

- 6 So Hamlet's got the proof that Claudius gied his Da a dose,
The only problem bein noo that Claudius knows he knows;
So while Hamlet tells his Ma that her new husband's no a fit one,
Uncle Claud pits oot a contract wi the English king as hitman.
- 7 And when Hamlet kills Polonius, the concealed Corpus Delicti
Was the King's excuse to send him for an English hempen necktie,
Wi Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to make sure he got there,
Hamlet jumped the boat and pit the finger on that pair.
- 8 Meanwhile, Laertes heard his Da had been stabbed through the arras;
He came racin back to Elsinore, tout-de-suite, hot-foot fae Paris.
Ophelia, wi her Da killt by the man she wished to marry,
Eftir sayin it wi flooers, she committit hari-kari.

Hamlet, Hamlet! Nae messin;
Hamlet, Hamlet! Learnt his lesson,
Hamlet, Hamlet! Yorik's crust
Convinced him that men, good or bad, at last must come tae dust.

9. Then Laertes lost the place and was demandin retribution, [lost control
And the King said, "Keep the heid an Ah'll provide ye a solution."
He arranged a sword-fight for the interestit pairties,
Wi a bluntit sword for Hamlet and a shairp sword for Laertes.
10. To make things double sure — the auld belt-an-braces line —
He fixed a poisant sword-tip and a poisant cup o wine.
The poicsant sword got Hamlet but Laertes went an muffed it,
Cause he got stabbed hisselt and he confessed afore he snuffed it.
- 11 Hamlet's Mammy drank the wine and as her face turned blue,
Hamlet says, "Ah quite believe the King's a baddie noo.
Incestuous, treacherous, damned Dane!" he said, to be precise,
And made up for hesitatin by killin Claudius twice.
- 12 Cause he stabbed him wi the sword and forced the wine atween his lips;
He cried, "The rest is silence." That was Hamlet hud his chips [hud: cashed in
They firt a volley ower him that shook the topmost rafter,
And Fortimbras, knee-deep in Danes, lived happy ever after.

Hamlet, Hamlet! Aw the gory! [Oh, how gory
Hamlet, Hamlet! End of story,
Hamlet, Hamlet! Ah'm away!
If your think this is borin, ye should read the bloody play!

All: [*Laughter all around, applause.*]

[Not transcribed here is some concluding talk about why and how McNaughtan wrote the song; "I've even sung it in America."]

Note:

The reference in stanza 5 to "The Moosetrap" is to the play called "The Mousetrap," based on a story by Agatha Christie, that was having a very long run in London at the time when McNaughtan wrote the song.