

Rosencrantz / Guildenstern / Claudius / Gertrude

~~(Pause.)~~

~~ROSENCRANTZ~~

~~I can't remember.~~

Start

GUILDENSTERN

He is Rosencrantz. I am Guildenstern.

KING

Who cares.

QUEEN/MISSY

Try to get it right, we have to get through this.

KING/GREG

I'm doing my best.

QUEEN

(To R&G)

We have a favor to ask of you.

GUILDENSTERN

Anything for your majesty.

KING

Hamlet has changed.

ROSENCRANTZ

Changed?

GUILDENSTERN

How?

QUEEN

He's become unpredictable, and distant.

KING

And cryptic. He speaks in riddles.

ROSENCRANTZ

Riddles? I love riddles.

GUILDENSTERN

What should we do?

QUEEN

You were friends when you were children. He still speaks fondly of you to this day. Spend some time with him. You know him as well as anyone. Try to find out what has happened to him, what has affected him so.

KING

Report back to us immediately. It is crucial that you find out all you can. Should he say or do anything that strikes you as...out of the ordinary, tell me. You will both receive significant rewards for your service.

ROSENCRANTZ

We will do as you request, your majesty.

KING

Thanks, good Guildenkrantz.

ROSENCRANTZ

Rosencrantz.

KING

Get over yourself.

QUEEN

Thanks to you both, and Godspeed. *end*

~~(R&G exit.)~~

~~My Lord Claudius, you'll have to start learning people's names.~~

KING

I don't have time for names, I'm King.

(Pause. King sits.)

I'm worried, Gertrude.

QUEEN

Tell me.

KING

This madness of Hamlet's...

QUEEN

It is upsetting, but not without cause.

KING

Yes, but does he not know given the chance I would gladly treat him as my own son?