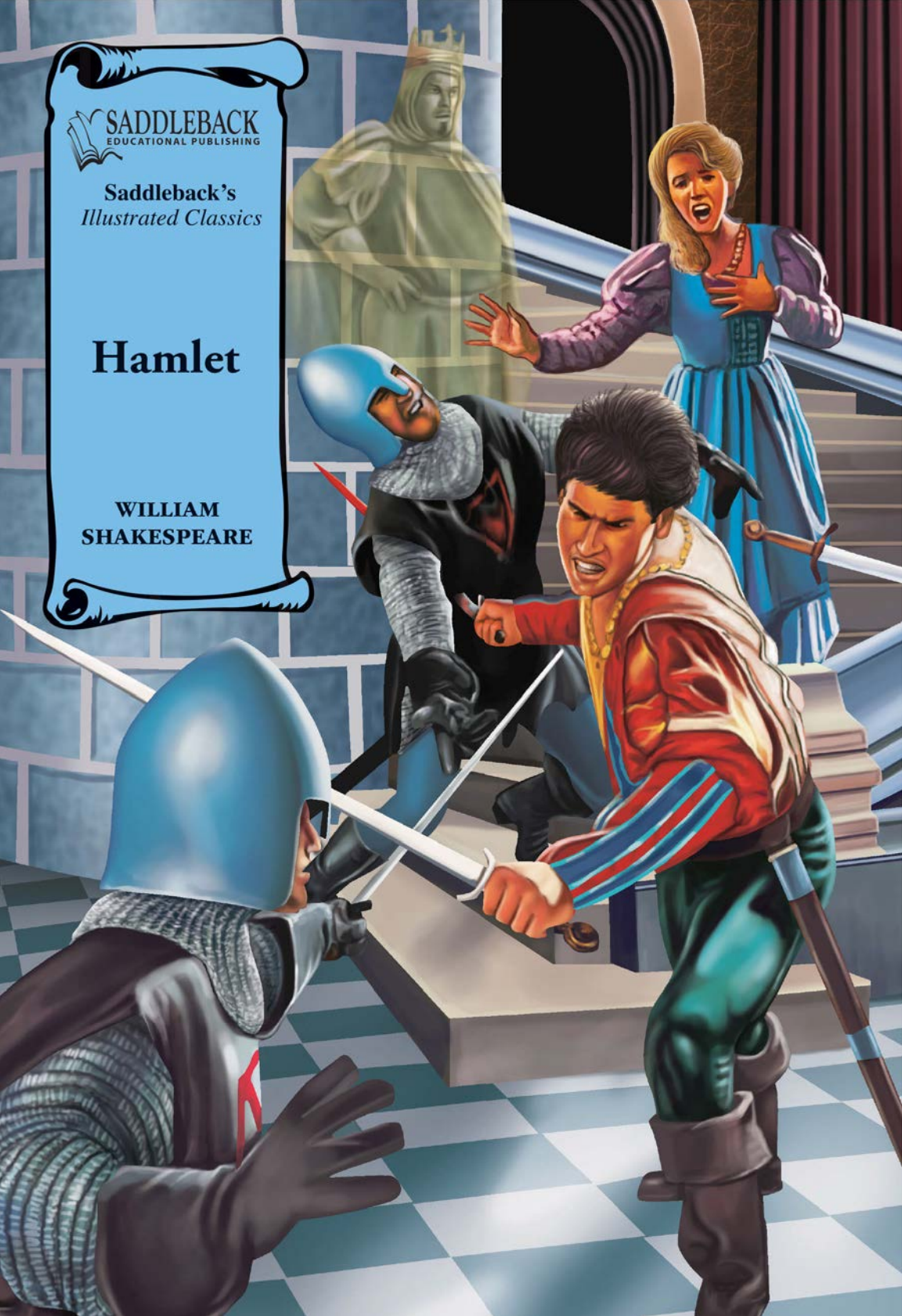


SADDLEBACK
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING

Saddleback's
Illustrated Classics

Hamlet

**WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE**



Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*



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William Shakespeare

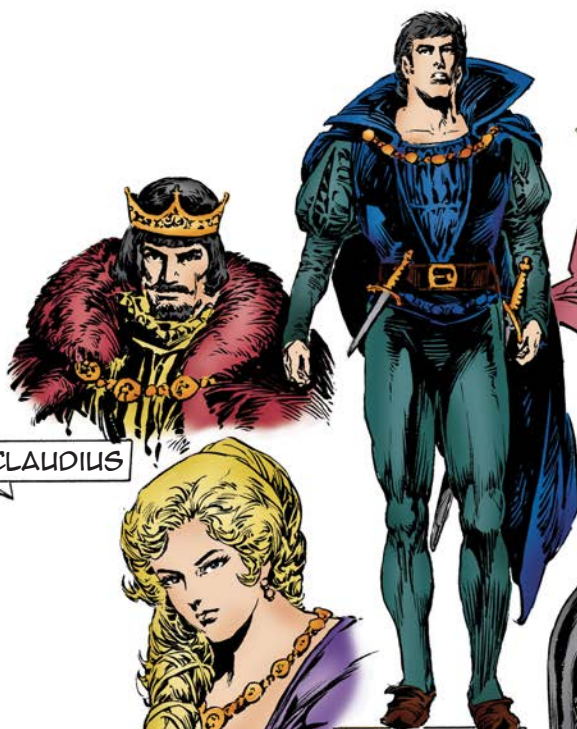
William Shakespeare was baptized on April 26, 1564, in Stratford-on-Avon, England, the third child of John Shakespeare, a well-to-do merchant, and Mary Arden, his wife. Young William probably attended the Stratford grammar school, where he learned English, Greek, and a great deal of Latin. Historians aren't sure of the exact date of Shakespeare's birth.

In 1582, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway. By 1583 the couple had a daughter, Susanna, and two years later the twins, Hamnet and Judith. Somewhere between 1585 and 1592 Shakespeare went to London, where he became first an actor and then a playwright. His acting company, *The King's Men*, appeared most often in the *Globe* theater, a part of which Shakespeare himself owned.

In all, Shakespeare is believed to have written thirty-seven plays, several nondramatic poems, and a number of sonnets. In 1611 when he left the active life of the theater, he returned to Stratford and became a country gentleman, living in the second-largest house in town. For five years he lived a quiet life. Then, on April 23, 1616, William Shakespeare died and was buried in Trinity Church in Stratford. From his own time to the present, Shakespeare is considered one of the greatest writers of the English-speaking world.

William Shakespeare

Hamlet



CLAUDIUS

GERTRUDE

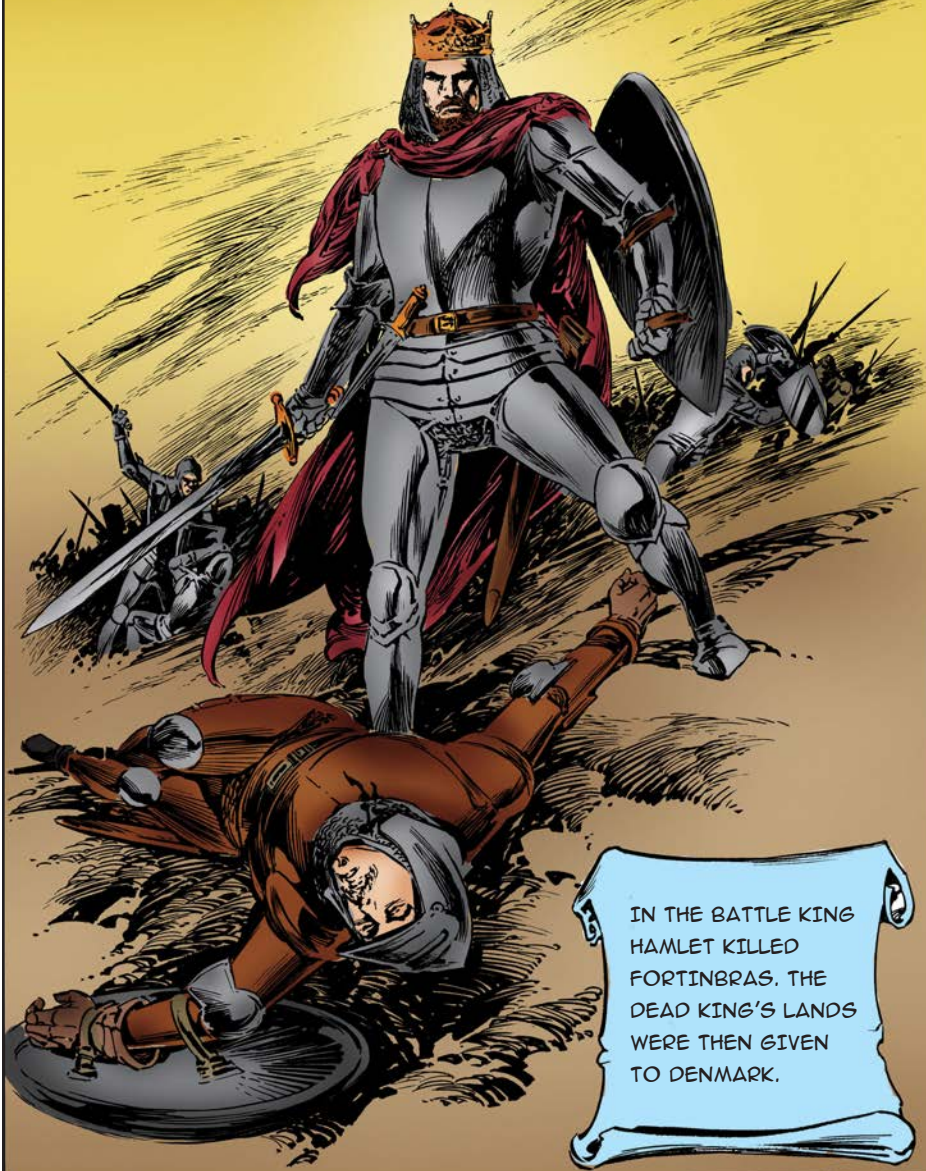
HAMLET

POLONIUS

OPHELIA

HORATIO

ONCE LONG AGO, KING FORTINBRAS OF NORWAY FOUGHT A BATTLE WITH KING HAMLET OF DENMARK. THE WINNER, THEY AGREED, WOULD BECOME OWNER OF ALL THE OTHER KING'S RICHES.



IN THE BATTLE KING HAMLET KILLED FORTINBRAS. THE DEAD KING'S LANDS WERE THEN GIVEN TO DENMARK.

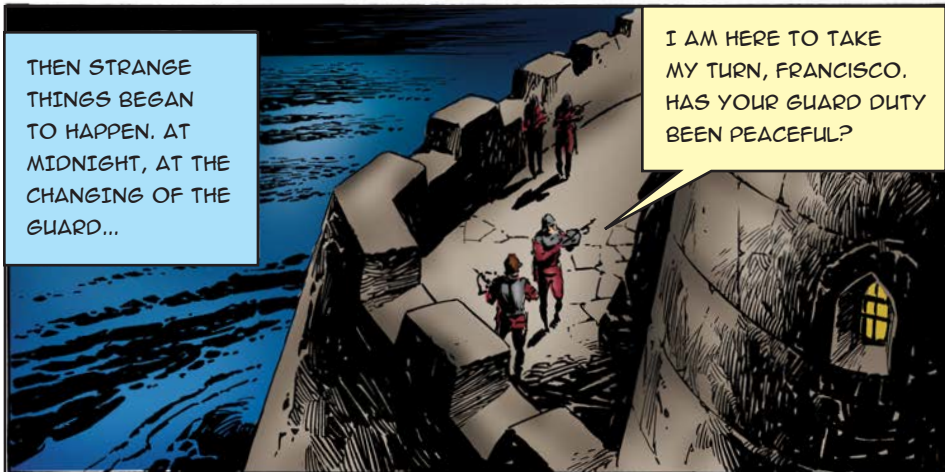
BUT SOON
KING HAM-
LET HIMSELF
DIED. MANY
GATHERED AT
HIS FUNERAL.

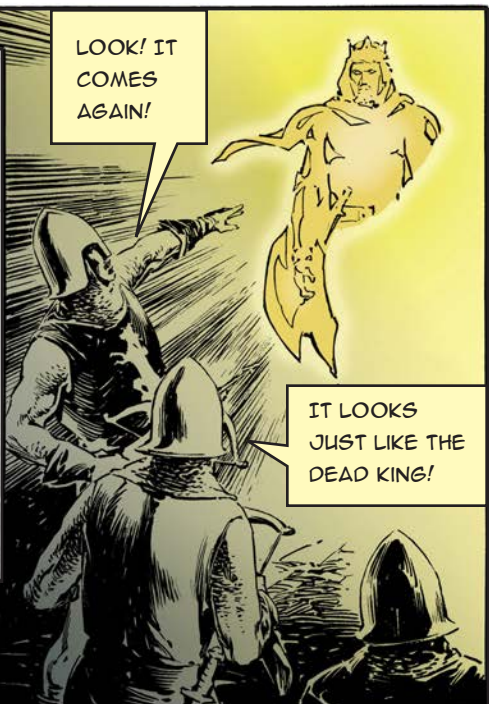
THE KING'S BROTHER
CLAUDIUS BECAME THE NEW
KING. A MONTH LATER, HE
MARRIED HAMLET'S MOTHER.



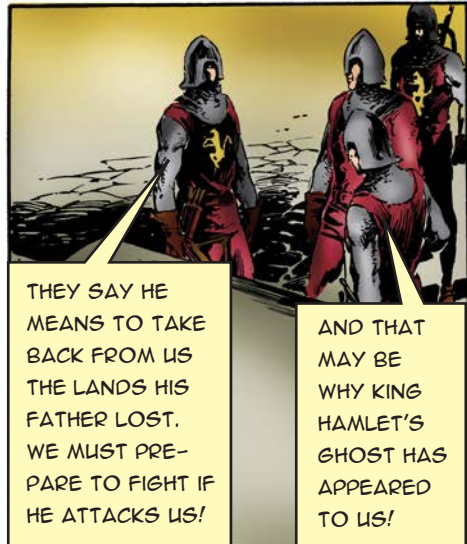
THEN STRANGE
THINGS BEGAN
TO HAPPEN. AT
MIDNIGHT, AT THE
CHANGING OF THE
GUARD...

I AM HERE TO TAKE
MY TURN, FRANCISCO.
HAS YOUR GUARD DUTY
BEEN PEACEFUL?









SUDDENLY THE GHOST RETURNED. HORATIO MADE UP HIS MIND THAT IT WOULD SPEAK TO HIM.



SPEAK, SPIRIT! IF I CAN HELP YOU...



OR IF YOU CAN WARN US OF DANGER TO OUR COUNTRY...

OR IF YOU CAN TELL US OF A TREASURE YOU ONCE BURIED, SPEAK!



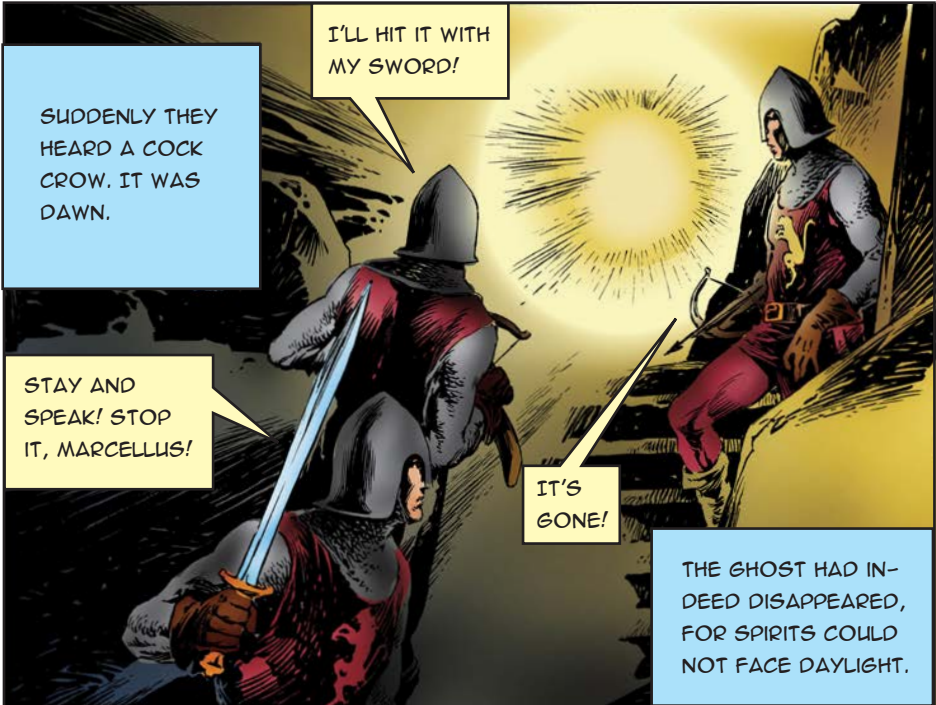
SUDDENLY THEY HEARD A COCK CROW. IT WAS DAWN.

I'LL HIT IT WITH MY SWORD!

STAY AND SPEAK! STOP IT, MARCELLUS!

IT'S GONE!

THE GHOST HAD IN-DEED DISAPPEARED, FOR SPIRITS COULD NOT FACE DAYLIGHT.



KEEP SILENT ABOUT THIS, BOTH OF YOU! I WILL TELL PRINCE HAMLET. IF THE GHOST DOES TALK, IT WILL BE TO HIM.

I KNOW WHERE WE CAN FIND HIM.

THAT MORNING THE COURT GATHERED TO HEAR A SPEECH BY KING CLAUDIUS.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE FUNERAL OF MY BROTHER, THE LATE KING. THANK YOU, TOO, FOR BEING HERE WHEN I MARRIED MY BROTHER'S LOVELY WIDOW.

SUCH QUICK ACTION WAS
NECESSARY TO KEEP
THE COUNTRY STRONG.



THEN CLAUDIUS TURNED TO LAERTES,
THE SON OF POLONIUS, THE KING'S
ADVISOR.



AND NOW,
LAERTES...

WHAT CAN I
DO FOR YOU?



I RETURNED HERE
FOR KING HAMLET'S
FUNERAL. NOW I
ASK TO RETURN
TO MY STUDIES IN
FRANCE.

IF YOUR FATHER
AGREES, YOU MAY GO.



I DO, SIR!

THANK
YOU.

PRINCE HAMLET, SON OF THE DEAD KING, HAD ALSO RETURNED HOME FROM HIS STUDIES ABROAD. CLAUDIUS TURNED TO HIM.

AND NOW, HAMLET, WHAT TROUBLES YOU?

MY FATHER'S DEATH!

WE ALL MUST DIE SOMEDAY JUST AS YOUR FATHER DID! MUST YOU SEEM SO SAD?

I AM SAD, MOTHER. IT IS DEEP INSIDE ME.

BUT ALL OF US MUST LOSE OUR FATHER TO DEATH. AND SOMEDAY YOU WILL BE THE KING!

DENMARK NEEDS YOU! PLEASE DON'T ASK TO LEAVE US!

I WILL OBEY YOU AND STAY HERE, MOTHER.

THE COURT SESSION ENDED. EVERYONE LEFT BUT HAMLET.

HE WAS SO GOOD A KING, SO LOVING TO MY MOTHER....



AND YET, WITHIN A MONTH, SHE MARRIED MY UNCLE!



MY HEART BREAKS, BUT I MUST KEEP SILENT.



GREETINGS, PRINCE HAMLET!



GREETINGS, HORATIO! BUT WHY ARE YOU IN EL SINORE?



I CAME HOME FOR YOUR FATHER'S FUNERAL.

DON'T YOU MEAN MY MOTHER'S WEDDING?