

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN HAMLET A PLAY BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

*Free Essay: The Role of Women in Hamlet in William Shakespeare's Play due to restricted legal, social and economic rights that were found in Elizabethan society. The male characters in Hamlet reflect this sexist view point, represented by.*

She is believed to have killed herself out of madness by drowning herself in a river. Shortly thereafter, the court assembles to watch the play Hamlet has commissioned. The death of both women also indicates a social commentary. Hamlet mistakenly stabs Polonius Artist: Coke Smyth, 19th century. His body of his work is comprised of genres of plays varying from tragedies to comedies. In this, the murdered king has two sons—Hroar and Helgi—who spend most of the story in disguise, under false names, rather than feigning madness, in a sequence of events that differs from Shakespeare's. Their rights are legally, socially and economically restricted. Other scholars consider this inconclusive. Some scholars have observed that revenge tragedies come from Catholic countries like Italy and Spain, where the revenge tragedies present contradictions of motives, since according to Catholic doctrine the duty to God and family precedes civil justice. Why, she would hand on him As if increase of appetite had grown By what it fed on. Claudius tries to stop her but is too late: she drinks, and Laertes realizes the plot will be revealed. A person with little political power who finds protection within the established system has little recourse and is left defenseless when that system collapses. Hamlet feigns madness but subtly insults Polonius all the while. Colin Burrow has argued that "most of us should read a text that is made up by conflating all three versions Scholars have dissected all parts of the play. The fathers are always convinced that they know what is best for their daughters and have no concerns to impose their wills. On a cold night on the ramparts of Elsinore, the Danish royal castle, the sentries Bernardo and Marcellus discuss a ghost resembling the late King Hamlet which they have recently seen, and bring Prince Hamlet's friend Horatio as a witness. Concerning Desdemona, although the audience knows she is not guilty, Desdemona is falsely found guilty by her husband Othello. Seeing Yorick's skull someone Hamlet loved and respected propels Hamlet's realization that death eliminates the differences between people. Their families, especially their fathers, regard them as ideal children that reflect well on their families and would never threaten their authority. Nowhere in the text is she praised for her beauty; she is older and also never denies her sexuality. The patriarchal nature of the social order reinforces and rewards the compliance of women. For example, he expresses a subjectivistic idea when he says to Rosencrantz: "there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so". The daughters make themselves presentable, agreeable and they accept the suitor chosen by their fathers. As the poison takes effect, Hamlet, hearing that Fortinbras is marching through the area, names the Norwegian prince as his successor. Hamlet agrees, and the ghost vanishes. As Hamlet was very popular, Bernard Lott, the series editor of *New Swan*, believes it "unlikely that he [Meres] would have overlooked Possibly written by Thomas Kyd or even William Shakespeare, the Ur-Hamlet would have existed by, and would have incorporated a ghost. The sheer number of bodies at the end of Hamlet can be misleading. Polonius falsely believes Hamlet's madness stems from Hamlet's love of Ophelia. Unable to see or hear the ghost herself, Gertrude takes Hamlet's conversation with it as further evidence of madness. Conclusion 1. Women who comply with the social order are lost without it; those who defy it can know no other fortune than to be lost within it. However, elements of Belleforest's version which are not in Saxo's story do appear in Shakespeare's play. After begging the queen to stop sleeping with Claudius, Hamlet leaves, dragging Polonius's corpse away. Succumbing to physical violence when under extreme stress shows that Hamlet has deeper-set issues than merely acting mad. She gives the example of Hamlet's advice to Ophelia, "get thee to a nunnery", which is simultaneously a reference to a place of chastity and a slang term for a brothel, reflecting Hamlet's confused feelings about female sexuality. He notes that the name of Hamnet Sadler, the Stratford neighbour after whom Hamnet was named, was often written as Hamlet Sadler and that, in the loose orthography of the time, the names were virtually interchangeable. Claudius switches tactics, proposing a fencing match between Laertes and Hamlet to settle their differences. In, Francis Meres published his *Palladis Tamia*, a survey of English literature from Chaucer to its present day, within which twelve of Shakespeare's

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plays are named. Consequently, it is against the beliefs and practices that structure and maintain the subordination and oppression of women. It is through this process that the established social order is perpetuated. No clear evidence exists that Shakespeare made any direct references to Saxo's version.