

D/RICHARD III "A horse, a horse! My kingdom for a horse!"

[JESS *tackles* RICHARD III.]

A/ANNOUNCER There's a pile-up on the field.

D/ANNOUNCER FUM-BLE!!! And Henry the Eighth comes up with it. He's at the fifteen, the ten . . . He stops at the five-yard line to chop off his wife's head . . .

A/HENRY VIII Who's your daddy?

D/ANNOUNCER TOUCHDOWN for the Red Rose! Oh my! You gotta believe this is the beginning of a Tudor dynasty!

ALL [As CHEERLEADERS.] Henry the Fifth, Richard the Third, the whole royal family's frickin' absurd! Go, [*Insert name of local favorite sports team.*]! Yay!

[DANIEL and JESS *congratulate each other as ADAM clambers into the audience.*]

Side 2  
ES.9 ADAM Can I have some house lights please? [*House lights come up. To an audience member.*] Can I borrow your program for a sec? [*He grabs a program from a patron, which must contain a list of the plays. If there's no program, he may consult the Complete Works book.*]

DANIEL What are you doing?

ADAM I just want to check the list of plays. I think we might have done 'em all already.

JESS Really?

ADAM Yeah, see, we did all the histories just now—

DANIEL The comedies were 'a lump of hilarity.'

JESS Okay, that leaves the tragedies. We did *Titus Andronicus* with all the blood—

ADAM *Romeo and Juliet* we did—

DANIEL *Julius Caesar, Troilus and Cressida*, right—

JESS We rapped *Othello*, Lear was in the football game, *Macbeth* we did with Scottish accents. What about *Antony and Cleopatra*?

ADAM Yeah, I puked on that lady over there—

JESS Right. *Timon of Athens* I mentioned. *Coriolanus*?

ADAM Eh . . . let's skip it.

JESS Why? What's the matter with *Coriolanus*?

ADAM I don't like the 'anus' part. I think it's offensive.

DANIEL Okay, so we'll skip the anus play.

ADAM And that's it, right? That's all of them!

DANIEL Wow. Great. [*Checks the time. To audience.*] Looks like we can let you go a little early.

JESS Hey, no, you guys . . . [*Points to a spot in the program.*]

ALL *Hamlet!*

DANIEL Oh man.

ADAM Shakespeare didn't write *Hamlet*.

DANIEL Sure he did.

ADAM What's it about?

JESS You know, the young prince struggling with his conscience after his uncle murders his father?

ADAM Dude, that's *The Lion King*.

JESS Ladies and gentlemen, thirty-six plays down, one to go. Perhaps the greatest play ever written. A play of such lofty poetic and philosophical—

ADAM [*Tugging at JESS's sleeve.*]: Wait a minute, Jess. *Hamlet* is a serious, hard-core play, and I'm just not up for it right now.

JESS Whaddaya mean? It's the last one!

ADAM I know. It's just that that football game left me emotionally and physically drained. I don't think that I could do it justice.

DANIEL We don't have to do it justice. We just have to do it.

ADAM I don't wanna do it!

JESS Look, Adam. Our show's called *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*.

ADAM Okay, so we'll change it to *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Except Hamlet*.

JESS That's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard.

DANIEL Adam, I think all your new little friends would like to see it. [*To audience.*] What do you say, would you like to see *Hamlet*?

[*Audience responds.*]

ADAM Okay, fine. We'll do *Hamlet*—

DANIEL and JESS Great—

ADAM As a two-man show! If you guys feel so strongly about it, then *you* do it. I'm going to hang out with them. [*Sits on an audience member's lap.*] She's my friend. I'll sit here and we'll watch it together.

DANIEL C'mon. Adam—

[JESS and DANIEL try to pry him loose from the audience member, but ADAM starts to get hysterical.]

ADAM You can't make me do it!

JESS and DANIEL [*Ad lib, to ADAM.*] Let go of her! (etc.)

ADAM [*To audience member.*] Don't let go, you're all I have in the world!



[JESS and DANIEL pry ADAM loose from the audience member and drag him roughly onto the stage.]

ADAM Okay, okay, okay! Just don't touch me.

JESS Okay, jeez! [*He tosses a now-crumpled wad back to the audience member.*] Here's your program; sorry, it got kinda trashed. [*To DANIEL.*] Right. We start off with the guard scene, so we'll need Bernardo and Horatio.

DANIEL Gotcha.

JESS We'll need Rosencrantz and Guildenstern too.

DANIEL Nah, they've got their own play, we can skip them.

[*While they're distracted, ADAM sprints toward the exit at the back of the theater. DANIEL sees him.*]

Hey, where do you think you're going?!

[*JESS sprints after him. ADAM grabs an audience member, preferably a youngster.*]

ADAM I'll kill little Timmy! I'll kill him!

JESS Fine, but I think it's gonna turn him off to live theater.

[*ADAM lets go of his victim and runs out the back of the house.*]

JESS Get back here, you Shakespeare weenie!

[*JESS follows, slamming the door behind him. We hear ADAM scream once in the lobby. Then silence. They are gone. DANIEL returns to the stage alone. House lights down.*]

DANIEL [*Uneasy.*] You know, Jess is usually much faster than Adam. [*Sighs. He gets an idea and brightens up. He consults the book, flipping through a few pages. He runs offstage, and re-enters a moment later dressed as a guard and carrying a sword.*]

D/GUARD "Who's there?"

D/ANOTHER GUARD [Using another voice and changing his posture.] Nay, answer me. Stand and unfold yourself.

D/FIRST GUARD Long live the King.

D/SECOND GUARD Bernardo?

D/FIRST GUARD He!"

[DANIEL realizes how lame this is, and stops.]

DANIEL [Calling toward back of house.] Jess? [Another pause, then.] So, a horse walks into a bar. And the bartender says, 'Why the long face?' [Laughs awkwardly.] I love that. [Note: the horse joke is just one possible stall here. The actor may choose to tell another joke or two, play a short tune on a musical instrument, maybe do an impression or a party trick. Then:] So, I had this weird dream the other night. Typical actor's anxiety dream. We were doing *this* show, and it's going great, we're making really good time, but then I realize that we haven't actually read all the plays, and we're just making stuff up as we go along. But then Adam and Jess just disappear, and I'm left totally alone on the stage with an hour to fill. And then suddenly the lights go out and it's intermission. And I'm naked.

[As DANIEL drops his trousers . . . BLACKOUT.]

[Lights come up in the house. DANIEL is gone.]

INTERMISSION

Side 2  
Ends

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F.S. 9 Ends