comments on existing videos and hinting towards future ones. We want our audience to immerse themselves in the experience of watching YouTuber drama unfold. For the sake of organization, and for ease of access to all the content, all links to videos and posts will be uploaded to a future website disguised as a fan-made site. It will feature an “About” page that contains information about the project and a link to this thesis. For the sake of comparison, we have included the original version of the script. When writing this script, we were inspired by playwright Kirk Lynn’s process of writing the *Fixing Shakespeare* series. We went through the original script of *Hamlet* and broke down the scenes into their base ideas, then modernized those ideas into a rough outline. With the outline as a reference, we combed through *Hamlet* line-by-line, modernizing as we went, then revising full scenes for clarity. The result was an enormous, clunky script that was the length of a feature film. We then arranged the videos and posts that we had written into an episodic format that broke the scenes into more manageable chunks. Now, we are letting go of that intense loyalty to the source material to rework our first draft. We are cutting, combining, and rearranging scenes, characters, and plotlines in an attempt to fill plot holes from the original script, fully embrace our modern mediums, and most importantly, to tell a good story. For comparison’s sake, we have included the first two episodes of our second draft that were written using this process, our outline for the future episodes, and our initial draft.

I. WORKING SCRIPT

Episode One

1.1 - THE GHOST STORY - INT. HAMLET'S BEDROOM DAY

HAMLET and HORATIO sit at Hamlet's DESK, facing the camera. Immediately when the video starts, they scream, leaning backwards out of view. Then they pop back up, making scary claw hands.

HAMLET & HORATIO

Ghosts!

HAMLET

They're real!

HORATIO

They're scary!

HAMLET

And they're right behind you! What's up guys?
I'm Hamlet and this is my boy Horatio, and today
on "Dane of Thrones," it's all about ghosts.

HORATIO

You may be thinking, "Ghosts? Nahhhh. I don't
believe in 'em."

HAMLET

Or, "Who do these guys think they are? "Buzzfeed
Unsolved?"

Hamlet's face deadpans.

Yes.

Beat.

HORATIO

Anyway, we wanted to do this Story Time
together today because me and Hamlet? We just
saw some crazy shit.

HAMLET

As many of you may know from following my
channel, I lost my dad a couple months ago. And

by the way, I will always be grateful for the kindness and support you have shown and keep showing me. Like I've mentioned in previous videos, the one thing I wished for the most after his death was the opportunity to talk to him just one more time. And a few nights ago?

Hamlet glances at Horatio, then leans in.

I got it.

HORATIO

Now I was spending the night here at Hamlet's place, as bros do.

HAMLET

No homo.

HORATIO

And it was maybe three in the morning when I woke up to some weird noises in the kitchen. I decide, oh, I'll wake up Hamlet and we can check it out together.

HAMLET

(coughing into his fist) Coward.

Horatio holds up his hands in defense.

HORATIO

There's safety in numbers.

HAMLET

Uh-huh. Anyway, we go into the kitchen, flashlights up, and there he is - my dad's ghost.

HORATIO

We tried to get a video, but unfortunately, the ghost didn't show up on film. Which just makes us seem crazy.

Hamlet smacks a hand on the desk.

HAMLET

We're not crazy! We're not. I swear to you guys, I saw what I saw.

HORATIO

He talked to us, too.

HAMLET

He did! Guys, this is the wildest part: when I talked with my dad, he dropped an insane info bomb.

Pause.

He was murdered. I mean all this time, we thought he just died in his sleep. Now, he's back from the grave telling me it was intentional. Somebody did this to him, and now I'm gonna figure out who.

Horatio leans into the middle of the space, pushing Hamlet out of the way.

HORATIO

For context, Hamlet's dad disappeared before he could tell us who killed him. All he told us was, "I've been murdered, get revenge."

Hamlet pushes Horatio back to his side.

HAMLET

But revenge on who?

HORATIO

On whom.

HAMLET

Hush. Our next step is to put together the pieces of the puzzle: who, what, when, where, and why. Starting with the most suspicious suspects. Like my uncle.

Horatio makes a "here we go" face.

Look, my uncle is probably the most suspicious person in my life right now. I mean have you seen *The Lion King*? Or- or *Harry Potter*?

HORATIO

Harry Potter?

HAMLET

Yeah like, uh...

Hamlet snaps his fingers, trying to remember his point.

Like how Snape was super jealous of Harry's dad because he wanted Harry's mom?

HORATIO

Snape didn't kill Harry's parents. And he wasn't Harry's uncle.

HAMLET

Whatever- the point is, my uncle married my mom so fast after my dad's death. Like two months after. Almost like he wanted my dad out of the picture so he could get with my mom.

Horatio fidgets with his fingers. Hamlet looks at him, then nudges him.

HORATIO

Oh, right, yeah. Super sus.

HAMLET

You don't believe me.

HORATIO

Wha- I do believe you! Legit. I saw the ghost, I heard what you heard.

HAMLET

But you don't think Claudius did it.

Horatio puts a hand on Hamlet's shoulder.

HORATIO

Hamlet. I know this has been really hard for you, but you blame your uncle for everything. Like eating the last Snickers.

HAMLET

Hey, I *saw* him do that.

HORATIO

Okay, look. You're my best friend. I want to

support you. And I'm going to support you. But if you want to solve this murder, you need to do it rationally.

Hamlet sits back in his chair. He thinks for a moment.

HAMLET

Okay.

He points at the camera.

But I *am* solving this thing. And you can all keep up with my progress right here on this channel, Dane of Thrones. If you subscribe, you'll automatically get new videos and updates in your feed, so you won't have to go looking for them.

HORATIO

Wow. Flawless promo placement.

HAMLET

Well that's gonna be all for today, guys! If you liked this video, leave that thumbs-up. Give the bell a ring- a-ling if you want to know every time I post. I'm Hamlet.

HORATIO

And I'm still Horatio.

HAMLET

And we'll catch you on the flippity- flop.

HORATIO

The what-

Horatio is cut off by Hamlet's outro.

END OF VIDEO

1.2 "GOING TO THE AIRPORT | Q&A" LIVESTREAM - INT.POLONIUS' LIVING ROOM DAY

LAERTES and OPHELIA are seated on a COUCH in their family's living room. Ophelia is holding her SMARTPHONE to read from. Laertes has her BASEBALL BAT. A SUITCASE and a BACKPACK rest against Laertes' side of the couch.

LAERTES
Hey there, Henchmen! I'm Laertes, this is Ophelia,
and you're in The Secret Laer!

Laertes's opening graphic plays.

LAERTES
If you've been following my Tweets, you know
that today is the big day: I'm finally getting outta
here. Back to college, baby! But right before we
drive to the airport, my lovely sister and I will be
reading and answering your questions - fast!
(to Ophelia)
Ready?

OPHELIA
Yep!

LAERTES
Alright! First question!

Ophelia reads the questions from her phone.

OPHELIA
From "@TaterTotz4Life": "Laertes, how do you
feel about going back to school?"

LAERTES
I feel great! You know, I'm really excited to see
all the homies again and to get back into the
swing of things. It'll be so nice to be on campus
again.

Ophelia passes the phone to Laertes. (cont'd)

Next, "@YourMainIsTrash_4" asks, "Wise
overlord of the Laer, will you still send us wisdom
when you leave for your sacred learning ground?"

Yes, yes I will. I'm going to take a small hiatus to
get settled in my dorm, and then I will be back
with the usual Secret Laer content. Never fear,
my Henchmen! Ya boi's got your back.

Laertes passes the phone to Ophelia.

OPHELIA

"@whyismynametaken69" asks, "If you were an animal, what would you be and why?"

LAERTES

I would be a hummingbird because they're unproblematic. Have you ever heard of hummingbirds bullying other animals or starting shit? No. All they know is fly fast and be small.

OPHELIA

Um, I would probably be a sloth, because I think it resembles me the most.

They laugh. Ophelia passes the phone.

LAERTES

"@OboeNotClarinet" says, "Tell us your least favorite color."

OPHELIA

Oh, *Least* favorite. That's a good one. Mine's orange, but, like, specifically that loud, neon, traffic cone orange. It gives me headaches just looking at it.

LAERTES

Mine's fucking piss yellow. Like ugly orange-yellow. It's horrendous. It's the color of dehydration and straight men who only drink Red Bull.

Ophelia passes the phone to Laertes.

LAERTES

"@guinea_pig_olympics" is wondering, "If you had two tickets to anywhere in the world, where would you go and who would you take?" Ooh, I'll go first!
I'd go to either Switzerland or Scotland, and I would take the *delicious* Taron Egerton so we could have dirty, nasty, stinky animal/ sex the entire time.

OPHELIA

/OKAY! It's my turn now! I think... I would go

to [place] because [reason].

LAERTES

And obviously you're taking your cool- ass older sister, right?

Ophelia laughs.

OPHELIA

Look, I love you, but you know I have to take Hamlet with me. It would be so much fun to do something like that with him, and it would be amazing vlog content, you know?

LAERTES

Yeah, *okay*. Like you need to get closer to *that* guy. Do I need to keep an eye on you two?

OPHELIA

Don't worry, I'll keep you in the loop.

LAERTES

Yeah, you better. Listen, Ophie. I know you're in love and all, but just be careful. Shit like this doesn't last forever.

Ophelia sits back.

OPHELIA

Oh, come on. You don't think we'll last?

LAERTES

No, I don't. I mean sure, he loves you now, but even with that you know he's using you for content. His main loyalty is to his channel, and once you stop being relevant, he's going to drop you. His YouTube career is growing exponentially. If you don't grow with it, or if you can't, he's not going to keep you around.

Ophelia crosses her arms. Laertes sighs.

I'm just saying that you need to be careful of how much of yourself you give away. Like, what will you do when he leaves you behind? What if you hinge everything on being Hamlet's girlfriend? And how the fuck are you taking him seriously

right now? I saw all the ghost shit he was talking about in his last video. The boy's unhinged.

OPHELIA

You of all people do not get to talk to me about dating crap. I'm not taking relationship advice from a fucking hypocrite - you can't tell me to be all careful when you throw caution to the wind. Might I remind you about a certain DIY influencer?

LAERTES

Yeah! She was a mistake! That's my point!

Laertes shoves Ophelia's phone back into her hands.

Whatever, I have to go.

POLONIUS walks into view.

POLONIUS

I'll help you with your bags.

LAERTES

No, it's fine. I got it.

Polonius picks up Laertes' bags, then stands by the couch restlessly. Laertes holds her baseball bat.

POLONIUS

Alright. You'll want to hurry, you don't want to miss your flight. Just remember; think before you speak or act. And be polite.

Polonius covers the end of the baseball bat with one hand.

And I know you're my/ strong-willed child,

LAERTES

/Dad,/ I have to go.

POLONIUS

/but please don't start any fights. But if someone picks a fight with you, you've got to stand up for yourself. Oh, and don't waste your money. You're a college student, not a CEO. And don't lend anything out, either.

Polonius lets go of the bat. Laertes begins to fidget.

You know if you let a friend borrow something
you're not getting it back so just gift it/ instead.

LAERTES

/Yeah, I got it. Thanks Dad.

POLONIUS

You're welcome. Now come on, you're going to
be late!

Laertes grabs her bags out of Polonius' hands.

LAERTES

Bye, Dad.

POLONIUS

Goodbye!

They hug.

I'll see you at Thanksgiving, alright? Don't forget
to book the ticket. And don't die while you're
traveling. You remembered to pack hand sanitizer
right?

LAERTES

Yeah Dad, and I won't.
(to Ophelia)
See you, Ophie.

Laertes hugs Ophelia, who barely returns the gesture.

OPHELIA

Bye.

LAERTES

Remember what I told you.

OPHELIA

Sure.

LAERTES

Hold onto this for me, okay?

OPHELIA

Sure, whatever.

Laertes puts down one bag, then hands her baseball bat to Ophelia.

LAERTES

It's dangerous to go alone. Take this.

Ophelia rolls her eyes but smiles as she takes the bat. Laertes picks up her bag and addresses the camera.

LAERTES

Alright! College, ya girl is on her way. And I will see all of you back in the Secret Laer. Peace!

Laertes's outro plays.

END OF VIDEO

Episode Two

2.1.2 "DADS AGAINST DAUGHTERS DATING HAMLET CLUB" -FACEBOOK POST

POLONIUS

(Initial Post)

It has come to my attention that my daughter has been spending an inordinate amount of time with a certain boy recently, and FRANKLY, I DON'T approve of him. She has always been such a sweet, kind, girl, and he is TAKING ADVANTAGE of her! Ophelia is still innocent, still so naïve to the TRUTH of the world. But somehow, she seems to truly believe that he loves her! Apparently he writes her "sweet poems," she says. HA! I know what those poems REALLY are - pages of NOTHING! He offers NOTHING of real value. What's VALUABLE is character and self-respect, and that boy has none. He's trapping her with FALSE promises and EMPTY words. Young boys like him only have one thing on their mind. She may THINK that he is honorable, but I see him for what he truly is. He will throw her away as soon as she doesn't give him what he REALLY wants. Our family is worth FAR MORE than that boy has to offer, and

I won't have him ruining it with his hormonal teenage whims.

Thoughts and Prayers,

Polonius

2.2 GETTING READY WITH ME | LIVESTREAM" - IT.OPHELIA'S BEDROOM DAY

OPHELIA sits at a table in her bedroom with MAKEUP and a MIRROR in front of her. Laertes' BASEBALL BAT is in the background of the video. As Ophelia talks, she starts to do her makeup.

OPHELIA

Hey there Rosebuddies! Hamlet and I are going to an event later today, so I thought, you know, while I'm doing my makeup I'll do a fun little livestream and chat with you guys! So, I was thinking of doing like a daisy- inspired eyeshadow thing, I have no idea if this is actually gonna work so this is either about to be absolute fire or straight up hot garbage.

Ophelia vamps about something or the other until she hears the door open behind her. She turns around to see HAMLET, who enters looking extremely disheveled and a little pale, not unlike like that one meme of Daniel Radcliffe brandishing two guns.

Hey what's up- babe why aren't you dressed yet we have to go soon!

Hamlet does not respond. Instead he walks up to Ophelia and grabs her wrist hard, and then still holding her wrists, backs away slowly until he is holding her at an armslength. He stares at her face, almost desperately.

What's going on, are you okay?

Hamlet continues to just stare at Ophelia without responding. After what seems like an uncomfortably long time, he shakes her arm a bit. He looks her up and down three times and then sighs piteously. He finally lets go and then turns and leaves, but continues to look at her on the way out. Ophelia stares after him, at a loss. She starts to go after him and then remembers that she is on stream. She turns back to the camera.

Sorry about all of that, you guys know, he's been going through a rough time. Um, I'm gonna sign

off and go make sure he's okay, see you guys
next time.

Ophelia turns off the stream.

END OF VIDEO

2.3 "ANYWAY HERE'S WONDERWALL" - INT. HAMLET'S ROOM DAY

HAMLET performs a cover of "Wonderwall" on the kazoo. He is accompanied by the original song's backing track (orkaraoke version). He offers no explanation, and his outro does not play.

END OF VIDEO

2.4 "THE EXPERTS" - FACEBOOK POST

CLAUDIUS posts a photo of GERTRUDE, ROSENCRANTZ, GUILDENSTERN, and himself. Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are tagged incorrectly in the photo.

CLAUDIUS
(Initial Post)

We noticed that Hamlet has been feeling a little down lately, so we brought in the experts! Say hello to Rosencrantz (left) and Guildenstern (right).

GERTRUDE
(Comment)

That's Guildenstern on the left and Rosencrantz on the right, LOL! But yes, so happy to have these two sweet kids helping out. Hamlet will be thrilled!

CLAUDIUS
(Reply)

Thank you Gertie! So sorry! But yes, hopefully some good 'ol familiar faces can pull our son out of that funk.

2.5 "THERE'S NOTHING IN THIS VIDEO" - INT. HAMLET'S ROOM NIGHT

HAMLET stares into the camera for a very long time. Around the halfway point, he says the word nothing. Then he is silent for the remainder of the video. His outro does not play.

END OF VIDEO

Original Script

1.1 - HORATIO'S GHOST STORY - INT. HORATIO'S BEDROOM DAY

HORATIO sits at his desk. His bedroom is neat and provides the backdrop of his videos. Perhaps he has placed props in view that are thematic to his video.

HORATIO

Good morning, my little Ratios! It's your favorite - Horatio - and today I'm going to be taking a page from my friend Hamlet's book. That's right! It's Storytime.

He dances to Storytime music.

HORATIO

(continued)

Now before I get into this video, according to YouTube statistics, only forty-two-point-zero percent of my viewers are actually subscribed!

A subscribers vs. viewers graphic pops up. It's bullshit.

HORATIO

(continued)

So if you like this video, be sure to click that little subscribe button and leave a little thumbs up. Now let's get into it!

(Beat)

Okay! So, I was at Hamlet's house for a sleepover, right? It was the first time I'd been over since, uh... well, you know. And the energy over there? Super weird, and not just because his uncle was there. That energy I felt?

Horatio leans in, for the drama.

HORATIO

(whispering)

It was... supernatural.

A "Supernatural" intro graphic plays. He rolls his chair away from the setup, wiggling his fingers.

HORATIO

(continued)

Obviously, I'd slept over before, but it's never felt like this. When I first walked into Hamlet's house, I got this like, chill. It felt like I had goosebumps all over my body. I thought that maybe it was the air conditioning, but when I checked the thermostat, it was 75 degrees. So why did I feel so cold?

As he continues, a BuzzFeed Unsolved-esque slide show parades stock images across the screen. They are related to different points in Horatio's story.

HORATIO

(voice-over)

When I went to bed that night, I still had that weird chill, and a bad feeling in my stomach that I couldn't get rid of. At almost three in the morning, I heard a crash from the kitchen that woke me right up. I turned to ask Hamlet if he heard it, but he was still asleep.

The slide show pauses as Horatio appears briefly.

HORATIO

On his bed. By himself. I was on the floor. Alone. Get your minds out of the gutter!

Horatio clears his throat. The slide show resumes.

HORATIO

(voice-over)

I grabbed my phone, turned on the flashlight, and set out to find the noise. The pit in my stomach got deeper and deeper the closer I got to the kitchen. The air was freezing, even though the thermostat was still the same. And then? I saw it. Clear as day, standing on the other side of the kitchen island from me, was a ghost.

The slide show ends. Horatio is very seriously staring into the camera.

HORATIO

I tried to get a video - and it didn't exactly go as planned - but you'll see what I mean.

A prepared clip plays. It's clearly shot from Horatio's phone, showing a dark kitchen illuminated by the flash. There is no ghost visible.

HORATIO

Who are you?

The ghost does not answer.

Are you Hamlet's dad?

No response.

Why are you wearing fatigues?

No response.

Say something! Please, talk to me!

The clip ends. Horatio in the present is back on-screen.

HORATIO

When I looked at the video the next day, I realized that the ghost didn't show up at all. I don't know if that's a ghost thing, or my camera glitching, or what, but I wanted to show you guys anyway. I know there will be people in my comments like, "He's just making it up" or "It must have been the cat," but first of all; Hamlet does not have a cat. And second of all, there was no way that thing wasn't a ghost. And how do I know? How am I so sure?

(beat)

Because it looked exactly like Hamlet's dad. No jokes, no attention grabbing, I would never make something like this up. If you know my friend Hamlet, you know that not too long ago, his dad died in his sleep. And from what I saw that night - and I know what I saw - the spirit of Hamlet's dad is still attached to their house. When I told Hamlet about it the next morning, he wanted to check it out some more. Since we didn't have the right equipment, we agreed to investigate it at a later date - so watch out for that in a future video. Anyway guys, that's

going to be it for today! I hope you enjoyed, and I hope you tune back in for more at "The Golden Ratio"! Bye!

Horatio's outro plays.

END OF VIDEO

1.2 - "SOMETHING OFF MY CHEST" - INT. HAMLET'S BEDROOM DAY

HAMLET sits at his desk. His bedroom door is behind him. The room is a typical college student's setup.

HAMLET

What is up, my Hamstands? Welcome back to the Dane of Thrones! Today, we're talking about a very important question: was the moon landing actually fake?

Hamlet vamps about the topic until interrupted. CLAUDIUS and GERTRUDE enter the room, and Hamlet turns around to face them.

HAMLET

Uh, hey. I'm recording right now.

CLAUDIUS

Yeah, sorry! We just wanted to talk to you real quick. Mind if we sit down?

HAMLET

Yes. I'm busy/ recording

CLAUDIUS

/Great.

Claudius and Gertrude sit on Hamlet's bed.

CLAUDIUS

Look, son, your mother and I have been worried about you.

HAMLET

I'm not your son.

CLAUDIUS

I know. It's just- we noticed that you've been sad lately, and we wanted to check in.

HAMLET

I'm fine, actually. Everything is all sunshine and rainbows.

GERTRUDE

Hamlet, honey, you've been grieving for so long - we all have - but at some point you need to move on. Death is natural, and it happens to everyone eventually.

HAMLET

I know.

GERTRUDE

Then why do you still seem so upset?

HAMLET

"Seem" upset? "Seem"? Mom, I *am* upset. I mean, have you looked at me at all lately? I wear black every day, I sit and stare at the wall in silence, I still cry - all the very clear signs of grief and depression. But no, you're right, I must be faking it for attention, and not because I actually cared about Dad. Great observation.

During Claudius's monologue, Hamlet tries to interrupt, but is unsuccessful each time.

CLAUDIUS

Hamlet, I get it. I know you were close with your father, and it is so sweet that you want to keep mourning him out of respect. But you have to realize that your father lost his father, and he lost *his* father too - and I'm sure they all mourned each other. But you're letting this go on too long. I mean, it's almost like you're doing it on purpose, to be stubborn. Real men don't blubber around like that. You need to pull it together. As a Christian young man, you are lining up to be the head of the household, and you need to put your emotions aside to support your family. Your dad would want you to be strong. And I know I'm not him, but - hear me out - I think it would be better if you started to think of me as your father figure. Just for the man-to-man support. I love you just as much as any dad loves his kid. And because I love you, I want you to know that I'm looking out for you, kiddo.

GERTRUDE

Please try, Hamlet. You know we're praying for you.

HAMLET

Fine. I'll do it for you, Mom. Just for you.

CLAUDIUS

Great! So it's settled then. I'm glad you decided to stay with us.

(to Gertrude)

Come on, let's go make some dinner. We can do something special for our son.

Claudius and Gertrude exit. Hamlet turns back to the camera.

HAMLET

Oh. My God. I wish my stupid fucking body would just *fucking evaporate!* I'm going to kill myself. I really am. I mean what's to live for in this flat, stale, useless, exhausting life? The world is a garden and all it grows is weeds. All that potential, and it comes to this? To my dad only being dead for two months - no, even less than that! And already this greasy bastard Claudius thinks he can replace him, my father, the blueprint for a great man. My dad, who would shoot the sun if my mom complained it was too bright outside. And she would just hang on him like she was afraid she would never get to touch him again, and the more she did, the more she needed to. And God, does it fucking hurt to see her now. Less than a month ago she was sobbing at my father's casket. And before her tears even had time to dry she was crying at the damn altar, marrying my fucking uncle. I've seen videos of chimps on Reddit that mourn their mates longer. I mean who does Claudius think he is? Couldn't be my dad, because he's as much like my dad as I'm like - I don't know, fuckin' Hercules. What does my mom even see in him? What could make her turn around so fast that she jumped out of her funeral dress and into the goddamn sheets? The dick can't be *that* good.

Hamlet sits back for a moment. He sighs.

HAMLET

It's just - I mean nothing about this is good. It's

not going to end well. And the worst part is, I can't even talk about it to the people I need to talk to about it.

Another moment of silence.

I'm gonna end it here. Thanks for tuning in today.
I'll catch you on the flipside - Hamlet out.

Hamlet's outro graphic plays with no accompanying music.

END OF VIDEO

1.3.1 "GOING TO THE AIRPORT | Q&A" - INT. POLONIUS' LIVING ROOM DAY

LAERTES and OPHELIA are seated on a COUCH in their family's living room. Ophelia is holding her SMARTPHONE to read from. Laertes has her BASEBALL BAT. A SUITCASE and a BACKPACK rest against Laertes' side of the couch.

LAERTES

Hey there, Henchmen! I'm Laertes, this is Ophelia, and you're in The Secret Laer!

Laertes's opening graphic plays.

LAERTES

If you've been following my Tweets, you know that today is the big day: I'm finally getting outta here. Back to college, baby! But right before we drive to the airport, my lovely sister and I will be reading and answering your questions - fast! (to Ophelia)
Ready?

OPHELIA

Yep!

LAERTES

Alright! First question!

Ophelia reads the questions from her phone.

OPHELIA

From "@TaterTotz4Life": "Laertes, how do you feel about going back to school?"

LAERTES

I feel great! You know, I'm really excited to see all the homies again and to get back into the swing of things. It'll be so nice to be on campus again.

Ophelia passes the phone to Laertes. (cont'd)

Next, "@YourMainIsTrash_4" asks, "Wise overlord of the Laer, will you still send us wisdom when you leave for your sacred learning ground?"

Yes, yes I will. I'm going to take a small hiatus to get settled in my dorm, and then I will be back with the usual Secret Laer content. Never fear, my Henchmen! Ya boi's got your back.

Laertes passes the phone to Ophelia.

OPHELIA

"@whyismynametaken69" asks, "If you were an animal, what would you be and why?"

LAERTES

I would be a hummingbird because they're unproblematic. Have you ever heard of hummingbirds bullying other animals or starting shit? No. All they know is fly fast and be small.

OPHELIA

Um, I would probably be a sloth, because I think it resembles me the most.

They laugh. Ophelia passes the phone.

LAERTES

"@OboeNotClarinet" says, "Tell us your least favorite color."

OPHELIA

Oh, least favorite! That's a good one. Mine's orange, but, like, specifically that loud, neon, traffic cone orange. It gives me headaches just looking at it.

LAERTES

Mine's fucking piss yellow. Like ugly orange-yellow. It's horrendous. It's the color of

dehydration and straight men who only drink Red Bull.

Ophelia passes the phone to Laertes.

LAERTES

"@guinea_pig_olympics" is wondering, "If you had two tickets to anywhere in the world, where would you go and who would you take?" Ooh, I'll go first!
I'd go to either Switzerland or Scotland, and I would take the *delicious* Taron Egerton so we could have dirty, nasty, stinky animal/ sex the entire time.

OPHELIA

/OKAY! It's my turn now! I think... I would go to [place] because [reason].

LAERTES

And obviously you're taking your cool- ass older sister, right?

Ophelia laughs.

OPHELIA

Look, I love you, but you know I have to take Hamlet with me. It would be so much fun to do something like that with him, and it would be amazing vlog content, you know?

LAERTES

Yeah, *okay*. Like you need to get closer to *that* guy. Do I need to keep an eye on you two?

OPHELIA

Don't worry, I'll keep you in the loop.

LAERTES

Yeah, you better. Listen, Ophie. I know you're in love and all, but just be careful. Shit like this doesn't last forever.

OPHELIA

Oh, come on. You don't think we'll last?

LAERTES

No, I don't. I mean sure, he loves you now, but even with that you know he's using you for content. His main loyalty is to his channel, and once you stop being relevant, he's going to drop you like an album. His YouTube career is only going to grow from here. If you don't grow with it, or if you can't, he's not going to keep you around. You need to be careful of how much of yourself you give away. Like, what will you do when he leaves you behind? You *have* to think about how that will impact you, and how you're going to handle it - I mean what if you give too much of yourself away? What if you hinge everything on being Hamlet's girlfriend? Right now you talk about how much you love him, that you feel like "a flower in bloom" or some shit. But if you're not careful, he's going to tear your roots out of the ground and trample your petals into the dirt.

OPHELIA

Oh, sure. I'll keep your "advice" in mind. But don't you *dare* talk to *me* about this crap. I'm not taking relationship advice from a freaking hypocrite - you can't tell me to be all careful when you throw caution to the wind in your own life.

Laertes shoves Ophelia's phone back into her hands.

LAERTES

I have to go.

POLONIUS walks into view.

POLONIUS

I'll help you with your bags.

LAERTES

No, it's fine. I got it.

Polonius picks up Laertes' bags, then stands by the couch restlessly.

POLONIUS

Alright. You'll want to hurry, you don't want to miss your flight. Just remember; think before you speak or act. And be polite. Oh, and make

sure you've got a good group of friends, you know, you want people you can trust. A small group, though, you can't just call every person you meet a "friend". And I know you're my/strong-willed child,

LAERTES

/Dad,/ I have to go.

POLONIUS

/but please don't start any fights. But if someone picks a fight with you, you've got to stand up for yourself.

Oh, and just make sure you're keeping up appearances, you know: have nice but not flashy clothes, don't waste your money, and don't lend it out, either. You know if you lend money to a friend you're not getting it back so just gift it/instead.

LAERTES

/Yeah, I got it. Thanks Dad.

POLONIUS

You're welcome. Now come on, you're going to be late!

Laertes grabs her bags out of Polonius' hands.

LAERTES

Bye, Dad.

POLONIUS

Goodbye!

They hug.

I'll see you at Thanksgiving, alright? Don't forget to book the ticket.

LAERTES

I won't.(to Ophelia) See you, Ophie.

Laertes hugs Ophelia, who barely returns the gesture.

OPHELIA

Bye.

LAERTES
Remember what I told you.

OPHELIA
Sure.

LAERTES
Hold onto this for me, okay?

OPHELIA
Sure, whatever.

Laertes puts down one bag, then hands her baseball bat to Ophelia. Ophelia rolls her eyes but smiles as she takes the bat. Laertes picks up her bag and addresses the camera.

LAERTES
Alright! College, ya girl is on her way. And I will see all of you back in the Secret Laer. Peace!

Laertes's outro plays.

END OF VIDEO

1.3.2 "DADS AGAINST DAUGHTERS DATING HAMLET CLUB" - FACEBOOK POST

POLONIUS
(Initial Post)

It has come to my attention that my daughter has been spending an inordinate amount of time with a certain boy recently, and FRANKLY, I DON'T approve of him. She has always been such a sweet, kind, and gentle creature, and he is TAKING ADVANTAGE of her! She should be saving herself for somebody who won't drag down her reputation. She is just an innocent young girl, still so naive to the TRUTH of the world. Somehow, she seems to truly believe that he loves her!

Apparently he writes her "poetry" and she gets all starry-eyed! It's just flowery language, underneath it is a whole lot of NOTHING. He offers NOTHING of real value. What's VALUABLE is character and self-respect, and I

wouldn't pay a PENNY for that boy's character!
He's trapping her with FALSE promises. Young
boys like him are hotheaded. When his heart is
on fire he'll make ANY NUMBER of promises,
but because that heart is EMPTY, there's
NOTHING to fuel them!

That fire will be out before he's even done
speaking! She may THINK that he is honorable,
but I see him for what he truly is. He will fall in
and out of love faster than one of those stupid
internet trends! Our family is worth FAR MORE
than that boy has to offer, and I won't have him
making a fool out of me by eating a damn Tide
Pod.

1.4/5 "BUSTING GHOSTS AT MY BEST FRIEND'S HOUSE" -EXT. HAMLET'S HOUSE NIGHT

HAMLET and HORATIO stand at the front door. They have one FLASHLIGHT
each. Horatio is holding an EMF METER. Hamlet is holding his SMARTPHONE
with a recording app open. Another flashlight shines on them from offscreen.

HORATIO

(bad Transylvanian accent) Good
evening, sweet Ratios! And welcome to...
"The Haunted Ratio!"

Hamlet and Horatio wiggle their free fingers.

HORATIO

(normally)

Tonight, we are here to finally answer the burning
question, the elephant in the room: is there a ghost
haunting Hamlet's house?

HAMLET

Now, we have a few things to help us out here.
We got an EMF meter to track the ghost's
electromagnetic frequency. We got the recording
app here so we can ask the ghost questions and
get some answers. And we got our street smarts
to stay alive.

HORATIO

You think it's gonna attack us?

HAMLET

Well, I mean, you can never be too careful.

HORATIO

Nooo, don't say that!

HAMLET

I mean it's about midnight. The witching hour.

HORATIO

Oh my God.

Hamlet's phone chimes. He checks it and scowls.

HORATIO

What's that about?

HAMLET

It's Claudius. He and my mom are going to be out longer than they thought. I guess they're still living it up on their stupid date

HORATIO

I mean that's good for us, right? More time to find the ghost?

HAMLET

Yeah. It'll just be *so fun* to hear them come home drunk. Again. Like they have nothing better to do.

Beat.

HORATIO

Hey, don't worry about it for now. Let's do some ghost busting.

HAMLET

Right, yeah. We need to raise our spirits.

He gives a wide, cheesy smile. Horatio looks into the camera *a la* "The Office".

HORATIO

Anyway...

HAMLET

Let's do this thing!

They creak open the front door dramatically, entering the house. It is dark and empty. Hamlet and Horatio rest their flashlights on the KITCHEN ISLAND COUNTER and prepare their equipment.

HAMLET

From what I've seen on other ghost hunting shows, we should start in a place of high activity. Since you saw the ghost in the kitchen, we can start here.

HORATIO

Sounds good to me.

HAMLET

Let's start with the EMF.

Horatio switches on the EMF meter. He shows the display to the camera.

HORATIO

So, basically, the stronger the signal from the ghosts, the more lights are gonna light up on the meter. We'll be looking for something in at least the orange range.

He sweeps the EMF around the kitchen. It blinks in the green range until pointed at the oven, where the frequency jumps.

HORATIO

Oh, I've got something right here.

HAMLET

That's where you saw it the last time, right?

HORATIO

Yeah, it was standing right here.

HAMLET

Neat! Let's ask some questions and see if we get anything.

HORATIO

Okay. If you want to start the rec- wait, hold on.

He moves the EMF meter up towards the ceiling, where the display lights flicker in the red range.

It's... it's stronger upstairs. What room is that?

HAMLET
Uh, my mom's bedroom.

They share a look.

HORATIO
We have to check it out.

HAMLET
Yeah.

They make their way up the staircase to the open door of the master bedroom. The EMF meter remains in the red range. The air is cold. Hamlet enters the room, then stops in his tracks.

HORATIO
Oh my God.

There is nothing visible in Hamlet's line of sight, but both Hamlet and Horatio behave as if they are seeing the ghost.

HAMLET
What are you? A ghost? A demon?

Silence.

HAMLET
What do you want from me?

Silence.

HAMLET
Answer me!

The door to the master bedroom slams shut and locks from the inside. Hamlet screams. Horatio scrambles to try and open the door in vain.

HORATIO
Hamlet! Fuck, why won't this thing open?
Hamlet!

Hamlet and Horatio are sitting in the driveway sometime later. Hamlet is wrapped in a BLANKET. They have one flashlight and no EMF meter.

HORATIO
So. We saw the ghost. And Hamlet managed to

talk to it.

HAMLET
Fuck, dude, I sure did.

HORATIO
Do you want to talk about it?

Hamlet glances at the camera.

HAMLET
Not here. But... it put some things in a new light
for me. I'll tell you about it later.

HORATIO
Okay.

Pause.

HAMLET
Do you want to do your outro? I think I'm done
tonight.

HORATIO
Uh, yeah.

He turns to the camera.

Thanks for tuning in, Ratios. Don't forget to like
and subscribe, and I'll see you next time on "The
Golden Ratio".

Horatio's outro plays. (No music?)

END OF VIDEO

2.1.1 "GETTING READY WITH ME" - IT. OPHELIA'S BEDROOM DAY

OPHELIA sits at a table in her bedroom with MAKEUP and a MIRROR in front of her. Laertes' BASEBALL BAT is in the background of the video. As Ophelia talks, she starts to do her makeup.

OPHELIA
Hey there Rosebuddies! Hamlet and I are going
to an event later today, so I thought while I'm
doing my makeup I'll just do a fun little

livestream, chat with you guys! So, I was thinking of doing like a daisy-inspired eyeshadow thing, I have no idea if this is actually gonna work but, we'll see. I don't know if you guys have noticed but I feel like I've been seeing florals everywhere lately. It seems like they're coming back into style and you guys know me, I am LIVING for it. I want flowers on my clothes, flowers on my face, flowers in my food, flowers everywhere.

Ophelia vamps about something or the other until she hears the door open behind her. She turns around to see HAMLET, who enters looking extremely disheveled and a little pale, not unlike like that one meme of Daniel Radcliffe brandishing two guns.

Hey what's up- babe why aren't you dressed yet we have to go soon!

Hamlet does not respond. Instead he walks up to Ophelia and grabs her wrist hard, and then still holding her wrists, backs away slowly until he is holding her at an armslength. He stares at her face, almost desperately.

What's going on, are you okay?

Hamlet continues to just stare at Ophelia without responding. After what seems like an uncomfortably long time, he shakes her arm a bit. He looks her up and down three times and then sighs piteously. He finally lets go and then turns and leaves, but continues to look at her on the way out. Ophelia stares after him, at a loss. She starts to go after him and then remembers that she is on stream. She turns back to the camera.

Um, I'm gonna... I'm gonna sign off.

Ophelia turns off the stream.

END OF VIDEO

2.1.2 "ANYWAY HERE'S WONDERWALL" - INT. HAMLET'S ROOM DAY

HAMLET performs a cover of "Wonderwall" on the kazoo. He is accompanied by the original song's backing track (or karaoke version). He offers no explanation, and his outro does not play.

END OF VIDEO

2.1.3 "THERE'S NOTHING IN THIS VIDEO" - INT. HAMLET'S ROOM
NIGHT

HAMLET stares into the camera for a very long time. Around the halfway point, he says the word nothing. Then he is silent for the remainder of the video. His outro does not play.

END OF VIDEO

2.2.1 "THE EXPERTS" - FACEBOOK POST

CLAUDIUS posts a photo of GERTRUDE, ROSENCRANTZ, GUILDENSTERN, and himself. Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are tagged incorrectly in the photo.

CLAUDIUS

(Initial Post)

We noticed that Hamlet has been feeling a little down lately, so we brought in the experts! Say hello to Rosencrantz (left) and Guildenstern (right).

GERTRUDE

(Comment)

That's Guildenstern on the left and Rosencrantz on the right, LOL! But yes, so happy to have these two sweet kids helping out. Hamlet will be thrilled!

CLAUDIUS

(Reply)

Thank you Gertie! So sorry! But yes, hopefully some good 'ol familiar faces can pull our son out of that funk.

2.2.2 "ITS THE SQUAAAAAD!" - TIKTOK - EXT. HAMLET'S HOUSEDAY

The video begins in front of the garage door. ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN jump into view.

GUILDENSTERN

What is up /my dudes?!

ROSENCRANTZ

/What's shakin', bacon?

GUILDENSTERN
(to Rosencrantz)
Dude. Buddy. Pal.

ROSENCRANTZ
What?

GUILDENSTERN
I told you I was doing the intro.

ROSENCRANTZ
No, I thought I was...

They whisper-bicker at each other briefly. Then they flash big smiles at the camera.

GUILDENSTERN
You guys will *Never* guess where we are.

ROSENCRANTZ
I don't know about never. They might not be as dumb as you.

GUILDENSTERN
I'm not the one who got lost using a GPS.

ROSENCRANTZ
You were driving. Anyway.

ROSENCRANTZ GUILDENSTERN
It's Hamlet's house!

They "hit the woah" in unison.

GUILDENSTERN
And we're staying over until our boy Hamlet-

ROSENCRANTZ
Poor, crazy Hamlet-

GUILDENSTERN
Sweet little Ham-jam is feeling better again.

ROSENCRANTZ
You can count on us!

GUILDENSTERN

You can count on me. He can't do shit.

They roast each other until the video timer runs out.

END OF VIDEO

2.2.3 "HONKEY TONK BADONKADONK" -

FACEBOOK POST Polonius creates a Facebook post.

POLONIUS

(Initial Post)

Claudius and Gertrude, I saw that you were concerned about Hamlet. Well unless this old brain of mine isn't as sharp as it used to be, I believe that I have discovered the cause of your son's behavior. You may think that the reason is obvious- that the boy is still grieving and perhaps does not approve of his mother's new marriage- however, I have found a much more justifiable source. To expostulate what fame should be, what his career is, why day is day, why night is night, and why time is time, does nothing but waste day, night, and time. Therefore, since brevity is the soul of wit and tediousness its arms and legs, I will be brief: your son is sick. "Sick" I'm calling it, because the only way to define true sickness is to say that one is sick. It's true he is sick, and it's a shame it's true, and it's truly a shame that he is sick.

Now you do, of course, remember my lovely daughter, Ophelia? Consider the following e-mail I stumbled upon, sent by none other than your poor, sick Hamlet:

There is a picture of the following email.

POLONIUS

(Hamlet's email photo)

To the celestial and my soul's idol, the most beautified Ophelia,

I tried to write you a poem, but it turns out that I'm terrible at poetry. So instead, I decided to borrow the words of another. I believe that the great Trace Adkins describes it best:

"It's so hard not to stare
At that honky tonk badonkadonk Keepin'
perfect rhythm
Make ya wanna swing along Got it goin' on
Like Donkey Kong And whoo-wee
Shut my mouth, slap your grandma There oughta
be a law
Get the Sheriff on the phone
Lord have mercy, how's she even get them britches
on
That honky tonk badonkadonk" But in all
seriousness, I love you more than anything. I really
did try to write you a poem, and even though it's
terrible and tacky, I mean this from the bottom of
my heart:

Doubt thou the stars are fire, Doubt that the sun
doth move, Doubt truth to be a liar, But never
doubt I love.

Thine evermore for as long as this body is mine,
Hamlet

Polonius's Facebook post continues.

POLONIUS

You know that I am a man of faith, that I am
loyal and honorable. But what would you have
thought of me if I kept quiet about this? After I
noticed what was happening, I couldn't just turn a
blind eye. He is older than her and he goes to
school all the way across the country. I was
afraid that as soon as he left for school again, he
would not have room in his life for her. I had to
do something, because I couldn't see her get so
hurt. So I said to my daughter, "You have no
chance with him. He likes you right now because
it is convenient, but he's going to move on from
you, because he lives in a different world from
you and he has to." I told her to distance herself
from him. However it seems I may have been
wrong, because when she stopped answering his
calls, he became sad. He stopped eating and
sleeping, and this is why he is sick. Love often
drives people mad, it is in fact, called love-
sickness for a reason.

The following are replies to Polonius's Facebook post.

CLAUDIUS

(Reply)

@Gertude do you really think this is why our son is so ill?

GERTRUDE

(Reply)

@Claudius it might be. He was always such a romantic. But how can we know for sure?

POLONIUS

(Reply)

@Claudius and @Gertrude have I ever steered you wrong? I can talk to him. If I mention my daughter and see how he reacts, we can follow the clues and uncover the truth.

CLAUDIUS

(Reply)

@Polonius that's a good idea. How about you come over soon to check up on him?

POLONIUS

(Reply)

@Claudius I'll check my schedule!

2.2.4 "PRANK TIME FEAT. HAMLET" - TIKTOK - INT.HAMLET'S BEDROOM DAY

ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN stand with arms around each other. They seem to be blocking something from view

ROSENCRANTZ/GUILDENSTERN

Pranks!

ROSENCRANTZ

You know you love them!

GUILDENSTERN

And you know you love us.

ROSENCRANTZ

So today we're giving you a behind-the-scenes look as we plan out our next prank.

GUILDENSTERN

And this time? We brought the mastermind himself.

They part to reveal Hamlet, wearing a RIDICULOUS OUTFIT, who spreads his arms wide.

HAMLET

'Tis I! The frenchiest fry!

ROSENCRANTZ

We're so lucky to be able to hang with you again.

HAMLET

Lucky? Ha!

ROSENCRANTZ

What, you don't believe in luck?

HAMLET

Please. Lady Luck's a hoe and y'all are her bitches.

Awkward beat.

GUILDENSTERN

Uh... well why don't you tell us the plan, man? I wanna get into some good 'ol prankage.

HAMLET

Aight so here's what we do. You guys are gonna hide and film while I talk to Polonius, right? And I'm gonna make him think I'm cray-to-the-zee.

GUILDENSTERN

Hell yeah, dude!

HAMLET

All I have to do is talk in circles and make no sense. It's gonna be sick.

ROSENCRANTZ

Then what are we waiting for? Let's go confuse an old man for fun!

HAMLET

Fuck yeah!

GUILDENSTERN

To the praaaank!

They dive out of view. (It's up to the actors how literally they want to dive.)

END OF VIDEO

2.2.5 "PRANKING MY GIRLFRIEND'S DAD | FEAT. ROS & GUIL"-
INT. HAMLET'S BEDROOM DAY

HAMLET sits at his desk setup. He wears the same RIDICULOUS OUTFIT from the previous TikTok.

HAMLET

What is up, my Hamstands? Welcome back to the Dane of Thrones! Today's episode is going to be off. the. hook! Because today, we're going to be pranking my girlfriend's dad. And to help me out, I brought along the professionals: Rosencrantz and Guildenstern!

ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN poke their heads up from where they were hiding under Hamlet's desk. They wave enthusiastically at the camera.

HAMLET

Alright! Ros, Guil, why don't you clue the audience in on the plan?

GUILDENSTERN

Absolutely! The prank we have planned for today is wild.

ROSENCRANTZ

Later today, old man Polonius is going to stop by to check up on Hamlet.

HAMLET

Because he thinks I'm sooo siiiiiick.

GUILDENSTERN

So we're gonna send out Hammy-boy to talk to him.

ROSENCRANTZ

Just your average conversation. Totally normal.

GUILDENSTERN

Except Hamlet's gonna go completely crazy!
Like Ros when he loses a match in Smash.

HAMLET

Exactly. He wants to hide behind his stupid
Facebook account and call me "sick" and not
even say it to my face? He better be prepared for
what a real "sick" person is like.

ROSENCRANTZ

Right. Anyway, Guil and I will be hidden nearby.
I'll do all the work filming, and they'll just be
generally useless.

GUILDENSTERN

Aw, bud. You got it backwards again. Oh well -
let's get into it!

In the next clip, Ros & Guil film from behind a staircase. POLONIUS sits with his
back to them at the KITCHEN TABLE. Hamlet approaches him from the stairs, and
sits on the table so that Polonius's attention is pulled away from the camera.

POLONIUS

Oh, hello Hamlet! How are you today? Hamlet

leans towards Polonius, inspecting him.

HAMLET

I fare most well, God be willing, on this
auspicious day.

POLONIUS

I'm sorry?

HAMLET

Good.

POLONIUS

Uh-huh... I'll just take a seat.

He sits.

HAMLET

You can't take shit from me! Except my life.

POLONIUS

Hamlet, are you feeling well? Do you remember me?

HAMLET

Oh, sure! You're that guy that sells fish in the downtown farmer's market.

POLONIUS

What? No.

HAMLET

No? Damn. I guess that means you're fucking trash.

POLONIUS

Excuse me?!

HAMLET

Yeah. I mean there's only like, one decent person in a thousand, you know?

POLONIUS

Young man, you /can't speak

HAMLET

/Out of all the maggots on this dead dog of a world, you - hey, don't you have a daughter?

POLONIUS

...Yes. Actually /I

HAMLET

/Oof. Don't let her leave the house. That girl is for the streets. She takes one step outside and bam! Preggers.

Hamlet dabs.

Boom, roasted!

POLONIUS

How dare you? That's my daughter you're talking about!

Polonius begins to rant. Hamlet ignores him and reads something on his

SMARTPHONE. Polonius stops his tirade as he notices Hamlet is not listening.

What are you doing?

HAMLET

Uh, reading.

POLONIUS

Reading what?

HAMLET

What?

POLONIUS

What are you reading?! For God's sake, just answer the question!

HAMLET

Ohhhh, you mean this?

He shows his phone screen. It shows the website "Archive of Our Own".

POLONIUS

Yes. That. What is it? What could be so important?

HAMLET

It's fan fiction.

POLONIUS

Fan fiction?

HAMLET

About how I'm banging your daughter!

Hamlet cackles and jumps off the table, running laps around the kitchen. Polonius loses his shit, yelling at Hamlet. They vamp off of each other as Hamlet goes fuckin bonkers.

POLONIUS

I'm leaving.

HAMLET

No, I'm leaving! Out the door and into my own damn grave.

POLONIUS

At this point I hope you do. And don't think your mother won't hear about this!

HAMLET

(mockingly)

dOn'T tHiNk YoUr MoThEr WoN't HeAr
AbOuT tHiS!

POLONIUS

Goodbye, Hamlet.

HAMLET

(under his breath)

Fucking boomer.

Polonius begins to walk towards the camera. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern hastily pretend to have just walked through the front door, hiding the camera. Polonius composes himself upon seeing them.

POLONIUS

Oh, you must be here to see Hamlet. He's right over there.

ROSENCRANTZ

Thank you, sir.

Polonius exits the house. Ros, Guil, & Hamlet share a look and scramble up the stairs, laughing. We next see them back in Hamlet's room, at the desk setup.

GUILDENSTERN

Oh my God, dude, that was so good.

ROSENCRANTZ

Did you see how mad he was? It was priceless!

They all exchange high-fives.

HAMLET

Dude, that was the most fun I've had in this damn prison since I've been home.

GUILDENSTERN

Aw, come on, man. It can't be that bad here.

HAMLET

Trust me, it is.

ROSENCRANTZ

What, is the whole world a prison to you?

HAMLET

Yeah, it is. And this house is the darkest, grimiest cell.

ROSENCRANTZ

Well I don't think so. It's a nice house, dude.house, dude.

HAMLET

To you, maybe. It's all about perspective. If I think it's a prison, then it's a prison.

ROSENCRANTZ

Whatever. This town is too small for you and your big plans, anyway.

HAMLET

Please. I could squeeze myself into a nutshell and say I'm the king of infinite space. Why are you two here, anyway? I mean in town.

ROSENCRANTZ

We're here to see you, dude.

HAMLET

I'd say thanks but it wouldn't mean shit. Come on, why are you really here?

GUILDENSTERN

What do you want us to say, dude?

HAMLET

Anything, as long as you answer me. Look, I can see it in your guilty little faces. My parents asked you to come, didn't they?

ROSENCRANTZ

Whaaat? Why would they do that?

HAMLET

You tell me, Ros. Listen, guys, we've been friends for so long. I've known you two since we were all in diapers. Just be direct with me. Did my mom and uncle ask you to come or not?

Rosencrantz looks to Guildenstern for an answer.

No, don't look at him. Look at me. It's a simple question, dude.

GUILDENSTERN

Okay, fine. They asked us to come. But we only agreed /because

HAMLET

/Oh, I'll tell you why. If I explain it, you can tell my mom and uncle that you didn't snitch on them. It's because I've been so "depressed" lately. right? Poor little Hamlet, all alone in his room going crazy - he thinks the world is out to get him.

The bright, happy sunshine is a deadly laser. The fresh air is full of dust and germs that could kill me. And people are just fucking pieces of work, huh? We sit up here and call ourselves the most intelligent species, the paragon of animals, and for what? We're all made up of dust and dirt.

What's to brag about?

Mankind doesn't make me happy. (to
Rosencrantz)

What? What are you smiling about?

ROSENCRANTZ

So no homo?

HAMLET

Shut up, dumbass.

They all laugh.

GUILDENSTERN

So, is that it for the video?

HAMLET

Uh... Yeh.

Hamlet's "Wonderwall" kazoo outro plays.

END OF VIDEO

2.2.6 "MY FRIENDS HAVE A SURPRISE FOR ME! | FEAT. ROS & GUIL"
- INT HAMLET'S BEDROOM DAY

ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN are teaching HAMLET a trendy TikTok dance in the middle of the room. Hamlet does his intro from where he is standing, attempting to dance through it.

HAMLET

What is up my Hamstands? As you can see, today I am learning the hottest trends on TikTok from my good friends Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

Ros and Guil hit the woah. Hamlet finishes the dance.

Obviously I'm the best dancer here. Feel free to try this at home. You'll never be better than me, though. It's fine. We all knew that already.
(to Ros and Guil)
What's next guys?

GUILDENSTERN

I'm so glad you asked. But actually, I'm the best dancer.

HAMLET

What?

GUILDENSTERN

Yeah, sorry. You were great though.

ROSENCRANTZ

Uh, I'm pretty sure *I'm* the best.

GUILDENSTERN

Pretty sure you're shit.

ROSENCRANTZ

You can talk to yourself later, Guil. Right now, as the best dancer, I have to teach Hamlet the next dance.

There's a knock at the bedroom door.

But before that, we have a surprise for you.

HAMLET

For me?

GUILDENSTERN

No, for the invisible ghost in the room. Yes, for you, dum-dum.

Rosencrantz opens the door to let in THE PLAYERS, a small band. They high-five Hamlet as they enter.

HAMLET

Oh my God! My dudes! ROSENCRANTZ
They were playing a few gigs in the area and we thought we'd ask them to stop by.

GUILDENSTERN

It was nothing, really.

HAMLET

That's awesome! But why are you playing in Smalltown, Nowhere? I thought you got a big break in the city.

LEAD PLAYER

We wanted to return to our roots, man. Small gigs in small towns, doing covers of songs people already liked - that's where we got our start.

HAMLET

You got any good jams today?

LEAD PLAYER

Actually, yeah. Check this.

The Players rig a makeshift setup of their instruments. The Lead Player counts the band in. They play a song. Ros, Guil, and Hamlet applaud.

HAMLET

Dude. That was sick!

LEAD PLAYER

Thanks, man.

HAMLET

Listen, I have a proposition for you. I want to make a music video with one of your songs. If you play and record, I'll shoot and produce the whole thing, and then we can show it off on my YouTube channel. Great PR for both of us.

LEAD PLAYER

Sounds good to me.

HAMLET

Sick. This is gonna be awesome! I can't wait to see the look on Claudius's stupid face.

GUILDENSTERN

What?

HAMLET

Oh, nothing. Don't worry about it. (to The Players)
Hey, do you guys want to learn some dances with us?

The Lead Player looks back at his band, who all nod.

LEAD PLAYER

Sure, dude.

The Players put their equipment away. Ros and Guil teach everybody the next dance they had planned. The last thing we see is the everyone performing the dance, where Hamletsticks the ending move and points at the camera.

HAMLET

Goodnight, everybody!

Hamlet's "Wonderwall" outro plays.

END OF VIDEO

2.2.7 "SOCIETY" - INT. HAMLET'S BEDROOM DAY

HAMLET is sitting at his desk. He has face paint and brushes laid out in front of him. As he speaks, he begins to apply it to his face. By the end of his monologue he has a full face of clown makeup.

HAMLET

I'm alone. God I'm a piece of shit. Musicians put their whole heart into their work. They make their souls feel things- to the point of tears- and for what? It's all meaningless. It's just a collection of sounds strung together. Music is like 99% bullshit, none of these people actually go through

the things that they sing about. Every emotion is heightened and exaggerated to the point where it's essentially made up! And the bigger they get, the more artists just sing whatever will bring in the most money. It's all just phony bullshit, it shouldn't have the power to make their voice break and their knees lock. They shouldn't be able to feel something they've just made up so deeply that they start to fucking cry. Just imagine what would happen if any of those people were in my shoes. With all that real, raw material? They would drown the entire stage with tears. Their words would be so powerful the audience's eardrums would burst. Anyone who was guilty would go crazy. Everyone else would be terrified, confused, astounded. But what do I do? I sit here. Mope mostly. Sometimes I cry a little bit. I should be planning revenge or, I don't know, writing an exposé or something. But I haven't been able to say anything to him. Not a single word. Does that make me a coward? Probably. If I had any sort of spine, he'd be gone and the vultures would be having a fucking field day right now. That backstabbing two-faced manwhore! Revenge... I loved my dad more than anything in the world. And then he was murdered. And then he comes back, and tells me to get revenge and instead what am I doing? Sitting around on my ass and making stupid, pointless videos about my feelings. But who am I to say he was murdered? Maybe I really am crazy. Maybe I was just seeing things. Maybe I'm just really fucking sad! God I'm a psychiatrist's dream. You know I've heard that sometimes, when a person encounters a piece of media similar to something they've been holding in, it'll all come spilling out? Murder might not have a voice, but I think I've found a way to make it sing. And if it has nothing to say I'll back down. Stay tuned.

Hamlet's "Wonderwall" kazoo outro plays.

END OF VIDEO

3.1.1 "THE PROBLEM WITH HAMLET" - FACEBOOK POST

CLAUDIUS

(Initial Post)

Another day, another attempt to find out what's wrong with Hamlet. Earlier these past couple of weeks, we recruited his friends Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to try and talk to him, maybe figure him out. No such luck. They claim that Hamlet avoided their questions about his feelings and twisted the conversation in other directions. This makes @Gertrude and I very concerned for our son. If he won't tell his close friends about his struggle, then who will he tell?

GERTRUDE

(Reply)

@Claudius, didn't the boys say Hamlet was mostly nice to them? I thought they arranged to have that band stop by to cheer him up.

CLAUDIUS

(Reply)

@Gertrude yes, they did, and I'm glad he was happy to see them. But Rosencrantz and Guildenstern haven't gotten our son to confide in them. He's still keeping his guard up. At this rate, we'll never know what's going on.

3.1.2 "TO BE OR NOT TO BE?" - INT HAMLET'S BEDROOMDAY

Hamlet sits at his desk like a bisexual. He is holding the RAINBOW SKULL to his chest and looks as disheveled as he did in 2.1.1.

HAMLET

To be, or not to be? That is the question: whether it's better to just let life throw things at you, or to fight back and make it all go away? To die - to sleep, really. Nothing more than going to sleep and forgetting about all the pain and heartache that comes with being alive. That's the goal, right? To sleep, and maybe to dream. But there's the catch - God, there's always a catch - that in that long sleep we don't know what kind of dreams we'll have: good, bad, or none at all. No one knows what'll happen when we fling ourselves off this mortal coil. It's enough to make us want to live as long as we can, to suffer so we can put off finding out. Because honestly, who would want to live through

all the war, the suffering, the heartache, the poverty, the slow destruction of the planet, the fucking pandemic? Especially if they could just swallow a bullet and be at peace? Who would sweat and struggle through an unfulfilling existence unless they were afraid of what would happen if they left it? If they passed the point of no return, entered the space that no one comes back from- the black hole of existence? The event horizon of death makes us all fucking cowards, and thinking about it sucks all the courage out of our weak little bodies. And yeah, some people brag about living their lives to the fullest, but if you bring up dying? They don't know how to answer. They just tell you to live more. Live better. It's fucking stupid. How can you live if you're dead?

Hamlet's phone pings a notification. He picks it up and reads it.

Ophelia. Sweet, pretty little good girl Ophelia. Always fucking perfect, can't do anything wrong. It makes me sick. Her dad fucking blames me for everything, and she actually *fucking* listened to him. She's been ignoring me for like, a week. And now she finally decides to respond. Saying that I needed to stop DM'ing her. Because her dad doesn't want me to, and she *has* to listen to her dad. Doesn't she realize that the "good girl" act won't work forever? It's so easy to turn a sweet, pretty little good girl into a whore, but no force of good can turn a whore back into a virgin. She may as well give up on the dating scene altogether. I mean, look at me. I'm her fucking boyfriend and even I wish I'd never been born. I'm arrogant and reckless, and I'm full of so much shit, I'm basically the world's biggest asshole. And all men are the same, right? Disgusting pigs who don't even deserve to crawl in the mud. I mean, if Ophelia doesn't want to deal with us anymore she might as well just become a nun, right? No more men! No more Hamlet! She'll be a happy little virgin the rest of her life. Maybe they'll even let her keep making her stupid beauty videos. Ah, makeup. What a wonderful concept: God gives you one face, and you plaster another one on top of it. Really gives a new meaning to "two-faced

bitch," doesn't it? God, I can't fucking stand her anymore. I swear I'm gonna end everything with her. I'm fucking done. You know what? Fuck it. Ophelia, if you're watching this, it's over.

Hamlet's "Wonderwall" kazoo outro plays.

END OF VIDEO

3.1.3 "FUCK YOU, HAMLET" - EXT FIRE PIT EVENING

Ophelia is sitting by a FIRE PIT, clutching LAERTES'S BASEBALL BAT. There is a BOX OF HAMLET'S THINGS beside her. She looks as if she has probably been crying.

OPHELIA

You think that you broke up with me. That's rich. You are the most conceited person I have ever met. Somehow, you think that the entire world revolves around you. I don't know how on earth you got it into your tiny little pea-sized brain that you're the one breaking up with me so here's a news flash: You know last week when I showed up at your door to give you your shit back? *That* was a breakup. And not only did you deny ever giving me anything, you slammed the door in my face. So yeah, I've been ignoring you. Because you fucking deserve it. Honestly, I should have done it a long time ago. Everyone warned me. My dad, my sister, all of my friends. They all said "he's toxic! The way he treats you is not okay! He's just stringing you along and one day, you're gonna get tired of all his bullshit." Well ladies and gentlemen, that day is finally here, and it's been a long time coming. I've put up with a lot of shit, but publicly humiliating my family? That's the last fucking straw. My dad can be a bit misguided. He can be overbearing. But he was trying to help you, and you responded by making fun of him and posting it on the internet! Everyone in your life is worried about you! I tried so fucking hard to be there for you, because despite everything you put me through, all the boundaries you crossed, all the times you made me feel like I wasn't good enough, I still loved

you. And through some crazy delusion, I was convinced that you loved me too. You really made me believe it. You know at first, I thought everything was incredible. There were so many red flags and everyone around me tried to warn me but I refused to see them. You only liked me when it was convenient for you. Having me in videos gave you more views, more likes. But you never wanted to do anything real. And then every time I started to pull away from you, you'd perform some grand gesture and pretend you were the perfect boyfriend and that I wasn't trying hard enough or spending too much time on my career or with my friends and somehow it was always my fault. And no matter how badly you fucked up, I came running back to you, every time. I'm done. I've got all your shit in a box and if you don't want it back, I'm getting rid of it. All of it.

Ophelia sets the bat down gently and stands up. She pours GASOLINE onto the fire pit and lights a MATCH, letting it fall as the fire springs up in front of her. As she goes on her voice begins to crack.

OPHELIA

This is the first sweatshirt you gave me. It used to be my favorite piece of clothing. Good riddance.

Ophelia throws the SWEATSHIRT into the fire.

Here are the ticket stubs from our third date. I don't even like this band. I just pretended to like them because I liked you.

Ophelia throws the TICKET STUBS into the fire.

This is the record you bought me for my birthday. Fuck you and fuck this stupid song.

Ophelia throws the RECORD into the fire. As she speaks she starts to dump the rest of the box into the fire. A STUFFED ANIMAL falls to the side.

Here are all your stupid emails with your stupid song lyrics and your stupid poems and all the pictures of your stupid face and-

Ophelia notices the stuffed animal on the ground. She picks it up to throw into the fire and then hesitates. She throws it across the ground and begins to cry, picking up

the bat and hugging it to her chest instead. She composes herself and stares at the fire.

Goodbye.

END OF VIDEO

3.2.1 "[THE MUSIC VIDEO]" - SONG TBD - EXT AMPHITHEATER DAY

The music video opens with a QUEEN. She is wearing a CROWN and a MASK that obscures her face, and stands in the center of the amphitheater stage. A masked KING approaches the Queen and takes her hands. They begin to slow dance until the Queen dips the king into a BED OF PLANTS in front of the main stage. The Queen blows a kiss to the King as he settles into sleep. She exits. From stage right, the MURDERER, also masked, creeps towards the King. He brandishes a MYSTERIOUS BOTTLE and makes a show of opening it. The Murderer pours POISON from the bottle into the King's ear as he sleeps. He then takes the King's CROWN, kisses it, and sets it crookedly on the King's head. The Murderer exits the way he came.

The Queen returns to the stage and gently shakes the King to wake him. He is dead. The Queen pantomimes her anguish (as there is no sound other than the song playing). She kisses the King on the forehead and takes his crown. Two ATTENDANTS, also masked, drag the King out of sight.

The Queen clutches the King's crown to her chest. The Murderer runs in from stage left, pauses in shock, then rushes to the Queen. He tries to comfort her, but she pushes him away. The Murderer offers her JEWELRY, FLOWERS, and MONEY. The Queen accepts these gifts and puts the King's crown on the Murderer's head. The Murderer and the Queen hold hands, facing the camera. The Queen still holds the Murderer's gifts.

FADE TO BLACK

END OF VIDEO

3.2.2 "[MUSIC VIDEO] REACTION WITH FAM & FRIENDS" -INT HAMLET'S HOUSE DAY

HAMLET and HORATIO sit in Hamlet's room at the desk setup. Hamlet is wearing SUNGLASSES.

HAMLET

What is up my Hamstands? I'm here today with my best friend Horatio of "The Golden Ratio".

HORATIO

Hello!

HAMLET

Horatio here is the best person I've ever known.

HORATIO

Aw, thanks.

HAMLET

Don't mention it dude. And don't think I'm just flattering you either. I didn't say that just to boost your ego - that shit's for posers. I'm saying that in the face of all the crap going on recently, you're the only good person I know. Ever since I got away from the bullshit and started seeing my fake friends for who they really are, I realized that you're the only one left who can actually function. Whatever the universe throws at you, you take on the situation calmly, good or bad. Nothing fazes you. If there were anyone else even half as good as you, they'd be here.

HORATIO

Hamlet, /I

HAMLET

/But whatever, I'm going on too much.

(to the camera)

This isn't a sentimental feels-y video. In a couple hours, I'm gathering my mom, my uncle, and those losers Rosencrantz and Guildenstern downstairs to watch the music video I made with The Players. You can view it on my channel by searching the name of the song. While everyone watches the video, Horatio and I will be recording their reactions with a camera.

(to Horatio)

The plot of the music video is really close to that thing I told you about a while ago. I want you to help me watch how my uncle reacts. We'll talk about it after the video.

HORATIO

Of course, dude! I got you. I'll watch him closer than an Insta influencer watches their follower count.

HAMLET

Great! Let's go get everything set up.

Horatio, GERTRUDE, CLAUDIUS, ROSENCRANTZ, and GUILDENSTERN are seated in the living room. Hamlet stands to one side.

HAMLET

Thank you all for joining us today. This music video is about to be jam-a-lammin' and I am stoked that you get to see it. Now like I told all y'all earlier, I'm gonna be recording your reactions with this here camera.

CLAUDIUS

Sounds good to me. Hey- are you doing okay, son? I feel like we haven't checked on you in a while.

HAMLET

I'm feelin' like Sasuke after he went beast mode from his janky tattoo.

CLAUDIUS

That... doesn't make any sense.

HAMLET

Your face doesn't make any sense!

Hamlet high-fives Guildenstern. Claudius gives up on the conversation.

GERTRUDE

Hamlet, honey, why don't you come sit next to me?

HAMLET

Nah.

Hamlet sits down next to Horatio. The music video plays off-camera. Gertrude and Claudius look uncomfortable. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are completely focused on the video. Hamlet and Horatio are subtly watching Claudius for his reaction. The music video ends, and Claudius clears his throat.

CLAUDIUS

What the hell was that about?

Hamlet lounges in his seat.

HAMLET

Oh, I'm sorry. Was it not clear enough for you?
Let me explain: the queen and her husband the
king are perfectly happy. And then the king is
murdered in his sleep and his wife and crown are
stolen from him.

CLAUDIUS

Enough.

HAMLET

Did I mention that the murderer was the king's
own brother? I guess it didn't come across too
well.

CLAUDIUS

Enough!

HAMLET

What, was it too much for you? I didn't think it
was *that* scary.

Claudius stands abruptly and storms out of the room and up the stairs. Gertrude gets up to follow him, and Ros & Guil hesitate before following her.

Did you see that?

HORATIO

Oh, I saw it.

HAMLET

And during the part with the poison?

HORATIO

Oh my God, he looked *so* guilty.

HAMLET

I'll bet you twenty bucks the ghost was right
about him. There's no way he's innocent after
acting like that.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern come back down and enter the living room.

GUILDENSTERN

Hey, can we talk?

HAMLET

I don't know, can we?

He laughs.

GUILDENSTERN

Listen dude, your uncle-

HAMLET

What about him?

GUILDENSTERN

He's pissed, /and

HAMLET

/What do you want me to do about it? I'd just piss him off more.

GUILDENSTERN

Please just listen.

HAMLET

Fine. I'm all ears.

GUILDENSTERN

Your mom is super upset too. She wanted us to come talk to you.

HAMLET

Oh, I see. Well, lovely talking with you.

GUILDENSTERN

Cut it out, man. Just let me tell you what she wanted us to say.

HAMLET

I can't.

GUILDENSTERN

Can't what? Let me talk?

HAMLET

No, I can't cut it out. I don't have any scissors. Anyway, what was that about my mom?

ROSENCRANTZ

She says she's "surprised at you" and she "can't believe you would act this way."

HAMLET

Oh, good! I can still surprise my mom. She must be impressed with my skill.
Did she want anything else?

ROSENCRANTZ

She wants to talk with you later. Alone.

HAMLET

Sure, yeah. Can't say no, she's my mom.
(beat)

Can I help you with something?

ROSENCRANTZ

Yeah. Are we friends or what?

Hamlet scoffs.

HAMLET

Uh, yeah! What makes you say that?

ROSENCRANTZ

It feels like you've been pushing us away. I mean you post all your problems to YouTube and you don't even talk to us about it.

HAMLET

It's my outlet, okay? And I don't owe you guys anything.

ROSENCRANTZ

How can you say that? We're worried about you.

Hamlet ignores him and turns to Guildenstern.

HAMLET

Guil, do you play any instruments?

GUILDENSTERN

Not really?

HAMLET

It's pretty easy. Watch, I'll show you.

He leads Guildenstern to a PIANO KEYBOARD. Offcamera, Horatio moves the camera to record them.

Look. You turn it on, pick an instrument, and press the keys.

Hamlet plays a short tune.

Easy.

GUILDENSTERN

Come on, man. I don't know how to play the piano.

Hamlet takes off his sunglasses.

HAMLET

Then what makes you think you can fucking play me?

Guildenstern leaves without another word. Rosencrantz follows them. Hamlet puts his sunglasses back on and sees the camera turned towards him. He shoots finger guns at it.

HORATIO

(off camera) That was a lot.

HAMLET

No kidding. Thanks for being here, by the way.

HORATIO

(off camera) Yeah, no problem. What now?

HAMLET

You can go ahead and go home.

Horatio leaves. Hamlet approaches the camera and squats in front of it.

I guess I'm gonna go talk to my mom. But I'll tell you what, she is not gonna like what I have to say. I'm sick of holding myself back. Wish me luck, Hamstands. Hamlet out.

Hamlet's "Wonderwall" kazoo outro plays.

END OF VIDEO

3.3 & 3.4.1 "GOD IS DEAD | FEAT. MY DAD (ALSO DEAD)" -INT. HAMLET'S
BEDROOM DAY

HAMLET sits at his desk setup and talks to the camera.

HAMLET

So earlier today, my mother comes into my room and tells me "Hamlet, you've insulted your father." And I'm just so taken aback that I start to laugh. The woman who forgot about her husband and immediately married his garish little brother is telling me that I'm the one who's wrong here? Hilarious. She's up on her high horse of virtue, but she needs to look in a mirror because god that woman is drenched in hypocrisy. She's sitting there talking about heaven and morals and all I can think about is the fact that it's all meaningless bullshit. If she really believed any of that, she wouldn't have stood up there in holy matrimony just to turn around and cover her sheets with sin. When my dad died, she could have at least taken a little bit of time to grieve before she moved on to the next. But no, two months later she decided to get married to her brother-in-law! God that's just so gross. He's my dad's brother! When she married my dad, he became her brother too! It's essentially incest! Doesn't the Bible say that's wrong? She's sleeping in a bed of corruption! Heaven would be sick. If there is a God, he abandoned this timeline. Maybe he'll come back if she washes her sheets. My father was a great man. He was a romantic, always the gentleman. He brought her flowers once a month. When she got busy, he learned how to cook so she could come home to a warm meal. They fit together perfectly, and they were happy. And then as soon as my dad leaves the Earth, Claudius comes prancing along. The only flowers he's ever bought were the ones for the funeral. He's like a diseased rat. Let him onto your ship and he'll give you the plague. I don't know what she sees in him! If they were young you could blame it on lust, but the older you get the more you're supposed to listen to reason. But I can't think of any logical reason for this. She has to have

something in that head of hers, because she can still function like a person. And she can't be crazy, because even a crazy person would never choose fucking *Claudius*. He's not worth a twentieth of a tenth of my dad! I just don't know how she can't see how wrong this is! Maybe Satan is real and he just has it out for me. I mean, the guy dicks around with his dead brother's wife all night and then gets up to go to church the next morning? That's where they are right now, you know. Gertie and Claud, off to nod along to a sermon about being faithful in marriage or some shit. Fucking hypocrites. And of course Claudius wants my mom to be the picture perfect Christian wife. That bastard is just using her to show off to the other men at church. He's probably using me, too: "Poor Hamlet, lost little soul, we just don't know what to do! Will you pray for him?" As if Claudius gives a flying fuck about me. If he did, he would've stayed far away from my family. If only I could get rid of him. The problem is, he's too popular right now. People like him too much. I need his reputation to die. Or for him to die... just kidding. Probably. The point is, I want people to hate him as much as I do right now. I want everyone at their stupid church who commends him for being such a good stand-in parent to see him for the piece of shit he really is. Which means I need to wait until he's done something horrible, and then publicize it. That's when I'll trip him up and send him tumbling into hell. It's what he fucking deser-

Hamlet suddenly sees the ghost behind the camera. The mood shifts and he freezes for a moment.

What are you doing here?

The ghost answers, but the camera cannot hear it.

I can't, she won't listen!

The ghost responds, but the camera cannot hear it.

I'm sorry, I will.

Hamlet becomes lost in thought. He eventually comes back to earth and addresses the camera.

You guys can't see him, can you. Even if I turned the camera around it wouldn't make a difference. But he's there, clear as day. He's dressed in his old uniform, like he's ready to ship off for battle. It's been a long time since he's worn those colors.

Hamlet looks back at the ghost.

Maybe it isn't real. Maybe he's just some figment of my imagination. Now that would be one cruel hallucination.

Hamlet reflects on this.

I don't think I'm crazy. But even if I am, that doesn't make the rest of the world any less fucked up. My mother and my uncle, it's their crimes that are the problem. Everything is already awful, and I've got a feeling it's all about to get much worse.

Hamlet's Wonderwall outro plays.

END OF VIDEO

3.4.2 "THE TRUTH ABOUT MY BREAKUP (EXPOSING MY EX-GIRLFRIEND'S DAD) BY FALL OUT BOY" - INT HAMLET'S BEDROOMDAY

HAMLET sits at his desk setup. He's wearing a BUSINESSSUIT, like a news anchor.

HAMLET

Good afternoon, Hamstands, and welcome back to Channel 1 News, where we give you all the juicy details about what's going on on YouTube. Today's story involves the biggest busybody the world's ever known: my ex-girlfriend's dad, Polonius!

A CANDID PICTURE OF POLONIUS is displayed.

This motherfucker thinks he can get in my business and get away with it. Let's show him how wrong he is, shall we?

Hamlet shuffles some BLANK PRINTER PAPER on his desk as if they were talking points.

Earlier this week, our sources discovered a series of Facebook posts made by Polonius. They contained screenshots of confidential e-mails and blatant defamation of my character.

SCREENSHOTS OF POLONIUS'S FB POST are displayed as Hamlet talks about them.

Turns out the old bastard read his daughter's private e-mails. And not only that, he used them against me in a fucking internet smear campaign to turn people against our relationship! And of course he didn't like the e-mails; I wrote her the lyrics to "Honkey Tonk Badonkadonk" for God's sake. Polonius is practically a boomer, and he clearly didn't get the joke. Instead, he went on and on about how "sick" I am and how I wasn't any good for his daughter. Well he got one thing right. His daughter and I fucking hate each other now. I wonder why that is? Maybe it's because some crusty old bastard started filling Ophelia's head with the idea that I'm a bad person! Do you know what happened after Polonius threw that post onto Facebook? I didn't hear from Ophelia for ages. She didn't return my calls, she didn't respond to my e-mails, and she took hours to text me back. If you'll remember, that was because she was being a "good daughter" and "honoring her dad's wishes." Which means Polonius filled her head with so much lies and shit that she chose him over me. If you want to blame anyone for this garbage fire, blame Polonius, that rat bastard. What the world really needs is for him to shut the fuck up. I mean, the guy will waste hours just talking in circles about the same thing, just repeating himself until nobody can stand listening to him anymore. No wonder Ophelia did what he said. He probably never shut up about it until she caved. That's why I'm starting an internet campaign of my own: The Silence Polonius campaign. I want you, Hamstands, to find everything Polonius has ever done online and comment #SilencePolonius on it. If you don't have a Facebook account - because let's face it, you're not old as fuck - make one. This man needs to pay. Hamlet out.

Hamlet's Wonderwall outro plays.

END OF VIDEO

4.1 "OUR SON'S CONDITION" - FACEBOOK POST

CLAUDIUS
(Initial Post)

It has come to my attention that our son, Hamlet, has posted a video to his social media attacking our dear family friend, Polonius. We are dismayed and disappointed that we have allowed this to happen, and we deeply apologize to all parties involved. Gertrude and I were shocked when we discovered the video, even more so after we watched it. Hamlet's behavior is unacceptable, and we will be taking immediate action to resolve this issue.

GERTRUDE
(Reply)

@Claudius is going to discuss the situation with Hamlet. Hopefully if we talk things out with him, he'll understand his mistake and apologize.

CLAUDIUS
(Reply)

@Gertrude yes, I would feel awful if Hamlet ruined the family's reputation. As his parents, we should have done a better job of reigning him in. @Polonius, if you see this, know we are deeply sorry that he lashed out at you, and we doing our best to make things right.

4.2 & 4.3.1 "THIS HOUSE IS A NIGHTMARE" - INT HAMLET'SHOUSE NIGHT

HAMLET is discreetly filming from his phone, hiding out in the bathroom. He smiles at the camera in the MIRROR. ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN can be heard calling for him off-screen.

HAMLET
Showtime.

He opens the door as Ros & Guil call his name again.

Yeah?

Ros & Guil appear at the top of the stairs.

ROSENCRANTZ

Hey, man.

HAMLET

Hey, what's up?

ROSENCRANTZ

Come on dude, your uncle wants to talk to you.

HAMLET

About what?

ROSENCRANTZ

We've been over this - about the Polonius video.

HAMLET

Ah, that.

ROSENCRANTZ

Please just go talk to him.

HAMLET

Why? Because you told me to? Nah, fam. I'm not taking orders from your SpongeBob-looking ass.

Rosencrantz glances down at himself, confused.

ROSENCRANTZ

SpongeBob?

HAMLET

Don't worry about it, the joke's too advanced for you.

ROSENCRANTZ

Alright, look- just come with us to talk to your /uncle, and

HAMLET

Yeah, yeah whatever. Take me to your leader.

Ros & Guil ignore this, leading him downstairs. CLAUDIUS can be heard speaking on the PHONE as they descend.

CLAUDIUS

It's dangerous behavior, hon. If I'm not harsh with him, nothing will change.

Claudius notices Hamlet & co. enter the kitchen.

I've got to go. Talk to you soon, Gertie.

He hangs up the phone.

ROSENCRANTZ

Here he is, Mr. Claudius.

CLAUDIUS

Thank you, Rosencrantz. Now Hamlet, we need to talk about the video you made. The one attacking Polonius. It was completely uncalled for, and you need to apologize, *publicly*, for what you've said.

HAMLET

I don't need to do anything. It wouldn't matter either way.

CLAUDIUS

Excuse me?

HAMLET

You have to understand, it really doesn't matter what I do. I can call Polonius a crusty old bastard, or I can throw out a half-assed apology, but in the end, not even the worms will care.

CLAUDIUS

Worms? What are you talking about? What does this have to do with this conversation?

HAMLET

Well we all die eventually, right? And in the end, our bodies are tossed into the ground where they get all munched up by worms. But here's the thing: the worm's not gonna know the difference between a big-name influencer and someone who just made an account to look at memes. The worm just sees corpses. Two delicious meals. All the same.

CLAUDIUS

What's your point?

HAMLET

My point is, I do what I want. If Polonius doesn't like it, he shouldn't watch it.

CLAUDIUS

You were openly slandering him! Anyone would be offended by that. You have to apologize to him.

HAMLET

If he didn't want to fight me publicly, he shouldn't have posted all my personal shit to Facebook! That's a public fucking platform - he started this war!

CLAUDIUS

He was concerned for your safety - you were acting hysterical! He was only trying to help!

HAMLET

Oh, he helped. Breaking up my relationship with Ophelia was *such* a big help. My hysteria is cured! Depression? Gone!

CLAUDIUS

I'm sorry you feel that way, but Polonius doesn't deserve this. He has been a friend of the family for years, and now that relationship is in jeopardy because of you.

HAMLET

Good! If I have to break up, you do too.

Hamlet cackles.

CLAUDIUS

Do you think this is funny? It's no laughing matter. Polonius won't leave the house, he won't answer my messages, he won't return my calls - and frankly, I don't blame him.

HAMLET

Well if you can't find him on Facebook, maybe you'll find him in Hell!

CLAUDIUS

Alright, fine. I didn't want to do this, but you've forced my hand.

You're taking a break. Don't post any more videos, don't appear in any of your friends' videos, nothing. You're done until you can learn to use social media responsibly.

Hamlet scoffs.

HAMLET

Whatever, *mom*.

CLAUDIUS

I'm your father, Hamlet. And I'm doing this because I love you.

HAMLET

I said what I said. When you married her, you said you'd become one with her, and therefore, you are her. So goodnight, mother.

Hamlet leaves, making a show of stomping up the stairs.

HAMLET

This house is a *fucking nightmare!*

He returns to the bathroom, where he films himself in the mirror. He stares at himself for a while before flipping off the camera.

Hamlet's "Wonderwall" kazoo outro plays.

END OF VIDEO

4.3.2 "TRUE FRIENDS STAB YOU IN THE FRONT" - INTHAMLET'S BEDROOM DAY

HAMLET sits at his desk in his chair, playing with a SLINKY.

HAMLET

What is up, my Hamstands? Today we're going to be talking about friends.

More specifically, fake friends. You know it's amazing how you can know someone your whole life and go through so much together, and then the moment they see even a little bit of green on the other side, they just leave you in the dust.

Hamlet puts down the slinky and looks directly into the camera.

Well, Rosencrantz? Guildenstern? How does it feel? You knocked me down, tied me to the train tracks, and frolicked on over to the other side. Well you're about to find out that all that beautiful green grass is plastic. And when you do, don't come crawling back to me. But don't worry, you can go crying to Claudius. I don't know how the hell he got you to turn against me. What, did he dangle a dollar on a fishing rod? You know before this, I would have done anything for you. We practically grew up together, you're like family to me. Or at least you were. But Claudius? Claudius isn't family. He's a parasite. First he wormed his way into my mother, and then somehow he infected you two. How does it feel to be at his beck and call? Is it worth it? Sneaking around behind my back, conspiring with him, pretending to be my friends and then reporting back? Is it fun playing fetch? You're not just his dogs - you're his bitches. God, you're even worse than my mom, getting in bed with that fucking traitor. True friends don't stab you in the back. They walk up to you, look you in the eyes, and bury that knife straight into your chest. At least that way, you're being up front about it. I don't need you. I don't need your lies or your pity. From this moment on, we're strangers, and I never want to see you again.

Hamlet picks up the slinky again.

Have a terrible life.

END OF VIDEO

4.4 "THE PROBLEM WITH YOUTUBERS" - INT HAMLET'S BEDROOM DAY

HAMLET sits at his desk, leaning back in his CHAIR and staring at the ceiling.

HAMLET

So there's this YouTuber, Fortinbras, right? Earlier this week, I saw that he had some beef or something with some random YouTuber. I think

he's Polish? It doesn't matter. What I'm trying to say is that the argument was just... pointless. They were fighting because the Polish guy said something like, "Imao Fortinbras sucks" in the middle of a stream. You know, just a passing comment. And when Fortinbras kept hearing about it from his fans, he got mad and started a flame war.

Over a stupid joke. And you know, it just made me realize how pointless this all is. Everything I see reminds me that all I'm doing is sitting on my ass watching dumb videos all day. Am I just here to eat and sleep? No! I am an intelligent being, gifted with deep thought and free will - I have to make something of myself. And I don't know whether I'm being lazy or just wasting time thinking, "I should do that thing," but I can't just sit around anymore. I was not put on this planet to *think* I want to do something without actually getting up and doing it. It's not like I don't have the motivation or the resources, and on top of that it's pretty clear that I should be doing *something*. Anything.

He sighs in exasperation.

Just take Fortinbras and that Polish dude. He's so wound up at the thought of some random person on the internet disrespecting him, that he's willing to start a war in order to defend himself. All over a joke - something you would laugh about with your friends over drinks. And what am I doing? My dad is dead. My mom has lost herself to my uncle. I've got all this anger that's completely justified, and I haven't done shit about it. Instead I've just been letting it fester. I'm essentially just letting it all slide. Twenty thousand fans are following Fortinbras into a virtual screaming match with complete strangers over something that does not matter. I mean, it'll probably be over and forgotten in two weeks. I'm almost embarrassed at myself for not even having a fraction of their drive. Especially since my problems are real. From now on, if my thoughts aren't fixated on revenge, they're worthless.

Hamlet reaches out to cover the camera with his hand. His "Wonderwall" kazoo outro plays.

4.5 "HOW TO SPEAK FLOWER!" - INT. OPHELIA'S KITCHEN NIGHT

Ophelia is standing at her kitchen table wearing something resembling a nightgown. LAERTES' BASEBALL BAT leans against one of the cabinets behind the counter. She is holding an ASPHODEL. There are a bunch of flowers spread out in front of her, as well as a VASE half full with water. Something about her seems off from the get-go. As she talks, she often pauses at odd intervals and stares into space. She also sings old nursery rhymes, almost absentmindedly.

OPHELIA

This is an asphodel. Since the times of Ancient Greece it has been associated with death. In England it was considered the food of the dead, and they often planted it in cemeteries.

Ophelia places the asphodel into her vase while softly singing.

(Singing)

How can you tell apart your true love from another? By his pilgrim hat and staff you'll know he is your lover.

(Speaking)

Flowers have been used as a form of communication all around the world for centuries. This language really gained popularity in England in the Victorian era because communication was incredibly restricted, especially for women. They weren't allowed to have a voice, so they spoke to the world with flowers.

(Singing)

*He is dead and gone, lady, He is dead and gone,
At his head a patch of grass, At his feet a stone.*

Ophelia stares at the vase.

(Speaking)

Asphodels mean "my regrets follow you to the grave."

She picks up a ROSEMARY.

There's rosemary, that's for remembrance.
Commonly used for both weddings and
funerals.

She sings to the rosemary, as if to a child.

(Singing)

*White his shroud as the mountain snow Covered
in flowers, Which crying to the ground did not
go With true-love showers.*

Ophelia places the rosemary into the vase and looks directly into the camera.

(Speaking)

Please remember, love. They say the owl was a
baker's daughter. We know what we are but not
what we will become. May God be at your
table.

She picks up a DAISY and smells it.

When they ask you what it means just say:

(Singing)

*Tomorrow is St. Valentine's day, And early in the
morning, I'm a girl below your window, To be
your Valentine.*

*Then up he rose, put on his clothes, And opened
the door. Let in the girl and when she left Was
innocent no more.*

(Speaking) A

daisy.

She places the daisy in the vase.

Innocent and short lived. Sadness, grief, and death.
But innocent, like a child.

She picks up the FENNEL and COLUMBINE. She places them in the vase during
the next song.

Fennel, for flattery. And columbine. It means
folly, infidelity, adultery.

(Singing)

*By Jesus and St. Charity, My goodness what a
shame! Young men will do it if they come to it. By
God, they are to blame. She said, "before you
bedded me, You promised me to wed." He*

*answers: So I would have done by yonder sun, If
you had not come to my bed.*

She picks up a RUE.

(Speaking)

Rue is for repentance. The Herb of grace o'
Sundays. It was used in the Catholic church to
sprinkle holy water and to wash away sins. In
Renaissance Europe it was considered both a
contraceptive and an abortifacient. When bad
things happen, they don't come one at a time like
enemy spies, but all at once in battalions.

She places the rue in the vase and picks up a PANSY.

These are pansies. They come from the French
word *pensées*, which means thoughts. They used
to be prescribed as medicine. For heart pain.
Pansies, or love-in-vain.

(Singing)

*They bore him open in the coffin, Hey, non nonny,
nonny, hey, nonny, And in his grave rained many a
tear.*

Ophelia places the pansy in the vase. (Speaks)
Good-bye, my darling.

She looks into the camera.

And then you sing "*a-down a-down, call him a-down-
a.*"

Oh it turns like a wheel!

It is the false steward that stole his king's daughter.

She looks around as if she has forgotten something.

Violets represent faithfulness and chastity. "So
violets, so doth the primrose, fall,
At once the Spring's pride, and its funeral. Such
easy sweets get off still in their prime,
And stay not here to wear the soil of time..."
That's Henry Vaughan, for my poetry fans. Violets
die young. They die quickly... I was going to add
violets to my bouquet, but they all withered.

(Singing)

*For bonny sweet Robin is all my joy. And will he
not come again? And will he not come again?*

No, no, he is dead, Go to your deathbed. He never will come again. His beard was as white as snow, All white atop his head. He is gone, he is gone, As we are cast we moan, God have mercy on his soul.

Ophelia looks at her vase.

(Speaking)
And on the souls of all, I hope.

END OF VIDEO

4.6.1 "TAKING A HIATUS" - TIKTOK - INT.GUILDENSTERN'S BEDROOM DAY

ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN are seated in the bedroom and look solemn.

GUILDENSTERN

Hey guys. We wanted to make this video to let y'all know that we're going to be taking a short break.

ROSENCRANTZ

I'm sure you all understand that school is kind of crazy right now, with it being online and everything, and with midterms coming up fast.

GUILDENSTERN

Right. And on top of that, you may know that our friend-

ROSENCRANTZ

Former friend.

GUILDENSTERN

Yeah. Our former friend Hamlet made a video about us where he said some very upsetting things. So, in light of the stress from school and the... emotional distress from someone we thought we were good friends with, we will be leaving TikTok for a while.

ROSENCRANTZ

We just need some time right now to regroup and to focus on school.

GUILDENSTERN

And our feelings.

ROSENCRANTZ

And our feelings. Thanks for tuning in with us.

GUILDENSTERN

Ros and Guil out.

END OF VIDEO

4.6.2 "I GET KIDNAPPED BY PIRATES!!! | NOT CLICKBAIT" -INT.
HAMLET'S BEDROOM DAY

HAMLET sits at his desk setup. He rambles about a random topic until he is cut off by THE PLAYERS, all wearing SUNGLASSES and MASKS as disguises.

HAMLET

(obvious)

Woah, who are you? How did you get in my house?

LEAD PLAYER

Shaddup!

They grab Hamlet, DUCT TAPE his mouth, put him in a CHINESE FINGER TRAP, and drag him out the door. Hamlet is trying to speak around the duct tape the whole time. It's not working.

The Players toss Hamlet into the trunk of a CAR and drive away.

The Players open the trunk. Hamlet sits with his hands still bound by the Chinese finger trap. The LEAD PLAYER laughs evilly.

LEAD PLAYER

(pirate voice) We got
'im now boys!

The Players laugh and pat each other on the back. Hamlet tries to say something but fails.

What?

Hamlet takes his finger out of the trap, removes the duct tape part-way, and puts his finger back in the trap.

HAMLET

I said who are you? And what do you want from me?

LEAD PLAYER

We're the Sea Dogs! The ruthless kings of the Seven Seas!

HAMLET

I don't see a /sea

LEAD PLAYER

/Shush! It doesn't matter, boy. You're in our brig and you follow our rules.

HAMLET

Hate to break it to you, but this is a trunk.

The Lead Player reaches over and places the duct tape back over Hamlet's mouth.

LEAD PLAYER

That's better. He

points to a Player.

You there! Bring the ol' flintlocks.

The Player grabs a BAG FULL OF WATER GUNS from the backseat of the car. He hands one to the Lead Player, who pulls Hamlet out of the trunk and prods him along at water-gunpoint. All follow. They are in a PARK by a RIVER, and march down to a patch of grass by the bank. The Lead Player passes around water guns to the other Players. He rips off Hamlet's duct tape.

LEAD PLAYER

(normally)

Oh, hey, do you have a mask?

HAMLET

Yeah, yeah. It's just. It's in my pocket. Could you...?

LEAD PLAYER

Yeah, no, yeah. I got you.

The Lead Player takes Hamlet's mask from his pocket and puts it on him. He then removes the finger trap (with some difficulty) and dramatically gives Hamlet the

tiniest water gun. We're talking Dollar Tree.

LEAD PLAYER

Here, boy. Arm yerself.

HAMLET

It's empty.

LEAD PLAYER

There be water right there. Figure it out.

He points at the river.

HAMLET

But-

LEAD PLAYER

Ready?

The Players prepare their water guns.

Aim!

They all aim at Hamlet, who is trying to stop the countdown.

Fire!

The Players all shoot Hamlet with water, emptying their guns. Hamlet tries to run, but ends up soaked. The Players throw their water guns to the ground, mobbing Hamlet.

HAMLET

Wait! My phone!

They freeze. One of them grabs Hamlet's PHONE, holds it up in triumph, and sets it down gently. They resume mobbing. The Players lift Hamlet by his arms and legs and march down to the river, where they make a big show of tossing him in. The Players laugh and run towards the car, acting like fratboys. They all climb into the car, and as Hamlet runs up, The Players begin to drive away. The Lead Player stands up through the sunroof and chucks a TOWEL at Hamlet.

LEAD PLAYER

Now listen to me, boy. Tell everyone ye meet that today was the day ye encountered the Sea Dogs... and lived!

The Players cheer as they leave Hamlet behind. He wraps the towel around himself and looks towards the camera, confused.

HAMLET

What the fuck just happened?

Hamlet's "Wonderwall" kazoo outro plays.

END OF VIDEO

4.7.1 "WANDAVISION DISSECTED" - INT. LAERTES' BEDROOM DAY

LAERTES sits in her bedroom back home. Her BASEBALL BAT is back in her possession. Her bedroom door is open.

LAERTES

Welcome, Henchmen, to the Secret Laer! Now I know this doesn't look like my college setup, and that's because I'm not in college. I'm back home! Yay, virus kicking everyone out! Anyway, let's get into it.

Laertes talks about hit Marvel TV show "Wandavision". At some point, OPHELIA walks across the background briefly. The livestream's chat explodes with concerned comments about Ophelia and her mental health. Laertes notices these comments and becomes angry.

LAERTES

(reading)

"How's Ophelia doing after Hamlet-"

(to camera)

Okay stop. Just stop. I want everyone out of my sister's business now. It's bad enough that Hamlet broke up with her in a fucking video. Then he goes and attacks our dad the same way? How the fuck do you *think* she's doing? And why didn't anyone stand up for her? Hamlet needs to be held accountable for all the shit he's been spewing, but his fans are just going along with it. And now my whole family is fucking depressed because of it. I mean what is his family even doing? I saw his video with his uncle - the man can't do shit.

(beat)

And why are all those videos still up, anyway? Why hasn't YouTube taken them down? Those garbage fires have to violate *at least* four community guidelines.

Laertes drags her hands down her face.

On top of that, little bitch-boy is going to the same con that I am. It's highly likely we'll cross paths. You know what? I hope I do see him. I want the chance to introduce him to these hands!

Laertes holds up her fists, then lets them fall to the desk.

God, I would love to get his channel taken down. Imagine the satisfaction as he cries on some other platform about how "unfair YouTube was to him." What a pussy. He deserves everything coming to him.

Laertes sighs.

Look, guys, I know that some of you were really looking forward to the "WandaVision" stream, but I just can't right now. I'm too exhausted by this whole thing to continue, so I'm gonna end this here. Thanks for joining today.

Laertes waves to the camera.

Bye.

END OF STREAM

4.7.2 OPHELIA'S DEATH

A vibrant video of Ophelia at the river, full of beautiful colors. She floats on her back, wearing a WHITE DRESS with a CROWN OF CROW FLOWERS, NETTLES, DAISIES, and LONG PURPLES. She is holding a single RED ROSE.

4.7.4 "THE NEXT STEP" - INT. LAERTES' BEDROOM DAY

LAERTES sits at her desk, addressing the camera. She wears FUNERAL ATTIRE, is clutching her BASEBALL BAT, and has been crying.

LAERTES

Hello, everyone. Some of you may have already heard about what happened recently. If you don't know yet, um, my sister, Ophelia...

Laertes takes a shaky breath.

The other day, Ophelia drowned in the river near our neighborhood.

Laertes loses her composure, crying. She takes a moment for herself.

We'll be holding the funeral later today, and I wanted to address some things before then. First of all, you may be wondering what will happen to her channel. We've made the decision to leave it up, so that everyone can go back and watch her videos to remember her and honor her memory. On that note, we are still debating on whether or not to remove her breakup video. On the one hand, it's a heartbreaking video, and I don't think it should stay up. On the other hand, it's important to remember all the aspects of a person, not just the ones we like.

Laertes shifts in her seat.

It's all just a lot to think about right now. I'd rather revisit that video when I'm in a better emotional state, you know? And I'm- I'm trying to hold it together. I don't want to sit around crying all the time. I want to keep moving, because if I stay in motion then my grief can't catch up with me. I know it will eventually, though. We all cry. We all grieve. But right now, I just want to hold the funeral, get all the ceremony over with, maybe make a memorial on Ophelia's channel. After I'm done with that, then I can cry. And I'm not even going to waste my breath talking about Hamlet right now. I just... I don't even have the energy to be angry.

Laertes sighs.

In terms of my own channel, it will probably be a while before I post more of my usual content. Ophelia was my sister and one of my best friends, and I'm going to need some time to process the next step.

Laertes leans against the desk.

So... thank you for being here, and for listening. I'll see you next time, back in the Laer.

5.1 "NOTHING MATTERS IN THE END | LIVESTREAM" - INT.HAMLET'S
BEDROOM DAY

HAMLET sits like a bisexual (once again) at his desk setup. He is holding a LIGHT-UP IRIDESCENT SKULL. He speaks to the skull instead of the camera.

HAMLET

You belonged to someone, once. I would know; I got you at Goodwill. Somebody liked you enough that they bought you, maybe displayed you in their home. But not enough to keep you. Or maybe they did like you, but couldn't keep you. Is that what the IRS is repossessing these days? Halloween skulls? I wonder what you're worth. I mean, at Goodwill you were only, like, \$5.99. But you were worth more than that to someone, once. I guess once the people who love us move on from us, we aren't worth anything anymore. They say they love you at first. That it's going to last forever. One moment, they're lying in your bed, and then they're lying to your face. What a lively lie - they've already left you in their mind.

Hamlet turns the skull in his hands, fidgeting with it.

(to camera)

You know, Hamstands, this Goodwill skull may look like it fell out of a Dawn commercial, but it used to have some real significance to someone. It reminds me of the kind of thing Yorick used to collect. He was an old family friend. I always knew him as sort of a grandpa - you know, the kind of person who was funny and told really good stories. He used to give me piggyback rides and give me those weird hard candies with the strawberry wrapper. I swear the guy had a million of them in his jacket pocket. He died when I started middle school.

Hamlet turns the skull so that it faces the camera.

I can't imagine what his skull might look like. Those droopy cheeks I used to pull on, his big, round nose that was somehow always pink on the end: all rotted away to bare bone. God, I wish he were still around. He knew how to make everyone happy, and now he can't. I wonder if he's sad about that.

Hamlet chuckles.

Maybe he could tell Ophelia that no matter how much makeup she puts on, she'll just end up looking like this. I bet she'd hate that. I mean no matter how high we build ourselves in life, we all fall so low in death. Nothing we do matters in the end. Not even fucking- I don't know- Julius Caesar could stop himself from dying. He went from being an emperor to being a chunk of dirt in the ground.

He notices that the live chat on the stream is blowing up with certain messages. They all say (with varying degrees of anger at his joke) that Ophelia is dead or drowned.

"Ophelia drowned?" Come on guys, you can't just joke about things like that.

The chat continues to insist that Ophelia is really dead.

Okay, look. I don't know who put you all up to this, but it's not funny. Just because she hasn't posted in a while doesn't mean she's dead. I'll even call her to prove it.

Hamlet calls Ophelia on his PHONE, putting it on speaker mode.

What now, chat?

The phone rings for a long time, then goes to voicemail. Hamlet frowns down at it.

It's probably because she hates me.
Unfortunately for her, I'm not giving up.

He calls Ophelia again. He is met with voicemail again. He starts to panic a little bit, but manages to cover it up. On his third try, the call connects.

Ha! See, I /told you

LAERTES
(over the phone)
/Hamlet, why the fuck are you calling?

Hamlet's face falls.

HAMLET

Laertes? Why do you have Ophelia's phone?
Where is she?

A long pause.

LAERTES

(on phone)

Where do you think, asshole? She's fucking
dead. Didn't you see the news? Didn't you see
my video?

HAMLET

Like I watch your stupid videos.

LAERTES

(on phone)

Just shut up. I don't have time for this, I'm trying
to arrange a memorial.

HAMLET

...Did my chat put you up to this?

LAERTES

(on phone)

Your chat? Are you fucking streaming right
now- did you try to call my sister on your stupid
fucking *livestream*?!

HAMLET

So they /didn't

LAERTES

(on phone)

/No, dumbass. Your chat didn't tell me to prank
you. My sister *drowned in the goddamn river*! You
know what- your chat can listen to this. I loved my
sister more than anything in the world, and now
she's gone. You know why, Hamlet? She jumped
into the water to get away from you! You're
nothing but a whiny, manipulative, self- absorbed
fuckwad and you deserve to fucking die!

HAMLET

Oh, you want to talk about how much you loved
Ophelia? Why stop at the world? I loved her
more than the whole fucking *universe* had to

offer. What can you do that I won't? What makes your grief more important than mine? What are you gonna do? You gonna make a scene and cry? Or fight me? Or stop eating? Will you sit in the dark and hate yourself for not spending enough time with her? For not giving her everything she deserved? Because I will. I'm going to take however sad you are and I'm gonna fucking triple it. They better leave room for me in the goddamn coffin.

LAERTES

(on phone)

We already fucking buried her, you dick! And it's so funny that you want to go on and on about how much you loved her and how sad you are. It sounds like you just want the content to me. You only ever used her for content, and then you threw her away when she wouldn't give it to you anymore. Her mental health fucking *crumbled* after you posted all that-that fucking *bullshit* about her. This is *your fucking fault!*

Laertes hangs up. Hamlet throws his phone onto his bed.

HAMLET

FUCK!

He ends the livestream.

END OF VIDEO

4.7.3 "THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS" - FACEBOOK POST

GERTRUDE

(Initial Post)

I am devastated to hear about the passing of our daughter in Christ, Ophelia. She was taken from us much too soon, and she will be missed so dearly every day. We are sending our thoughts and prayers to her family in this difficult time.

5.2.1 "LE DUEL" - INT. CONVENTION HALLWAY

HAMLET and HORATIO are walking down a hallway talking about Hamlet's encounter with the "Sea Dogs." They have LANYARDS around their necks. LAERTES, wearing a lanyard and a BACKPACK, catches sight of Hamlet from

across the hallway and sees red. Throughout their encounter, a crowd gathers and starts filming the fight on their phones from different angles.

LAERTES
YOU MOTHERFUCKER!

Laertes reaches into her backpack and pulls out her BASEBALL BAT.

HOW DARE YOU SHOW YOUR FACE HERE?

Laertes runs at Hamlet and swings her bat wildly, he ducks. He grabs the bat and wrestles her to the ground where they struggle before he eventually knocks her out. Horatio tries to intervene but is unable. CLAUDIUS and GERTRUDE, also wearing lanyards, are wandering through the convention and push past the crowd to discover Hamlet over Laertes. Gertrude stands to the side, horrified. Claudius marches over and grabs Hamlet's shirt, pulling him up.

CLAUDIUS
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

Hamlet struggles against Claudius while he is talking and gets out of his grip.

HAMLET
GET OFF ME YOU BASTARD!

Hamlet starts to shove Claudius, he is getting out of control.

YOU KILLED MY DAD! YOU DON'T
DESERVE TO LIVE! YOU KILLED MY
DAD!

Horatio runs up and manages to drag Hamlet away from Claudius. Hamlet continues to yell the same phrase repeatedly. Horatio tries to calm him down.

HORATIO
Hey, Hamlet. Look at me. This isn't worth it,
take a deep breath.

HAMLET
I'm not leaving until that bastard pays!

HORATIO
Hamlet, look around. We need to go.

Horatio looks around at all the cameras nervously and for the first time Hamlet realizes that they have an audience.

Come on.

Horatio ushers Hamlet away from the scene, and Hamlet begins to cry. They leave Laertes on the ground and Claudius and Gertrude stunned. After a moment, Gertrude goes to follow them. Claudius realizes that he's still being filmed and growls at the nearest camera.

CLAUDIUS

Turn that camera off.

5.2.2.1 LEAVING FACEBOOK - GERTRUDE

GERTRUDE

(Initial Post)

For my and my family's emotional health, I will be stepping back from Facebook for a while.

5.2.2.2 LEAVING FACEBOOK 2: ELECTRIC BOOGALOO - CLAUDIUS

CLAUDIUS

(Initial Post)

I am bewildered and shocked at Hamlet's behavior at the convention. I do not know what prompted him to say the things he did. For the sake of my emotional health, I will be stepping back from Facebook for the time being. In addition, I have confiscated all of Hamlet's recording equipment and electronics indefinitely. He will not be making any more videos. Hopefully this can atone for his outrageous behavior.

5.2.2.3 "I'M CLOSING THE SECRET LAER" - INT. LAERTES'S BEDROOM DAY

LAERTES sits at her desk setup. She holds an ICE PACK against one eye, seeming defeated.

LAERTES

Hey there, Henchmen. I bet you'll never guess how I got this.

She moves the ice pack to reveal a BLACK EYE.

Yeah. I went a little ballistic at the convention and got this bad boy from everyone's favorite piss-baby, Hamlet.

Laertes sets the ice pack down. She fidgets with her BASEBALL BAT.

In all seriousness, I don't want to do this anymore. The whole internet thing, I mean. I'm done putting myself online for the whole world to see. It was fun talking about all my interests with you guys, but I think it's gotten to the point where I can't enjoy being on this platform anymore. So, I'm sad to say that this will be the last video I post to the Secret Laer. Like my sister's channel, I'm going to leave all of my videos up, because I want everyone to still be able to enjoy the topics we talked about. But in terms of new content, I will not be making any more. Right now, I have to take the time to grieve for Ophelia, and to make sure that my dad is going to be okay. On top of that, I'm done fighting Hamlet. There was wrong on all sides, and the situation isn't easy for anyone. I know you guys are the type of people to understand, and that's why I love you all. So, signing off for the last time: I'm Laertes, and this has been my Secret Laer.

Laertes's outro plays one last time.

END OF VIDEO

5.2.2.4 "ADDRESSING WHAT HAPPENED" - INT. HORATIO'S
BEDROOM DAY

Horatio sits at his desk setup. He looks as if he has not been sleeping.

HORATIO

Hello Ratios. I'm going to be honest with you. These past few days have been rough for everyone. So, in light of some of the rumors going around, I want to address "The Convention Incident." There were a lot of moving parts to that story, about why things happened the way they did. Everyone had some form of anger or resentment or grief that they were holding on to. It was incredibly messy, and what happened was... incredibly unfortunate. Yes, Hamlet did fight Laertes. And no, he will not be coming back to YouTube. I want to ask you to please not assume you know exactly what happened. I know there are people out there who will spread gossip and misinformation just to get likes and views. In

light of that, I ask you all to please consider that you only know the people involved by what they put online, meaning that you only see a tiny fraction of their lives. So please, take whatever you hear about it with a grain of salt. Some of you have been messaging me, asking if I'm going to explain the whole thing. While I eventually want to tell my side of this story, I don't think I have the emotional capacity to put it in a video right now. Maybe one day, I'll cover what happened from my perspective, but for now, it's too much all at once. Thank you guys so much for understanding, and thank you for listening today. I'll see you next time on the Golden Ratio.

Horatio's outro plays.

END OF VIDEO

II. SHOW BIBLE

Character Breakdown*

Hamlet: A popular YouTube star who creates Storytime content. He believes that there was something fishy about his father's death, especially since his mother married his uncle two months later. He uses his YouTube videos as an outlet to talk through his feelings and vent his frustrations. He believes that his father was murdered, and eventually becomes obsessive over trying to figure out whether or not the killer is his uncle.

Horatio: Hamlet's best friend. He is a YouTuber who has a variety channel, where he tries out different things. He is Hamlet's confidant and has been a grounding presence for Hamlet as he struggles with his father's death.

Ophelia: Ophelia is Hamlet's girlfriend. She has a smaller YouTube channel where she posts makeup videos and vlogs. She loves her family, but they often treat her like she's still a child, and she wishes that they would trust her to make her own decisions.

Laertes: Ophelia's older sister. She is in college, and in her spare time she has a YouTube channel where she explains different topics and talks about her feelings on them. She is very close to her sister and she doesn't trust Hamlet.

Rosencrantz: one of Hamlet's childhood friends. He is best friends with Guildenstern and together they have a joint TikTok prank channel. The two of them come to visit Hamlet at Gertrude's request to try to figure out what is going on with their friend and make him feel better.

Guildenstern: one of Hamlet's childhood friends. They are best friends with Rosencrantz and together they have a joint TikTok prank channel. The two of them come to visit Hamlet at Gertrude's request to try to figure out what is going on with their friend

and make him feel better.

Claudius: Hamlet's uncle. He is very involved with the church and deeply concerned about keeping up appearances. Now that he has married Gertrude, he is trying to establish himself as the head of his new household, but he does not know how to handle his nephew's increasingly concerning behavior.

Gertrude: Hamlet's mother. She wants Hamlet to accept her new husband as a part of their family, and she is concerned about the fact that her son is still mourning his father's death. She reaches out to Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to see if they can help figure out why Hamlet is lashing out so much and help to make him feel better.

Polonius: Ophelia and Laertes' father. He goes to the same church as Claudius and Gertrude. The most important thing in his life is his daughters, and he tends to hinge on overprotective.

*Note- the character breakdown and script are written using the pronouns of the actors who were originally cast in those roles. All of the roles except for Claudius, Gertrude, and Polonius, can be cast as any gender and the pronouns for the character can be changed.

Episode Outline (Second Draft)

Episode One

"Ghost Story" to "Airport Q&A"

"Ghost Story"

- Hamlet and Horatio telling the story of seeing Hamlet's dad together
- Needs to have more casual YouTube energy
- Ghost story & "something off my chest" merge
- Hamlet springboards off of the ghost story to start venting to Horatio
- Make transition natural, like a rabbit trail between friends
 - Start w/ YT intro, Ham introducing Horatio to his audience

- Ham & Horatio tell ghost hunt story together
- Get onto topic of Ham's parents + Claud
- Ham starts venting to his friend as friends do
- Hamlet deffo the type to upload his problems to YT
- Video ends with Ham wrapping up his rant (and outro)

“Airport Q&A”

- Happens as a separate idea & setting
- Like the “B” plot of a sitcom
- Turn it back into a livestream
- Modernize some dialogue

Episode Two

“DADDH Club” to “The Experts”

“Dads Against Daughters Dating Hamlet”

- “Dad up” Polonius, write him more like an out-of-touch middle-aged man

“Busting Ghosts at My Best Friend’s House!”- CUT

- It’s fun, but rendered redundant by the first episode- Ham & Ratio already told this story

“Getting Ready w/ Me”

- Leave mostly as is
- Modify Oph’s dialogue at beginning to make it more natural
- Have as a livestream

“Anyway Here’s Wonderwall” & “There’s Nothing In This Video”

- Maybe put them in different places?
- Still want to keep them, they’re fine as-is
- We could even add one more
- More like interludes of “madness” between “real” content

“The Experts”

- Leave as FB post
- Fine as-is

Episode Three
“It’s The Squaaaaad” to “Society”

“It’s The Squaaaaad!” - CUT

- Introduces Ros & Guil as characters
- BUT we can do that in the next R&G TikTok
- We know that they’re coming from the FB post

“Honkey Tonk Badonkadonk”

- Go back over and trim
 - It’s so long bro
- Maybe not so excessive with the repetition

“Prank Time! (feat. Hamlet)”

- The real intro to R&G’s characters
- Modify dialogue in this one
 - No more one-to-one jokes
 - Modernize!
 - The Lady Luck lines need a better transition

“Pranking my Girlfriend’s Dad”

- Go back over and modify
- Change format? The prank is dumb and underwhelming
- A point where we may really deviate from the OG

“My Friends Have a Surprise...”

- We need to revamp who the Players are and what kind of content they make
 - Soundcloud rappers???
 - Could keep them as actual musicians, even if on Soundcloud
- The Players still need to be there
 - Change their group name to “The Playas”
- Will change what the music video entails
 - Will also change how Hamlet interacts with them (a little)
 - They need to be stupid and memey
- See: “Yeet” SNL skit

“Society”

- Like anything, we need to go back over it
- If The Playas change, this needs to change too
 - Turn from talking seriously about music to whatever we decide for The Playas’ appearance

Episode Four

“The Problem with Hamlet” to “God is Dead”

“The Problem With Hamlet”

- Keep as Facebook post
- Take out of the one-to-one
- Format as concerned old people on FB
- Make them confused about what “The Playas” are

“To Be, or Not To Be?”

- Tone down the Shakespeare just a wee bit
- Trim some out; make it easier to read
 - A little more modernization

“Fuck You, Hamlet”

- Cut down a smidge of the monologue redundancies
- Get some show-don’t-tell in there
- Keep mostly as is- gives Ophelia a voice in her narrative

Music Video

- Hamlet records an argument w/Claudius
 - Does a dance in time with the audio of the argument
 - Horatio is there too - maybe they do a tango together
- Write in the dialogue/direction for Claud’s lines and have it playing over the dance

Music Video Reaction- CUT

- We don’t really need it anymore
- Doesn’t work well in this story

“God is Dead”

- Modernize and shorten A LOT of this one
 - There’s a lot that doesn’t work- especially how Hamlet talks about his mom
 - Make it relevant to our time period
- He can complain about his mom & uncle putting on a front for church
 - Acting all perfect then making home life miserable
- Keep the ghost part at the end

Episode Five

“The Truth About My Breakup” to “The Problem with Youtubers”

“The Truth About My Breakup”

- Keep this video, but trim some of the monologue
- Make it keep an audience’s attention
 - Keep the news anchor energy going
 - Keep the photo and screenshots
- Have Hamlet encourage his fans to attack Polonius online

“Our Son’s Condition”

- Keep most of it as-is (FB post)
- Add a bit about making Hamlet take down the previous video

“This House is a Nightmare”

- Keep that Hamlet is trying to film secretly
 - Imply that Claudius knows because Hamlet is not good at being subtle
- Modernize the jokes, insults, and metaphors

“True Friends Stab You in the Front”

- Take general ideas of dialogue and turn into a roast video
- Use section of Ros/Guil stuff from Music Video Reaction
 - Incorporate those jokes into roasts

“The Problem with YouTubers”

- Hamlet watches Fortinbras get canceled over a tweet
- He realizes that if others can get upset and take action over something stupid like that, he can get up off his ass

Episode Six

“How to Speak Flower!” to “Ophelia’s Death”

“How to Speak Flower”

- Needs to be way cut down
- Cut most of the songs, modernize inaccessible flowers- asphodel is really hard to find :(

“Taking a Hiatus”

- Keep mostly the same

“I Get Kidnapped by Pirates”

- A comic relief episode to break a lot of the tension
- Compare with the revised script & plot, then tweak the Playas as needed

“WandaVision Dissected”

- Pretty good as-is, a few tweaks here and there
- Take out the part about Laertes watching Ham’s videos
 - Laertes wouldn’t watch them after a certain point
- Make it mostly about anger about Ophelia’s treatment and the fact that Hamlet encouraged his followers to attack their family online- to better motivate Ophelia’s death later

“Ophelia’s Death”

- Maybe cut? The story could work without it
- Serves the purpose of giving Ophelia some control over the telling of her story
- We like how chilling it is to have this video w/ nice artsy vibes, and then the next one is about how she drowned

Episode Seven

“The Next Step” to “Addressing What Happened”

“The Next Step”

- Revise awkward wording
- Mostly fine

“Nothing Matters in the End”

- Cut down some, modernize some of Hamlet’s “monologue”
 - The chunk about the Goodwill skull & Yorick is fine
 - The chunk about “I can’t imagine” is a little too emo
- Change that Hamlet doesn’t know Ophelia is dead - he totally would know
 - Change the makeup quip to past tense
 - Could have him acknowledge her death more
 - Viewers get angry with him in the comments after posting
 - They were expecting a memorial for Ophie
- Move Laertes argument to final convention scene
- Doesn’t have to be a livestream anymore

“Thoughts and Prayers”

- Keep as-is

“Le Duel”

- Put the Laertes-Hamlet argument in here from “Nothing Matters”
- Instead of a big fight, build it up
 - Laertes punches Ham, goes for bat, gets stopped
 - They’re pulled apart immediately
- Keep the shaky phone camera filming- released by the “fan page” as bystander footage

“Leaving Facebook”

- Leave as-is

“Leaving Facebook 2”

- Leave as-is

“I’m Closing the Secret Laer”

- Laertes no longer has injuries, Hamlet did not fight back physically
- Cut the part about going “a little ballistic”
- Keep the idea of “I don’t want to do this anymore”

“Addressing What Happened”

- Update some of the facts about the convention fight to match
 - Tweak some wording here and there as well
- Rest is ok, very YouTube

III. PRODUCTION DOCUMENTS

“Internet Royalty” Planning Sheet (First Draft)

Cast

- Hamlet: Britain Stibora
- Horatio: Brendan Thomas
- Laertes: Kate Salters
- Ophelia: Raleigh Turner
- Claudius: Vic Shutee
- Polonius: Ryan Scarlata
- Gertrude: ?
- Rosencrantz: Jack Monzingo
- Guildenstern: Ana Kinnebrew
- The Players: ?
- Current Events Vlogger: ?
- Fancam Plants: ?

Crew

Insha Iqbal - Writer, Director
Megan Shelton - Writer, Schedule Manager
Kynison Loika - Executive Producer
Riley Turner - Consultant
Fred Eichholtz - Editor

Equipment

- Filmic Pro
- Tripod with iPad attachment
- Hard Drive

Elevator Pitch (Project Rundown)

Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* adapted to the struggles of the modern YouTube vlogger. The Prince of Denmark’s descent into madness is documented on the online platform as the world watches. Videos and social media posts will be released in real time as interactive content. Ophelia arranges some flowers. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern have the “Renegade” down. And things are like, totally rotten in the state of Denmark.

General Ideas

- **Hamlet**'s channel is a StoryTime channel and called "Dane of Thrones"
 - Inspiration from YouTuber danisnotonfire- cinematic & chaotic quality
 - Followers = "Hamstands", use hashtag "#HamSquad"
 - End music is Britain Stibora covering "Wonderwall" on guitar and/or kazoo
 - After the "madness" video where Hamlet does only this (Act II Sc I)
- **Laertes**' channel is an explanation channel called "The Secret Laer"
 - Insp. from channels like OverlySarcasticProductions (without accompanying art)
 - Followers = "Henchmen"
 - Her "thing" is that she has a baseball bat with her in every video. She gestures with it.
- **Ophelia**'s channel is a makeup vlog channel called "Primrose Path"
 - Does makeup look tutorials
 - Insp. from Rosanna Pansino- very sweet and wholesome
 - Followers = "Rosebuddies"
- **Ros & Guil** have prank channel/TikTok called (TBD)
 - Insp. from David Dobrik, silly pranks on the main crew (promo material)
 - Trick Coin Prank, staged skits, etc.
 - Pass the phone introducing characters TikTok
- **Horatio**'s channel is a variety channel called "The Golden Ratio"
 - Fans are called "Ratios" or "little Ratios"
 - Channel profile picture is Horatio's face with the golden ratio imposed over it
 - Insp. from AmazingPhil- best friends with Hamlet, collabs
 - "I Hunt Ghosts With My Friend: GONE WRONG!"
 - Ham & Tio try to contact spirits, Ham contacts his father's ghost
- Promo "fan" site & "fan" channel for spreading info about vids & performances
 - Have planted YT users comment on videos (Ophelia hate, Laertes stans)
- Gertrude & Claudius call Hamlet during a livestream to tell him abt. Marriage
 - He puts them on speaker & rants on stream after call
- Ophelia's death = being bullied and then literal death by drowning
 - Messy breakup inspired by Jake Paul & Alyssa Violet
 - Psychotic breaks on both ends, Oph goes bonkers & Ham goes mad
 - Oph has to leave YT to go to rehab or she dies for real?
- Livestream important note: Livestream backgrounds must match backgrounds of pre-recorded videos in the same time period

- If actor changes background for a livestream, future recorded content must match established live background
- Hamlet and Ophelia appear in little cameos on each other’s streams/videos
 - See: Liza Koshy and David Dobrik, Alex Wasabi and LaurDIY
 - Breakup is much, much messier, relationship goes more toxic until breakup
 - See: Jake Paul and Alyssa Violet, Jason Nash and Trisha Paytas
- **Note for Writers:** In *Act III Sc II* and *Act IV Sc II* there are mentions of the word “nothing” as a joke or insult. In these instances “nothing” is slang for the vagina. Feel free to make a pussy joke if it fits

Roles & Division of Tasks

- Split script into manageable chunks b/w Insha and Megan
 - Scripted parts based on context of the content, and where we want it
- Kyni can help with film portion
 - Pre-production- Vlogger Setup
 - Post-Production- Editing

Title Ideas

- Clickbait: A Hamlet Adaptation
- #PrinceOfDenmark
- #DenmarkOnline
- #DenmarkTV
- #DudesOfDenmark
- Internet Royalty

First Draft Scene-by-scene with Filming Chunks

Filming Chunk 0

Called:

- Hamlet/Horatio (Collab)
- Hamlet/Ophelia (Collab)
- R&G (TikToks)
- The whole gang (TikToks)
- Claudius (Facebook)
- Gertrude (Facebook)
- Polonius (Facebook)

- *Pre-story*
 - Release diss tracks to establish Fortinbras/Hamlet rivalry
 - Hamlet & Horatio collab
 - Hamlet & Ophelia relationship video
 - R&G TikTok promotions
 - Dumb friendship video with the gang (bloopers?)
 - Hamlet, Horatio, Ophelia, Laertes, R&G
 - TikTok: “This is my bf Hamlet, and this is Hamlet’s bf Horatio”
 - Claudius and Gertrude wedding post on FB
 - Pass the phone introducing characters tik tok
 - Use cast introductions and time getting into character as content for the pre-story videos/tiktoks/etc.

Filming Chunk 1

Called:

- Horatio
- Hamlet/Claudius/Gertrude
- Polonius/Ophelia/Laertes

- *Act I Sc I*
 - “My Best Friend’s House is HAUNTED!!! | NOT CLICKBAIT | Storytime”
 - Horatio tells his viewers about the ghostly encounters he experiences at Hamlet’s house. (Maybe even spending the night and seeing things.)

- *Act I Sc II*
 - “Something Off My Chest”
 - Hamlet is recording when Claudius and Gertrude interrupt offscreen. Despite his protests, they talk to him about his ongoing grief and depression. Hamlet realizes he is still recording. Jump cut. Hamlet proceeds to rant (“too solid flesh” soliloquy).

- *Act I Sc III*
 - “Going to the Airport! | Q&A”
 - Polonius drives Ophelia and Laertes to the airport as they do a Twitter Q&A (questions from the fans). Ophelia’s relationship with Hamlet comes up in conversation. Laertes throws in her two

cents, then exits the car to catch her flight. The video ends after this.

- “Dads Against Daughters Dating Hamlet Club”
 - Polonius makes an angry FB post about how he doesn’t want Hamlet and Ophelia to be together bc of how toxic and crazy Hamlet is

Filming Chunk 2

Called:

- Hamlet/Horatio
- Ophelia/Hamlet
- Hamlet

- *Act I Sc IV & V*
 - “Busting Ghosts at My Best Friend’s House”
 - Horatio’s channel. Hamlet and Horatio hunt ghosts at Hamlet’s house. Horatio books it, but Hamlet gets trapped in his parents’ bedroom when the ghost closes the door on him. The video cuts as he screams. It picks up with H&H *not* in the house explaining what happened, and Hamlet ensures that Horatio saw what he saw and promises that he won’t tell Hamlet’s family.

- *Act II Sc I*
 - “Getting Ready With Me”
 - Ophelia is streaming (something channel related, normal for a bit) when Hamlet interrupts, disheveled, like that one meme of Daniel Radcliffe brandishing two guns. Performs all actions from original script. Leaves. Ophelia ends her stream in shock.
 - “Anyway Here’s Wonderwall”
 - Hamlet performs *Wonderwall* on guitar and kazoo. The whole thing. Nothing else happens. The cover is used as his outro music for all subsequent videos.
 - “There’s Nothing in this Video”
 - Hamlet stares into the camera for the duration of the video. He possibly says something random in the middle. Nothing else happens

Filming Chunk 3

Called:

- Claudius/Gertrude/Ros/Guil (Selfie)
- Ros/Guil (TikTok)
- Polonius (Facebook Thread)
- Ros/Guil (TikTok 2)
- Hamlet/Ros/Guil/Polonius
- Hamlet/Ros/Guil/Players
- Hamlet

- *Act II Sc II*
 - Claudius and Gertrude Facebook Post
 - “Hamlet’s feeling down, so we brought in the experts!” With a selfie w/ Ros and Guil
 - Ros & Guil TikTok of arriving at “Elsinore”
 - Polonius FB thread about the cause of Hamlet’s sadness. He replies to Gert & Claud’s post about them being concerned for Hamlet (Gert walks in on Ham’s clown video). He outlines the interactions b/w Ham & Oph and posts a picture of his computer screen showing an email that contains Ham’s poem word for word. G&C wonder how to fix it. Polonius devises a plan to use Ophelia to get to Hamlet
 - Ros & Guil TikTok
 - Then w/ Hamlet previewing the prank hijinks
 - “Pranking my Girlfriend’s Dad! (feat. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern)”
 - Hamlet decides to get R&G to help him prank Pol. Britain Stibora goes ham(let) trying to convince Pol that he’s crazy. (Mostly improv with a few established lines). The video wraps up but it seems like Hamlet is still holding onto the bit. It’s not a bit.
 - “My Friends Have a Surprise for Me! (feat. Ros & Guil)”
 - Ros & Guil are teaching Hamlet a TikTok dance when he is surprised by the arrival of the Players. They catch up and joke around.
 - The Players show Hamet their new song
 - Ham & crew make plans for a music video that Hamlet has an idea for (the murder of Gonzago play)
 - “Society”
 - Hamlet performs his rogue and peasant slave speech as he puts on clown makeup

Filming Chunk 4

Called:

- Hamlet
- Ophelia
- Hamlet/Players

- *Act III Sc I*
 - Facebook post - What's Up With Hamlet?
 - Claudius and Gertrude post about Ros & Guil's findings. Polonius butts in with his opinion, talks about setting up Ophelia for a confrontation(?)
 - "To Be or Not To Be?"
 - Hamlet performs his "to be or not to be" sol. as a solo story time. Then describes his interaction w/ Ophelia (use the makeup jab). He has the same disheveled look as Act II Sc I.
 - "Fuck You Hamlet"
 - Ophelia responds to Hamlet's accusations and insults with her own side of the story, describing how mean and unhinged Hamlet was

- *Act III Sc II*
 - Hamlet's Music Video
 - The music video is of the "Murder of Gonzago", put on by the Players
 - Rock (or a *capella*) cover of "Be Prepared"?????????

Filming Chunk 5

Called:

- Hamlet/Horatio/Ros/Guil/Claudius/Gertrude
- Claudius (Facebook Post)
- Hamlet

- Music Video Reaction
 - Before the music video, he says a piece about how much Horatio means to him (definitely gay. Like for sure). Then he introduces the music video made by the Players and describes the plot as similar to his father's murder, and has Horatio specifically watch Claudius
 - He has his parents, Horatio, and R&G react to the music video as they watch. Before the showing, they have the convo where Hamlet makes zero

sense to anybody. Hamlet doesn't wanna sit by his mom. He's wrong about how long his father has been dead

- After the video, Claudius is like “what the hell was that” and Hamlet is like “oh was it not clear enough” and starts to explain before Claudius just leaves and Gertrude follows him out
- Jump cut to Ham & Horatio discussing Claudius' reaction, Hamlet brings up the ghost being right bc Claudius is sus. Horatio leaves to check on everyone and Hamlet does his recorder speech to the camera with manic energy. He then adds on the sponge bit from Act IV Sc II
- *Act III Sc III*
 - “Guess Where My Parents Are Right Now | Vent”
 - Hamlet makes a vent video about how he wants to kill Claudius but he's just kidding haha but if he wanted to he totally could. He rants about how Claud & Gert are at church while he's making the video, and how ironic it is.
- *Act III Sc IV*
 - “God is Dead | Feat. My Dad (Also Dead)”
 - Hamlet is ranting about Gertrude. He sees his father's ghost behind the camera and reacts with shock (and tears?). He muses on his madness and then decides that he is not, but that the others can think what they want about him

Filming Chunk 6

Called:

- Hamlet
- Hamlet
- Claudius/Gertrude (Facebook Post)
- Hamlet/Ros/Guil/Claudius

- "The Truth About My Breakup (Exposing My Ex-Girlfriend's Dad) by Fall Out Boy"
 - Hamlet exposes Polonius by pulling up the receipts of Pol's earlier FB posts detailing Ham & Oph's relationship. He rants about how Polonius thinks he's crazy (another FB post) and wanted to pull H&O apart. “Polonius is the sole reason Ophelia turned against me” type deal. Ham stands attack Polonius online to accomplish the “murder”

- Polonius “Death” FB Post
 - Polonius changes his FB status and never returns to the platform
- *Act IV Sc I*
 - Claudius makes a FB post describing his interaction with Gertrude after they discover Ham’s video about Polonius. Gertrude comments about how worried she is for Ham’s mental state
- *Act IV Sc III*
 - “This House Is A Nightmare”
 - Hamlet is recording from his phone discreetly, i.e. at the hip. Ros & Guil are waiting with him outside Claudius’ office (home office?) and trying to convince him to just talk to them. He refuses until Ros goes in to speak w/ Claud for a bit before coming back with Ham & Guil.
 - Claudius confronts Hamlet about the scathing video against Polonius and demands an apology. Hamlet refuses, says that on social media everyone is the same, from influencers to small personal pages. Does the worm bit.
 - Ham says it’s better for Polonius to be offline. “If you can’t find him on Facebook maybe you’ll find him in hell”. It’s not like Pol will be leaving his house for a while.
 - Claudius tells Hamlet he’s not allowed to make videos anymore and he needs to take a break. Hamlet very sarcastically makes a parting comment (keep the mother bit?)
 - “True Friends Stab You in the Front”
 - Hamlet makes a YT video dissing Ros & Guil for working with his uncle. He dismisses them and claims they are no longer friends.

Filming Chunk 7

Called:

- Hamlet
- Ophelia
- Players/Hamlet
- Ros/Guil

- *Act IV Sc IV*
 - “The Problem with Youtubers”
 - Fortinbras does something that sets Hamlet off (TBD). Hamlet launches into his soliloquy about how he’s been wasting his time by thinking too much. He resolves to do something (leave vague) and to get on with it immediately.
 - He mentions that he watched Fortinbras’ fanbase follow him to attack someone he has beef with, and realized that it’s all superficial and worthless. He compares it to his very real situation that he can take real action against. “If my thoughts aren’t violent from here on, they’re worthless.”

- *Act IV Sc V*
 - “How to Speak Flower! | Livestream”
 - Ophelia does a floral arrangement stream in which she explains the meanings behind her bouquet according to Victorian flower language. The video is unsettling for various subtle reasons that Ophelia refuses to acknowledge. She doesn’t post anything else.
 - She sings seemingly random songs (from original script) as she works when she’s not explaining something

- *Act IV Sc VI*
 - “Taking a Break” - Ros & Guil
 - TikTok about being betrayed by Hamlet after the video where Ham disses them and unfriends them irl
 - “I Get KIDNAPPED by PIRATES!!! | Not Clickbait”
 - The Players show up dressed as pirates and “kidnap” Hamlet, throwing him into a car. They take him to the river, where they engage in hijinks and eventually throw him into the water. They proceed to have a water gun fight.

Filming Chunk 8

Called:

- Laertes/Ophelia
- Ophelia
- Current Events Vlogger
- Gertrude (Facebook Post)
- Laertes

- *Act IV Sc VII*
 - “WandaVision Dissected | Livestream”
 - Laertes does a stream and Ophelia walks by singing and the chat blows up asking about her, and then Laertes goes off about how angry she is and how Hamlet needs to stay away from her family
 - This impacts Ophelia’s mental health further as she watches her ex-boyfriend and her sister go for each other’s throats online
 - Ophelia’s drowning scene
 - Ophelia makes an artsy video by the river involving a white dress and a handful of flowers. There is a scene where she is floating on the river in the dress, very artsy (she floats from under that one bridge).
 - The day after it comes out, our fan account reveals that Ophelia has drowned in the river
 - Laertes addresses the viewers
 - Laertes is dressed in black, preparing for her sister’s funeral. She tells the viewers what happened to Ophelia and that she needs some time to mourn her (too much water speech). She mentions that she doesn’t even have the energy to be angry.

Filming Chunk 9

Called:

- Hamlet/Laertes
- Hamlet/Laertes/Horatio/Claudius/Gertrude/Fan Recorders
- Gertrude (Facebook Status)
- Laertes
- Horatio

- *Act V Sc I*
 - “Nothing Matters In the End | Livestream”
 - Hamlet is filming a storytime about his old family friend Yorick. He goes on a tangent about the nihilism of death with a goodwill skull. In the middle of the video, Ham’s chat keeps telling him that Ophelia’s dead. He tries to call her, a few times until Laertes answers her phone.
 - Hamlet and Laertes argue after Laertes blames Ham for what happened. Hamlet claims that he loved her, they get in a fight

about it. One of them hangs up abruptly and Hamlet ends the stream.

- *Act IV Sc VII again*
 - Gertrude makes a “thoughts and prayers” FB post

- *Act V Sc II*
 - The duel scene (WORK IN PROGRESS)
 - Ham & Laertes are at the same VidCon type of event. Horatio and Hamlet are walking together. Laertes is filming the event, recognizes Hamlet, and confronts him with fake, aggressive friendliness. She blames him directly for Ophelia’s death. They get into a vicious argument in the hallway that devolves into a fistfight. Laertes attempts to use the bat, and struggles for control against Hamlet. The bat is knocked away and the fistfight continues until Laertes loses.
 - Claudius and Gertrude intervene after Hamlet knocks out Laertes. Claudius lays down the law and yells at Hamlet. He will take away all of Hamlet’s recording equipment, Ham will only be able to use his computer for school (while monitored), etc. Hamlet’s “death” is being locked in his house w/ C&G w/o an outlet
 - Claudius’s “death” is the destruction of his social reputation. Maybe Hamlet sees everyone recording and starts screaming “I hate you” and then “you killed my father” over and over
 - Hamlet goes to fight Claudius, but Horatio holds him back and makes him leave the building. Claudius and Gertrude hesitate, then also leave. One camera tries to follow them, and is yelled at by Claudius.
 - Several of our plants record the fight from various angles. The fan page we run collects these and posts the best ones to the site.
 - The aftermath
 - Gertrude’s “death” comes from her quietly changing her FB status and never returning to the platform after everything happens
 - Laertes makes a final video announcing that she will not be continuing her youtube channel.
 - Horatio is left to pull the conclusion together. He makes a YouTube video about how the situation is messy and unfortunate. He asks the audience not to make assumptions or spread misinformation about what happened. He hopes that someday he

can tell the story of what happened, but that right now it's all too much at once.

Safety Protocols

- Masks on
- Hand sanitizer
- Temperature checks
- Hand wipes
- Tests very highly recommended

Location List

- **Int. Horatio's Bedroom SC 1 DONE**
 - Horatio
- **Int. Hamlet's Bedroom-SC2DONE**
 - Hamlet
 - Claudius
 - Gertrude
- **Int. Polonius' Living Room-SC3DONE**
 - Polonius
 - Ophelia
 - Laertes
- **Int. & Ext. Hamlet's House-SC4DONE**
 - Hamlet
 - Horatio
- **Int. Ophelia's Bedroom-SC5DONE**
 - Ophelia
 - Hamlet
- **Int. Hamlet's Bedroom-SC6 DONE**
 - Hamlet
- **Int. Hamlet's Bedroom-SC7DONE**
 - Hamlet
- **Int. & Ext. Hamlet's House-SC8DONE**
 - Rosencrantz
 - Guildenstern
- **Int. Hamlet's Bedroom-SC9DONE**
 - Rosencrantz
 - Guildenstern
 - Hamlet
- **Int. Hamlet's Bedroom-SC10DONE**
 - Hamlet
 - Rosencrantz
 - Guildenstern
- **Int. Hamlet's Kitchen-SC11DONE**
 - Hamlet
 - Rosencrantz
 - Guildenstern
 - Polonius
- **Int. Hamlet's Bedroom-SC12DONE**
 - Rosencrantz
 - Guildenstern
 - Hamlet
 - The Players
- **Int. Hamlet's Bedroom-SC13DONE**
 - Hamlet

- **Int. Hamlet's Bedroom-SC14DONE**
 - Hamlet
- **Ext. Fire Pit (yard)-SC15 DONE**
 - Ophelia
- **Ext. Amphitheater-SC16DONE**
 - Queen
 - King
 - Murderer
 - (Attendants)
- **Int. Hamlet's Bedroom-SC17DONE**
 - Hamlet
 - Horatio
- **Int. Hamlet's Living RoomSC18DONE**
 - Hamlet
 - Horatio
 - Claudius
 - Gertrude
 - Rosencrantz
 - Guildenstern
- **Int. Hamlet's BedroomSC19DONE**
 - Hamlet
- **Int. Hamlet's BedroomSC20DONE**
 - Hamlet
- **Int. Hamlet's House (bathroom, kitchen) SC21DONE**
 - Hamlet
 - Rosencrantz
 - Guildenstern
 - Claudius
- **Int. Hamlet's BedroomSC22DONE**
 - Hamlet
- **Int. Hamlet's BedroomSC23DONE**
 - Hamlet
- **Int. Ophelia's (Polonius') KitchenSC24DONE**
 - Ophelia
- **Int. Guildenstern's BedroomSC25 DONE**
 - Rosencrantz
 - Guildenstern
- **Int. Hamlet's BedroomSC26DONE**
 - Hamlet
 - The Players
- **Ext. River ParkSC27done**
 - Hamlet
 - The Players
- **Int. Laertes' BedroomSC28DONE**
 - Laertes
 - Ophelia

- **Ext. RiverSC29done**
 - Ophelia
- **Int. Laertes' Bedroom SC30DONE**
 - Laertes
- **Int. Hamlet's Bedroom SC31DONE**
 - Hamlet
 - Laertes (over phone)
- **Int. Convention Hallway SC32DONE**
 - Hamlet
 - Horatio
 - Laertes
 - Claudius
 - Gertrude
 - Convention-goer extras
- **Int. Laertes' Bedroom SC33DONE**
 - Laertes
- **Int. Horatio's Bedroom SC34 DONE**
 - Horatio

Mock Shooting Schedule

CARNE SECA		SCHEDULE					
DAY	SCENE	Location	CHARACTERS	LOCATION CHANGES	DATE OF SHOOT	DONE	CHARACTER / #
#1	6,7,13,14,19,20,22,23	HAMLET - BEDROOM	1				HAMLET / 1
#2	11	HAMLET - KITCHEN	1,7,8,9		9/25/21		HERATIO / 2
	9 & 10	HAMLET - BEDROOM	1,7,8				OPHELIA / 3
	8	INT. HAMLET - HOUSE	7,8				CLAUDIS / 4
	25	GUILDENSTERN'S BEDROOM	7,8	LOCATION CHANGE: GUILDENSTERN'S HOUSE			GERTRUDE / 5
#3	18	HAMLET - LIVINGROOM	1,2,4,5,7,8				LAERTES / 6
	21	HAMLET - BEDROOM / KITCHEN	1,4,7,8				ROSENKRANTZ / 7
	2	HAMLET - BEDROOM	1,4,5				GUILDENSTERN / 8
#4	4, 17	HAMLET - BEDROOM / HOUSE	1,2				POLONIUS / 9
	1, 34	HERATIO - BEDROOM	2	LOCATION CHANGE: HERATIO'S			THE PLAYERS / 10
#5	31	HAMLET - BEDROOM	1,6				EXTRAS / 11
	28	L. BEDROOM	3,6	LOCATION CHANGE: LAERTE'S HOUSE			KING / 12
	30,33	L. BEDROOM	6				QUEEN / 13
#6	12,26	HAMLET'S BEDROOM	1,7,8,10				MURDERER / 14
	27	RIVER	1,10	LOCATION CHANGE: RIVER			
#7	3	POLONIUS'S - LIVINGROOM	3,6,9		9/18/21	DONE	
	24	POLONIUS'S - KITCHEN	3	LOCATION CHANGE: OPHELIA'S			
	5	OPHELIA'S BEDROOM	5				
#8	15	FIREPIT	5				
	29	RIVER	5	LOCATION CHANGE: RIVER			
#9	16	AMPHITHEATRE	11,12,13,14				
#10	32	CONVENTION	1,2,4,5,6,10				

Props List

Act I Sc III Part 1	Act I Sc IV & V	Act II Sc I Part 1	Act II Sc I Part 2
Smartphone	Flashlights	Makeup mirror	Kazoo
Baseball bat	EMF Meter (cheap phone app)	Baseball bat	
Luggage	Smartphone		
	Blanket		

Act II Sc II Part 1	Act II Sc II Part IV	Act II Sc II Part 5	Act II Sc II Part 6
Pic to post to FB	Ridiculous outfit	Ridiculous outfit	Instruments?? Or
		Smartphone	Playing a song on a phone??

Act II Sc II Part 7	Act III Sc I Part 2	Act III Sc I Part 3	Act III Sc II Part 1
Face Paint	Rainbow skull	Fire Pit	Two Crowns
Brushes	Smartphone	Baseball bat	Four Masks
		Matches	Bed of plants
		Gasoline	Mysterious bottle/poison
		Box of Hamlet's things:	Jewelry
		Sweatshirt	Flowers
		Ticket stubs	Money
		Record	
		Stuffed animal	

Act III Sc II Part 2	Act III Sc IV Part 2	Act IV Sc II & Sc III Part 1	Act IV Sc III Part 2
Sunglasses	Business suit	Bathroom mirror	Slinky
Piano/Keyboard	Candid pic of Polonius	Cellphone	
	Blank printer paper		
	Screenshots of P's FB Post		

Act IV Sc V	Act IV Sc VI Part 2	Act IV Sc VII Part 1	Act IV Sc VII Part 2
Baseball bat	Sunglasses	Baseball bat	Funeral clothing
Flowers:	Masks		Baseball bat
(Asphodel replacement)	Chinese finger trap		
Rosemary	Car		
Daisy	Duct tape		
Fennel	Bag full of water guns		
Columbine	Smartphone		
Rue	Towel		
Pansy			
Vase & water			

Key:
Stuff to buy/acquire
Stuff to make
Items Already Owned
Matching Item
Matching Item
Matching Item
Unsure

Act V Sc I	Act V Sc II Part 1	Act V Sc II Part 2	Background Props
Rainbow Skull	Lanyards	Ice pack	Hamlet/Ophelia fanart
Phone	Backpack	(Black eye)	Hamlet fanart
	Baseball Bat	Baseball bat	Horatio fanart
			Ophelia fanart
			Laertes fanart

Concept Art: YouTube



This concept art was made to serve as the banner at the top of Hamlet's YouTube channel, "Dane of Thrones." The art features Britain Stibora as Hamlet.

References

Shakespeare, W. (1993). *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*. Retrieved 2021, from The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark: shakespeare.mit.edu/hamlet/full.html