

If Hamlet Had Been a Reading SIDES

ACTOR 3 I don't know, Will. It's . . . it's gimmicky, you know? I think you're better off letting Hamlet discover the murder through—I don't know—somebody who saw Claudius kill Hamlet's father. Say, one of the guards . . . Bernardo, say . . . it's just a suggestion, because, you know, the ghost is just a device . . .

ACTOR 2 I agree.

WILL I thought . . . I'd hoped that the ghost would add tension to the play, and, after all, it is the ghost of his father, which makes the revelation more poignant and that . . . that . . .

AUDIENCE 3 Well, while they're waiting for the ghost to appear to Hamlet, what was that long looming passage about a dram of evil and fortune's star all about? It seemed more of an essay. It seemed extraneous.

ACTOR 2 I agree.

AUDIENCE 4 Will, and I mean this constructively, some of that scene seemed showy.

WILL Showy . . .

AUDIENCE 4 To me, yes. You made Hamlet too . . . too . . . intelligent. An A student. . . He'd work better as a revenge character if he were a B or B-character with a hotter temper. Right now he's all talk, talk, talk, muse, muse, muse, ponder, ponder, ponder.

AUDIENCE 5 Also, he constantly broods.