

Side 18: Claudius & Gertrude

<p>4.1: A room in the castle. GERTRUDE discovered onstage, desperately trying to scrub the bloodstains out of the arras. CLAUDIUS enters stage left.</p>		
Bordering on hysteria	GERTRUDE	Ah, my good lord, what have I seen to-night!
Takes her hands, checks her over gently to make sure none of the blood on the arras is hers. Sits her down on the bed. Genuine tenderness here.	CLAUDIUS	What, Gertrude? How does Hamlet?
	GERTRUDE	Mad as the sea and wind, when both contend Which is the mightier: in his lawless fit, Behind the arras hearing something stir, Whips out his rapier, cries, 'A rat, a rat!' And, in this brainish apprehension, kills The unseen good old man.
	CLAUDIUS	Alas, how shall this bloody deed be answer'd? It will be laid to us, whose providence Should have kept short, restrain'd and out of haunt, This mad young man: but so much was our love, We would not understand what was most fit; But, like the owner of a foul disease, To keep it from divulging, let it feed Even on the pith of Life. Where is he gone?
	GERTRUDE	To draw apart the body he hath kill'd: O'er whom his very madness, like some ore Among a mineral of metals base, Shows itself pure; he weeps for what is done.
	CLAUDIUS	O Gertrude, come away! The sun no sooner shall the mountains touch, But we will ship him hence: and this vile deed We must, with all our majesty and skill, Both countenance and excuse. Takes out his cell phone, hits the speed dial Guildenstern! Hamlet in madness hath Polonius slain, And from his mother's closet hath he dragg'd him: Go seek him out; speak fair, and bring the body Into the chapel. I pray you, haste in this.