



The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark

William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616)

Read by:	Multiple readers	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	3 hours 43 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1122
Language:	English	UPC:	0683422134432
Style:	Dramatic	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	Plays, Tragedy		

The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, usually referred to as Hamlet, is a tragedy by William Shakespeare that is his longest and probably his most popular work, leading the list of performances of the Royal Shakespeare Company for over 100 years and second only to Cinderella as the most filmed story in the world.

Set in the Kingdom of Denmark, the play dramatizes the revenge Prince Hamlet is visited by the ghost of his father, King Hamlet, and directed to exact revenge for his murder by his brother, Hamlet's uncle Claudius, who subsequently seized the throne and married his widow, Hamlet's mother Gertrude. Hamlet agrees and decides to

feign madness, and has doubts about the ghost. The plot proceeds with intrigue, betrayals and tragic errors, with Hamlet staging a play for the court enacting a death of a king by a usurper, and culminating in a deadly sword fight. Memorable characters include the elderly advisor Polonius, his son Laertes, his daughter Ophelia, and Hamlet's friends Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, and the skull of "poor Yorick", a jester from Hamlet's childhood. Memorable lines and quotations include "to be or not to be, that is the question", "to thine own self be true", and "get thee to a nunnery", to name just a few.

William Shakespeare (April 26, 1564 – April 23, 1616) was an English playwright and poet widely considered as the world's greatest dramatist and the greatest writer in the English language. He produced 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two narrative poems and other verse, most between the years 1589 and 1613. His earlier works consist mostly of comedies and histories, considered as some of the best work ever done in these genres. He turned to tragedies from about 1600 until about 1608, producing *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *King Lear*, and *Macbeth* in this phase, considered the finest works in English. His last phase brought us the tragicomedies and romances such as *The Winter's Tale* and *The Tempest*. All but two of his plays were collected in the First Folio in 1623.

Little is known of his personal life apart from his marriage to Anne Hathaway at age 18, his three children, and his work as an actor and part owner of the King's Men theatre company in addition to his writing. The paucity of information has led to speculation about his appearance, beliefs, sexuality, and even the authenticity of his works. He retired to Stratford in 1613 and died three years later.