

ACT 5 SCENE 4
Shrewsbury: the battlefield

Alarum. Enter the KING, the PRINCE (wounded), Lord John of
LANCASTER, and WESTMORELAND

KING Harry, please go back to the tent. You're bleeding heaps. John, go with him.

LANCASTER Not until I'm bleeding too

PRINCE I'm fine. God forbid a little scratch makes me leave the battle and let these rebels win.

WESTMORELAND Come on my lord, let's go to your tent

PRINCE Fuck off, I don't need help. Stay with my dad.

Exeunt LANCASTER and WESTMORELAND

PRINCE Damn, I didn't think my little brother had it in him. I loved him before, but now I respect him.

Exit PRINCE. Enter DOUGLAS

DOUGLAS Another king!? They keep multiplying like a hydra's heads. I'm Douglas, and every king I've met today has died. Who are you?

KING The actual King. And I'm sad you've only met my body doubles. Defend yourself!

They fight. The KING is losing. Enter PRINCE

PRINCE Look up, Douglas, or you're about to die! It's the Prince of Wales who's threatening you. And I always keep my promises.

They fight. DOUGLAS runs away

PRINCE You ok, Dad?

KING Take a breath. You've made up for your bad reputation. You care about my life after all.

PRINCE Wtf. Everyone who said I wanted you dead was so wrong. If I wanted you dead I'd have let Douglas kill you just now.

Exit KING. Enter HOTSPUR

HOTSPUR If I'm not mistaken, you're Harry Monmouth

PRINCE You say it like I'd deny my own name

HOTSPUR My name is Harry Percy

PRINCE Then I'm looking at the bravest rebel of all time. I'm the Prince of Wales. Two stars can't stay in one orbit. England can't have two Harrys.

HOTSPUR Exactly. And one of us is about to die. I wish you were as famous a fighter as me.

PRINCE I'm about to become famous. I'll rip all the honours off your helmet and make them a crown for my own head.

HOTSPUR I can't stand any more of this bullshit.

They fight. Enter FALSTAFF

FALSTAFF Get him Hal! Noice! This isn't some kid's game!

Enter DOUGLAS. He fights with FALSTAFF, who falls down as if he were dead. Exit DOUGLAS. The PRINCE mortally wounds HOTSPUR

HOTSPUR Oh Harry, you've robbed me of my youth. I don't care about losing my life as much as losing my titles to you. My thoughts... life... time... I could prophesy, but death's cold hand is on my tongue. No, Percy, you are dust and food for —

He dies

PRINCE For worms, brave Percy. Rip. Goodbye great heart. When this body had a spirit, a whole kingdom wasn't big enough for it. Now two steps of dirt is enough. If you could hear me, I wouldn't be so nice to you lol. But here, let me cover your mangled face with my scarf. I'll thank myself for this kindness. Your glory goes to heaven with you, but your shame stays in the grave.

He sees FALSTAFF on the ground

PRINCE What? Old Jack? Rip mate. I could have lost a better man. I would've missed you heaps if I had loved fun more. Death hasn't killed a fatter deer today. I'll come back later and gut you so you can be embalmed. Until then, lie in blood next to Percy.

Exit PRINCE. FALSTAFF gets up

FALSTAFF Gut me? If you gut me today, you can salt me and eat me tomorrow. Fuck that. I faked it just in time, or that hot Scottish guy would've killed me. I faked being dead? No. I'm not a fake. To die is to be fake, because a dead man is only the fake of a man. But faking death to live is the real version of life. The better part of valour is discretion, and that's what saved my life.

He looks at HOTSPUR

FALSTAFF Shit, I'm scared of this guy, even though he's dead. What if he's faking too, like me? I'll make sure. And I'll say I killed him. Why couldn't he get up like I did? Only someone with eyes could prove me wrong, and no one is watching. So come with me.

He stabs HOTSPUR in the thigh and puts him on his back. Enter PRINCE and Lord John of LANCASTER

PRINCE Wait wtf? Falstaff? I saw you dead on the ground!

FALSTAFF Ha! I'm not a double. If I'm not Jack Falstaff, then I'm a Jack. Here's Percy *throws body down*. If your dad will reward me, great. If not, let him kill the next Percy himself. I'm expecting to be an earl or duke after this.

PRINCE I killed Percy myself. And I saw you dead.

FALSTAFF Wow. How the world loves to lie! Ok, I was down and out of breath, and so was he. But we both got up at the same time and fought for a long hour by Shrewsbury clock. If they believe me, cool. If not, they can take it up with their own consciences. I'll swear on my life I gave him this wound in his thigh.

LANCASTER This is the strangest story I've ever heard.

PRINCE And this is the strangest guy, brother John. (to FALSTAFF) Fine, carry the body proudly. If a lie helps you out, I'll back it up with the nicest words I've got.

A retreat is sounded

PRINCE That's the retreat. We've won. Come on brother, let's go see who's alive and who's dead.

Exeunt PRINCE and LANCASTER

FALSTAFF I'll follow, for the reward lol. Whoever rewards me, God reward him. If I become great, I'll become less fat. I'll detox, give up wine, and live cleanly like a nobleman should.

Exit, carrying the body