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Hamlet
By William Shakespeare
Act V
Summary
Revision

William Shakespeare's play, *Hamlet*, presents the reader with a very interesting plot, which unfolds in five acts.

In Scene I of Act V, two gravediggers debate whether or not Ophelia should have a Christian burial, since there were some rumors that she had committed suicide. Hamlet, who arrives at the scene, is horrified by the fact that the gravediggers can sing while they dig graves. When a gravedigger uncovers a skull, Hamlet becomes melancholic, remembering some of his deceased friends.

Next, Hamlet finds out about Ophelia's death, as her funeral takes place at the same cemetery. Because of the doubtful nature of her death, one of the priests is not happy with the fact that she will be buried in holy ground. Ophelia's death takes Hamlet by surprise. When he interrupts the funeral, Laertes intervenes; and they get into a fight.

In Scene II, Hamlet tells Horatio what happened while he was on his way to England. After Hamlet boarded the ship, he secretly opened Claudius' letter addressed to the King of England and found out about Claudius' plot to murder him. He rewrote the letter, ordering instead the deaths of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. As proof that he is telling the truth, Hamlet kept the original letter.

Next, Hamlet makes fun of Osric, a courtier. Osric challenges Hamlet, in the king's name, to fight Laertes in a duel. Hamlet accepts. Before the duel starts, Hamlet apologizes to Laertes for any wrongdoing, blaming his actions on his madness. In return, Laertes forgives Hamlet. Then they prepare for their duel.

Before the duel begins, the king offers Hamlet a poisoned drink. The queen, who is very thirsty, drinks it first. During the duel, Laertes, with a poisoned rapier, wounds Hamlet; and, after they change rapiers, Hamlet injures and poisons Laertes. Next, the queen dies because of the poisoned drink. Laertes also dies, poisoned by Hamlet's rapier; but before he does, he confesses the plot to kill Hamlet. In response to Laertes' confession, Hamlet kills the king. Also dying because of Laertes' poisoned rapier, Hamlet demands that Horatio must tell everyone the truth about Claudius. He names Fortinbras to be Denmark's future king and then dies.

Next, Fortinbras and the British ambassadors enter the scene. The British ambassadors bring news that Guildenstern and Rosencrantz have been executed as per Claudius' request. Horatio steps in and clarifies all of the unfortunate events that have taken place so far. Fortinbras orders Hamlet's funeral—that is, to be buried with dignity, as a soldier and as royalty.

This is the end of *Hamlet*. I hope that everyone has enjoyed the play, which unfortunately has reached "The End."