



MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2009

## All the Twittered Shakespeare Synopses

### ----- the Comedies

- **CofE:** It takes a surprisingly long time for two sets of twins to figure out they are being mistaken for each other. One family is reunited.
- **TotS:** There is no clear winner in this battle between the sexes, but at least one couple probably ends up having good sex.
- **TGoV:** Two guys overcome both temporary exile from somewhere and their impulse-control issues and marry their long-suffering sweethearts.
- **LLL:** Men make a big deal out of the life of the mind & living rough, but court pretty women anyway. The women say "Maybe" and leave.
- **AMND:** A love potion straightens everything out and several couples end up happily together. Rustics are mocked. Watch out for fairies.
- **MoV:** A greedy lender loses out due to a poorly-phrased contract, women practice law in drag & w/out licenses, and lovers are united.
- **MWW:** A physically unattractive freeloader gets what he deserves for trying to sully the virtue of happily married rich and clever women.
- **MAAN:** Trickery breaks up 1 couple and makes another. Love prevails, with a wedding and public shame for faithless lovers & jealous meddler.
- **AYLI:** Exiled rich people live in the forest and fall in love with each other. Later, the deposed duke gets his dukedom back as he likes it.
- **TN:** Shipwrecked sister dresses as a man. Bizarre love triangle is resolved when identical brother is found and genders are disclosed.
- **T&C:** A Trojan man doubts his Trojan lover, Achilles eventually goes into battle, and Hector is defeated.
- **AWtEW:** A doctor's daughter saves a king and gets an unwilling husband. She tricks him into bed, gets pregnant, and then he comes around.
- **MfM:** A lazy duke puts a pious jerk in charge. Things get out of hand, the duke takes the reins, the pious jerk sees the error of his ways.

### ----- the Histories

- **HVI1:** King Henry accidentally starts the wars of the roses and gets engaged to a French girl. Incidentally, Joan of Arc is captured and killed. **HVI2:** King Henry marries his French girl. Royal catfights end in impasse. The men battle at St. Albans and King Henry's side doesn't lose.
- **HVI3:** Tension over succession, Queen declares war on Yorks, graphic violence ensues. Lancasters fall, Edward IV weds unwisely, takes power.
- **RIII:** Edward IV dies, a caricatured villain usurps, murders innocents, & dies on a battlefield in sore need of a horse. The Tudors win.

- **KJ:** King John won't back down from King Phillip nor the Pope, nor many confusing goings-on, dies of poison. Magna Carta not mentioned.
- **RII:** Richard banishes noblemen and then seizes dead uncle's property. Banished son of uncle comes back in force and becomes Henry IV.
- **HIV1:** Henry spurns supporters, who then side with the Scots. His no-good son makes good and kills the rebel leader. More Yorkists threaten.
- **HIV2:** Prince Hal works on his kingliness. Falstaff droops poignantly in-between exploits. Henry IV dies, Hal becomes king & spurns Falstaff.
- **HV:** Bad-ass Henry V kicks France's butt with a rag-tag army, many long-bows, and excellent speeches. Henry then marries a French princess.
- **HVIII:** Queen Katherine is justly & legally divorced, Anne Boleyn is legally married, the future Queen Elizabeth is born. Courtiers suck.

## ----- the Tragedies

- **TA:** TA turns down empire, is surrounded by horrible violence, tricks his enemy into eating her sons' flesh, kills and is killed.
- **R&J:** Boy meets girl, boy kills girl's cousin & gets banished, girl fakes death, boy thinks it's real, kills self, girl wakes & kills self
- **JC:** General with anxious wife gets assassinated for seeming ambitious. Opinion turns against the assassins, but stage is set for empire.
- **H:** Mommy issues are just the beginning for a prince with a murdered father and new Uncle/Step-dad. Most everybody ends up dead.
- **O:** Great man is tricked into killing his wife. Trickster is exposed. Great man kills self in remorse. Trickster is hauled off.
- **KL:** Old king learns too late that two of his kids only wanted power. He and most main characters die. One just gets his eyes gouged out.
- **M:** Kingship is just not in the cards for an ambitious and superstitious Scotsman.
- **A&C:** Glamorous lovers take on the world and lose, then welcome death
- **Co:** Elitist Roman goes over to enemies & threatens Rome. Rome sends his mom to make treaty, he does, then enemies kill him for it.
- **TofA:** An overly generous man is let down by his "friends." He subsidizes rebellion & whores w/VD & dies a bitter man, cursing society.

## ----- the Romances

- **P:** A prince on the run is separated from his young daughter in dangerous circumstances. Wise and virtuous, they are reunited in time.
- **Cy:** A guy believes lies about his girl. All kinds of mistaken ID & silliness go on, followed by peace between Britain and Rome.
- **WT:** A king who regrets causing the supposed deaths of his wife & baby daughter is joyously and improbably reunited w/ them years later.
- **T:** Noblemen are shipwrecked on a magical island. The proper succession to the rule of Naples and Milan is settled. Everyone is set free.
- **TNK:** After falling in love with the same woman, cousins become rivals. At combat, one wins but dies, one loses but gets the girl.

