

ADAM: No, the layers make it suck. It's just too many words—like that one speech that goes: "I have of late, but wherefore I know not, lost all my mirth, forgone all custom of exercise; and indeed it goes so heavily with my disposition that this goodly frame, the earth, seems to me a sterile promontory; this most excellent canopy, the air, look you; this brave o'erhanging firmament, this majestical roof fretted with golden fire, why it appeareth no other thing to me than a foul and pestilent congregation of vapors. What a piece of work is a man; how noble in reason, how infinite in faculty, in form and moving how express and admirable; in action how like an angel; in apprehension how like a god. The beauty of the world, the paragon of animals; and yet to me, what is this quintessence of dust? Man delights not me." *[He has delivered the speech simply, quietly and without a trace of "interpretation." You can hear a pin drop. To DANIEL.]* Okay. That didn't suck.

JESS: *[Still emotional, like a drunk.]* That was beautiful!

*[JESS and ADAM share a big, drunken hug.]*

ADAM: I love you!

DANIEL: There, you see? That speech is emotional *and* intellectual. The two can live side-by-side.

JESS: Like Theresa and Melissa?

DANIEL: Um, sure.

ADAM: So when I put Ophelia, I should add some layers?

DANIEL: That would be appreciated. She's not all screams and vomit, you know. There's something going on under that wig.

ADAM: Oh, I get it. Ophelia's complicated. I bet in the "Get thee to a nunnery" scene, she's probably thinking stuff, and feeling stuff, like, at the same time!

JESS: Exactly.

DANIEL: Yes! Let's do that scene real quick.

JESS: Okay. *[Becoming HAMLET. To ADAM:]* "Get thee to a nunnery!"

*[Points at ADAM. ADAM stares back blankly.]*

ADAM: What?

JESS: *[Mumbles something.]*

ADAM: ARE YOU?

JESS: *[Starting out his big confession.]* I'm not even post-coital!!

DANIEL: But you took that course.

JESS: I didn't finish.

DANIEL: I saw your certificate!

JESS: I made it in Photoshop.

DANIEL: I . . . I don't even know what you are!

JESS: I thought the world of Shakespearean scholarship would be all fast cars and hot babes. But it's not! It's all folios and quatrains and ibids . . . So cold. But when I'm in Jersey, even one's so young and beautiful and restless, and I tried to bring that Shakespeare, but then . . . they just laugh at me.

*[JESS collapses in a heap, sobbing.]*

ADAM: *[To DANIEL.]* He's toast. *[To audience.]* Sorry, folks, we gonna have to skip the whole monologue.

DANIEL: We can't skip "To be or not to be," it's the most famous soliloquy of Shakespeare.

ADAM: It's overrated.

DANIEL: Overrated?

ADAM: Think about it. Hamlet is supposed to be killing his uncle and suddenly he's talking about killing himself. Where did *that* come from? It completely weakens his character.

*[JESS makes a face, complex. ADAM gives it meaning.]*