

The Boy Who Couldn't Make Up His Mind (Hamlet)

SCENE 1 **Zach** – Siana, **Mum** – Isabelle, **Maisie** – Bea, **Jodie** – Dea, **Neo** – Dunya.

**N** Once upon a time Maisie and her friends were playing Monopoly at Maisie's house but they **COULD NOT** even get started because Zach couldn't decide if he wanted to be the hat or the car.

ZACH - But I like both. What should I do?

*(all shrug)*

ZACH - What if I pick the car and then I lose? What if Jodie gets the car and she wins?

*(Maisie's mum comes in)*

MUM - Would you like pepperoni on your pizza?

ALL - Yes please!

ZACH - I'm not sure *(he puts his head in his hands)*

**N** - You see he couldn't decide about the car **OR** the hat **OR** the Pepperoni and it was

ALL IN SCENE - STRESSING HIM OUT

JODIE - So that's when I told him: Zach you're being **EXACTLY** like Hamlet out of the Shakespeare play.

ZACH - No I'm not!

MAISIE – I remember that one from school!

OTTO – Is this a dagger I see before me?!

MUM – No, that's from Macbeth!

NEO – To be or not to be! That is the question!

*(Maisie's mum burst out laughing)*

MUM – That's it! You are like Hamlet, actually.

ZACH - I'm definitely not!

JODIE - Do you know who Hamlet was?

ZACH – No...

*(The scene fades away like a dream, children go back to their benches)*

SCENE 2 **Hamlet** – Jack Hillyard, **Gertrude** – Antonia.

N - Hamlet was the Prince of Denmark and had been at university for about twenty years because he couldn't decide what to be when he grew up. So he just kept going back to college and doing LOADS of stuff like history and biology and hairdressing. But one day when Hamlet came home to get his mum to do his washing for him he found out that his dad, the King of Denmark, had died. And then his mum said:

GERTRUDE - I'm going on a date with your uncle Claudius. There's some left-over lasagne in the fridge.

HAMLET – Lasagne.. that used to be dad's favourite! – WAIT! Mum!? That's insane! Why aren't you crying? Dad's dead and you're going out with his brother!?

GERTRUDE - Oh, calm down darling, you always get yourself in such a pickle!

HAMLET – But Mum..! You have to admit this is a little weird!

GERTRUDE – Sweetie don't worry, you'll understand when you're all grown up.

HAMLET – I AM grown up! ... But could you do my washing soon? All my pants are dirty.

GERTRUDE – I'll see to it when I'm back from my date... Now I really must dash, we've got tickets to the ballet!

HAMLET - This is...

ALL NOT IN SCENE - TOTALLY WEIRD!

GERTRUDE – Don't be silly darling, byeeeee!

*(Hamlet watches her go).*

HAMLET – Byeeeee... *(he pauses, thinking)*. Maybe I should learn to do my own washing? No, that really is totally weird.

**END OF SCENE – Hamlet sash goes to SAM, Gertrude crown to YASMEEEN**

SCENE 3 **Hamlet** – Sam, **Claudius** – Otto, **Gertrude** – Yasmeen, **Minister** – Riley.

N - Hamlet's mum and his Uncle Claudius got back from their date JUST in time for the king's funeral

*(THE KING IS LAID OUT DEAD. GERTRUDE, CLAUDIUS AND HORATIO LOOK SAD)*

*(HAMLET kneels down beside his dad's body)*

HAMLET - I'll miss you dad.

CLAUDIUS - Come on love, what do you say?

HAMLET - Eh?

*(Gertrude wipes tears away and looks at the huge bejewelled ring he is holding out to her)*

GERTRUDE - oh.....alright then....go on.

CLAUDIUS - Great! Now all you funeral guests stay where you are 'cos me and Gertrude are about to get MARRIED and I'm going to be the KING OF DENMARK!

*(HE LIFTS THE CROWN OFF THE DEAD KING'S CHEST AND PUTS IT ON HIS HEAD.)*

***ALL FREEZE APART FROM HAMLET***

N - Hamlet was totally SHOCKED because his uncle was about to become his STEPDAD and also because HE was supposed to become King of Denmark. He probably should have grabbed the minister's microphone and shouted:

HAMLET - Mum! You CAN'T marry Dad's BROTHER That's disgusting! And also I'M THE KING NOW!

N - But Hamlet didn't shout any of those things. He just sat there trying to decide what to do to stop the wedding until the minister said:

MINISTER - I now pronounce you husband and wife.

N - and it was too late.

***END OF SCENE -***

***Hamlet sash to OSCAR***

***Horatio sash to ADAM***

***Claudis crown to DUNYA***

***Gertrude crown to LOLA***

SCENE 4 **Hamlet** – Oscar, **Horatio** - Adam

N - After the Funeral-Wedding Hamlet went up to the castle roof and moaned for HOURS to his best friend, Horatio (who was very good at listening, which was a good thing because Hamlet talked a LOT)

HAMLET - What do you think I should do about the King thing?

HORATIO - Well if I was....

HAMLET - Should I get the castle locks changed so Claudius can't move in?

HORATIO - Well you could.....

HAMLET - Should I become a hairdresser?

*(Adam usually improvises another response!)*

N - But Horatio never got a chance to answer ANY of the questions because as SOON as Hamlet asked a question he ALWAYS asked ANOTHER one right away (which was very annoying).

**END OF SCENE:**

*Hamlet sash to KITTY*

*ADAM keeps Horatio sash*

SCENE 5 **Hamlet** – Kitty, **Ghost** – Rae-Rae.

**N - SUDDENLY A GHOST APPEARS**

ALL - WOOOOOOOOOOOO!

GHOST (*ghostly voice*) - You've been eating MY lasagne! I can smell it on your breath.

HAMLET - That's my dad's favourite food!

GHOST - That's right son! And someone else is getting my portions! You know, I really used to like the melted cheese on top bubbling away under the oven grill.....(*SOBS*) ..... but I'll never being able to eat lasagne EVER again, because Hamlet, I am here to tell you that I was MURDERED by my own BROTHER!

HAMLET - Dad, is that really you?! I can't believe it. Are you sure it was Uncle Claudius?

GHOST - Yes! and what's worse - he crept up on me when I was sleeping in the garden and poured POISON in my EAR!

HAMLET – Ew! That's gross.

GHOST - In fact it's still a bit sore and itchy even now, even though I'm dead. Look son, I need you to do two very important things for me. And you must do them because I am your ghost dad. You must AVENGE my death!

**N - which meant he wanted him to kill his uncle.**

GHOST - And bring me some lasagne so I can smell it and try and lick the air.

*(THE GHOST disappears)*

**END OF SCENE:**

**Hamlet sash to RILEY**

SCENE 6 **Hamlet** – Riley, **Horatio** - Adam

HORATIO What are you going to do?

HAMLET I don't know... I'll just get a drink of juice first.

*(HE DRINKS HIS JUICE. HORATIO WAITS FOR HIM TO FINISH HIS JUICE).*

HORATIO - What are you going to DO, Hamlet?

HAMLET - Dunno....look...I need to finish my jigsaw....

HORATIO - Really?

**N - So Horatio waited until Hamlet finished his jigsaw and then asked him AGAIN.**

*(a pigeon runs by)*

HAMLET - I just need to draw a picture of that pigeon first, then I'll decide what to do....

HORATIO - Right. You OBVIOUSLY are avoiding the question and have NO IDEA what you're going to do!

**N - Hamlet was a bit of a nightmare like that. He could NEVER make his mind up about ANYTHING. And one time he actually went to school just in his pants and got sent home because he just couldn't decide what to wear.**

HAMLET - I just need to be sure the ghost was telling the truth before I do the avenging. I am going to SPY on my uncle and see if he was acting all GUILTY and SUSPICIOUS like a Brother Murderer would.

***HAMLET sash to Theo***

***HORATIO sash to Abraham***

SCENE 7 **Hamlet** – Theo, **Ophelia** – Hannah, **Horatio** – Abraham.

N - So Hamlet decided to **PRETEND** he was in a terrible mood and be **MEAN** to **EVERYONE**, even his girlfriend Ophelia, so that they would be so shocked by his bad behaviour they wouldn't notice the **SPYING**.

Hamlet coughed on **ALL** the scrambled eggs at breakfast. He left **ALL** the royal toilet seats up and made up a song about Claudius's best friend Polonius looking like an evil guinea pig and sang it to him (even though Polonius was Ophelia's dad so that was a bit of a bad idea)

HAMLET - Polonius, Bolonius, with your evil guinea pig face.....you're a hairy disgrace, get out of my face!

N - **EVERYONE** was talking about how **RUDE** Hamlet was now. And when anyone caught him **SPYING** on his uncle he would just call them the **WORST** name he could think of and they'd forget all about the spying.

*(OPHELIA comes in and finds HAMLET spying - he's under a chair with a pair of binoculars)*

OPHELIA - Hey Hamlet, haven't seen you for a bit - when exactly are we getting married, I don't want you to forget.

HAMLET - Do what? I **DEFINITELY DON'T** want to marry you Ophelia! Just go away and be a **NUN** ok?

OPHELIA - But I really love you! I can't believe it! You know the wedding dress is non-refundable!

HAMLET - Toughski buffski.

OPHELIA – I'm so upset! You're so mean nowadays, Hamlet.

*(SHE GIVES HIM A SMACK AND STALKS OFF.)*

HORATIO - I don't think you have to pretend you're in a mad, bad mood anymore.

HAMLET - Why's that?

HORATIO - Cos you really are in a mad, bad mood.

HAMLET – I'm just a really good actor Horatio, now **LEAVE ME ALONE**

HORATIO - .... No, I think you are just in a really awful mood. Don't take it out on me!

HAMLET – Okay sorry, maybe I am actually in a terrible mood because I'm thinking about **MURDER** and **AVENGING** all the time and I need to do something about Claudius.

HORATIO – Maybe you should take a break... Go watch the Royal Actors rehearse or something...

***END OF SCENE:Horatio sash to YASMEEN, Hamlet sash to BEA***

SCENE 8 Actor One – Owen, Actor 2 – Dea, Hamlet - Bea

N - But Hamlet got an IDEA while he was watching the Royal Actors rehearse. Hamlet's IDEA was to write a NEW PLAY about a man who kills a king by pouring poison in his ear while he's sleeping. Then make the actors do that one to see if Claudius would FREAK OUT when he saw it.

ACTOR 1 (*LOOKING AT THE SCRIPT*) - No, no, no, no! There's too many spelling mistakes in this love....

ACTOR 2 Yes, bit of a dog's dinner if you ask me...

HAMLET Well I'm not asking you dog's breath! I had to write it in a hurry!

*(The actors look unconvinced)*

HAMLET - Look just do it! Here's a bag of gold and a voucher for an "all you can eat" Chinese buffet - deal?

ACTORS 1 and 2 - DEAL! (*THEY GRAB THE LOOT AND SCARPER TO PUT ON THEIR CLOAKS*)

**SCENE 9 Same as previous PLUS Claudius – Dunya, Gertrude – Lola.**  
*(THEY REAPPEAR PRONTO IN THEIR CLOAKS. GERTRUDE AND CLAUDIUS AND HORATIO ARE IN THE AUDIENCE WATCHING. HAMLET IS IN THE NEAR DISTANCE HALFWAY UP A TREE/LADDER WITH HIS BINOCULARS, WATCHING.)*

*(ACTOR 1 WEARING A CROWN RECLINING IN A GARDEN)*

ACTOR 1 - Methinks me will lay me KINGLY body here, eating grapes, relaxing and not noticing ANYTHING.....

ACTOR 2 - I thinks I will just creep up on the KING poison him while he's dreaming of fairies...

*(HE CREEPS UP AND POURS POISON IN HIS EAR.)*

*(Claudius turns white and nearly faints).*

CLAUDIUS - THIS IS THE WORST PLAY I HAVE EVER SEEN!

*(And then he runs away)*

*(HAMLET FROM HIS PERCH YELLS )*

HAMLET - The ghost WAS my ghost dad and it was telling the TRUTH about the Brother Murderer.

GERTRUDE – Oh, Hamlet! No! No! NO!

*EVERYONE STARTS TALKING AT ONCE AND RUSHING AROUND. THE ACTORS ARE COUNTING THEIR GOLD AND ASKING WHICH WAY TO THE CHINESE ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET.*

HAMLET - Mum go to your room! I'll meet her there in a minute, just got to go to the toilet first.

**END OF SCENE:**

***Hamlet sash to Aiofe***

SCENE 10 **Hamlet** – Aiofe, **Horatio** - Yasmeen

**N - But Hamlet DIDN'T go to the toilet because he didn't need to go and he'd only pretended that he needed to go because he was on his way to KILL CLAUDIUS and AVENGE his father's death!**

*(Hamlet finds Claudius on his knees, praying with his eyes closed so he raised his dagger in the air behind him. But then he changes his mind. Claudius, oblivious gets up and walks away.)*

HORATIO - Have you done it yet?

HAMLET - No I don't really want to kill anyone while they're saying their prayers, but I DO want to avenge my dad. And Claudius deserves it!

HORATIO – So... you are going to do it?

*(He pauses)*

HAMLET – Ummm... Actually I really DO need a wee!

*(So he ran to the bathroom but then stopped halfway and cries...)*

HAMLET - To WEE or NOT to wee? That is the question!

**N - Because he wasn't sure. Hamlet talked to himself for half an hour he'd forgotten what he was doing there. And then he went to see his mum for a cuddle because his brain was hurting.**

***END OF SCENE:***

***Hamlet sash to QUINCY***

***Horatio sash to ANTONIA***

SCENE 11 **Hamlet** – Quincy, **Gertrude** – Riley, **Polonius** – Jack Hillyard.  
(*Jack gets in place behind the curtain*).

HAMLET - Come on mum, just a little cuddle, I feel terrible! I mean, Claudius killed dad, then he married you, then he stole the crown and you just keep on not seeing it!

GERTRUDE - I certainly will not cuddle you! Stop saying those awful things about your stepdad, he's really nice man.

HAMLET - But mum! He's a beast! He even...  
(*Gertrude didn't like what she was hearing that so she covered her ears*) saying:

LA LA LA LA  
I'M NOT  
LISTENING.  
TO YOU  
LA LA LA LA LA

HAMLET - Mum take your hands off your ears and listen to me!  
(*Hamlet tries to take her hands off her ears she SCREAMS THE WHOLE PALACE DOWN*)

(*ALL PUT YOUR HANDS OVER YOUR EARS*)

**N - Then Hamlet noticed something moving behind one of the curtains...**

HAMLET - SSSHHH! (*he creeps toward the curtains*)  
(*HAMLET sticks it RIGHT THROUGH the curtain*)

POLONIUS - AGHHHHH!! (*HE STAGGERS OUT DYING*)

HAMLET - Oh no! It's Polonius, Ophelia's dad, but I thought you were Claudius spying on us!

POLONIUS - Wrong! (*HE DROPS DOWN DEAD*)

GERTRUDE - Oh my poor boy, you FINALLY made a decision and then curtain-stabbed someone and it wasn't even the RIGHT person!

**END OF SCENE:**

**Hamlet sash to KITTY**

**Gertrude crown to AIOFE**

SCENE 12 **Hamlet** – Kitty, **Horatio** – Antonia, **Gravedigger** – Oscar,

**Laertes – Rae Rae**

**N - Hamlet then found out that Ophelia had been so upset about her dad that she'd run away, tripped, fallen into a river and died. He got so upset that he just began wandering around graveyards:**

*(IN THE GRAVEYARD THE GRAVEDIGGER IS DIGGING A GRAVE. IT HAS A SKULL IN IT)*

HORATIO - I think you're getting a bit OBSESSED with killing and dead people and worms.

*(HAMLET sees the SKULL)*

HAMLET - Whose wormy skull is that?

GRAVEDIGGER - That's Yorick, your dad's old jester from years ago when you were a baby.

HAMLET - I KNEW HIM HORATIO!

*(HE JUMPS RIGHT into the grave and begins SPEAKING to the skull)*

HAMLET - What should I do about EVERYTHING? Tell me?....WHY?...I really need a wee.....I think?

HORATIO – You really should stop talking to people about your wee so much, its weird, Hamlet. Just make a decision!

**N - But by now Hamlet was SO BAD at making ANY decisions that he couldn't even decide whether he should get out of the wormy grave and to have a wee or not. So he just stood there in the grave wailing.**

HAMLET *(to the skull)* - What should I do?

GRAVEDIGGER - That's it! I've had enough messing about! And you better NOT wee in this grave because we're actually not finished digging it yet.

HAMLET - Sorry.

*(HAMLET GETS OUT OF THE GRAVE AND SEES LAERTES, POLONIUS'S SON, COMING TOWARDS HIM).*

LAERTES - I'm going to BATTER you! You donut! You'll be more Omelette than Hamlet! Because of you my sister Ophelia and my Dad Polonius are dead!

**N - LAERTES jumps on Hamlet so hard that they both end up in the grave, covered in worms, and Hamlet even weed himself a bit.**

*(LAERTES jumps out of the grave)*

LAERTES - You nutter, you weed on my trousers! I'll see you at the castle for a proper sword fight to the death!

*Hamlet sash to SAM (SAM picks up SWORD)*  
*Laertes sash to OTTO (OTTO picks up SWORD)*  
*Horatio sash to JACK H*  
*HANNAH and AIOFE should have CROWNS ready.*

**SCENE 13 Hamlet – Sam, Gertrude – Aiofe, Laertes – Otto,**

**Claudius** – Hannah.

N - Hamlet then found out that Ophelia had been so upset about her dad that she'd run away, tripped and fallen into a river and died. Laertes, Ophelia's brother and Polonius's son, was so upset by what Hamlet had done that he challenged him to a duel to the death!

Claudius LOVED the idea of the sword fight because he wanted Hamlet dead. So he told Laertes to cover his sword with POISON because he was obsessed with killing people with poison. And he even had a poisoned glass of wine ready to give to Hamlet in case the sword didn't work. *(PLACE THIS WINE BESIDE GERTRUDE)*

*(A HUGE crowd are waiting)*

GERTRUDE - Love you! I hope you win!

LAERTES – It's time for you to pay for what you've done, Hamlet. I need to avenge my father's and sister's deaths.

HAMLET - Look Laertes, can I just say I didn't actually mean to stab your dad through the curtain....

LAERTES – Who stabs someone through a curtain without checking who it is, anyway?! Enough talking! En garde!

*(The crowd CHEERS! Laertes ANGRILY swings his sword and cuts Hamlet's finger. So Hamlet fights back hard, he does so well that Laertes falls and slices his leg with his OWN SWORD. Gertrude, excited that Hamlet was doing so well, picks up the glass Claudius meant for Hamlet)*

GERTRUDE - Cheers to my son!

CLAUDIUS - NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!

N - But it was too late. Hamlet's mum gulped down the WHOLE glass because fizzy wine was her favourite and she hadn't had any since Christmas.

HAMLET Aghhhh this cut on my finger is burning and the burning is spreading up my arm and into my chest....

*(He looks at the cut on Laertes' leg and sees that he is in serious pain too)*

LAERTES – AGHHHHH!!!

*(Then Laertes falls dramatically to the ground and cries)*

LAERTES - The King is a POISON MURDERER!

*(Then Hamlet's mum GERTRUDE clutches her throat and topples off her throne into the buffet. Custard pie in the face)*

HAMLET - We've ALL been poisoned and it's...

ALL - ALL CLAUDIUS'S FAULT!

**SCENE 14 Casting same as previous scene plus Horatio – Jack Hillyard**

N - Hamlet EVENTUALLY avenges his ghost dad's murder:

*(Claudius is trying to sneak away)*

CLAUDIUS – Oh... this is a little awkward.

*(Hamlet staggers towards Claudius and poison-stabs him. Claudius falls down dead)*

CLAUDIUS - AGGHHHH!!!!

N - And then Hamlet dies too.

HAMLET - AGGHHHHH!!!! OOHHH!!!! RRRRRRrrrrrr!!!!!!

N - But then he opens his eyes and says:

HAMLET - Horatio. Will you tell the story of me and what happened to me forever, even if it makes you cry?

HORATIO - Yes I promise.

N - And then Hamlet dies again. But then he opened his eyes AGAIN and says:

HAMLET Horatio. Do you think I would have been a good hairdresser?

HORATIO Yes I think you would have been a fine hairdresser.

N - He didn't really mean it because his hair was STILL longer on one side than it was on the other from when he'd let Hamlet cut it. But that wasn't the right time to bring it up. And then Hamlet died again.

But he kept opening his eyes and saying more things because even when he was almost dead Hamlet could NOT stop talking and saying one more thing and it went on like that for about forty-five minutes.

***END OF SCENE:***

***YASMEEN takes crown from CLAUDIUS'S body to become Fortinbras.***

SCENE 15 **Fortinbras** - Yasmeen

N - Once Hamlet was DEFINITELY DEAD the Prince of Norway, who was called Fortinbras, came to be king.

FORTINBRAS (To Horatio) - You and all the other people who have nowhere to go can come and live in the palace, cos it's a big place and I'm one hell of a nice guy.

N - And even though Horatio never saw the ghost of Hamlet or Hamlet's dad again, he always made lasagne on a Thursday and left two bowls in a spooky bit of the castle before he went to bed.

SCENE 16 **Jodie** – Martha, **Zach** – Ishmael, others are children's actual names!

## N - BACK IN MAISIE'S HOUSE

JODIE - So Zach. Do you want to end up like Hamlet?

ESME – A silly man who couldn't make up his mind and talked to skulls?!

DUNYA – What a weirdo!

ZACH - No! I am DEFINITELY going to be the HAT and I DEFINITELY wanted pepperoni on my pizza. I'm going to decide EVERYTHING on from now on.

OTTO – Well done, Zach!

LOLA – We should test you to see if you can make a decision!

ZACH – Ask me something then!

*(The group 'ummm' trying to think of a question)*

JODIE – Ummmm... What film do you want to watch later?

*(Zach doesn't say anything for a beat and then he says)*

ZACH - Er.....em..... I think I just need to go to the toilet first....

THEY ALL BURST OUT LAUGHING AND SAY:

ALL - To wee, or not to wee? Zach. That is the question!!

THE END