

***Fortinbras* by Lee Blessing**

HORATIO

You villain! Osric is hanged! He's hanging in the courtyard. Look for yourself! You killed him! Prepare to die! If my Lord Hamlet had done what I'm about to do -- take death like a man! (*he thrusts his dagger at FORTINBRAS*) Tell the truth? *I'm sick of the truth!!* You know how many people I've tried to tell that story? You know how far I get?! Right up to the part where Hamlet walked *directly past Claudius* at prayer and didn't kill him! I try to explain the religious underpinnings of his decision, the whole problem of letting Claudius die shriven of his sins -- you think anyone believes me!?! "Would have killed him," they say! "The Hamlet we knew would have killed Claudius then and there! Any man would!" You see?! They understand Elsinore better than we do! They know that here there's only one chance -- one *split-second* -- to take revenge! *If that!*