

## RS #1 Nick, Nigel, Lord Clapham

- 8 -

SOMETHING ROTTEN!

NICK

Well, let me read it.

NIGEL

It's probably terrible.

NICK

Let me see!

*There's a tug of war. NICK finally gets the notebook and reads as NIGEL nervously looks on.*

NIGEL

Oh, God, it's bad, isn't it? I don't even know why you let me write with you.

NICK

Nigel, it's good.

NIGEL

Yeah?

NICK

It's *really* good.

NIGEL

Well, I put a lot of layers in it...

NICK

One suggestion.

*(pointing to pages)*

How about instead of "tombstones" he says "epitaphs."

NIGEL

Oooh, yeah—that's better. Good one, brother.

NICK

**Start**

→ Okay, everyone take your places. Let's try this.

*(reading)*

Let us talk of graves, of worms, of epitaphs:

*(raised eyebrow to Nigel, impressed with himself)*

Make dust our paper, and with rainy eyes

Write sorrow on the bosom of the earth.

*(then – fist pump)*

Yes! That is good! I'm starting to believe this is gonna be the Bottom Brothers' first hit.

**LORD CLAPHAM**

Pity we have to shut it down!

*LORD CLAPHAM, their patron, enters. He's a lesser lord and extravagantly overdresses to compensate; pink and orange satin with a ridiculously ornate feathered hat. THEY all bow to him.*

**NICK**

Lord Clapham. What do you mean—shut it down?

**LORD CLAPHAM**

Guess whose next production is going to be The Tragedy of Richard the 2nd??

*CLAPHAM unrolls a scroll/POSTER that says "THE TRAGEDIE OF RICHARD II by William Shakespeare." TROUPE GASPS!*

**NIGEL**

Shakespeare??

**NICK**

Why is he doing Richard the 2nd?? He just did Richard the 3rd! Who goes backwards?!

**NIGEL**

He breaks convention. That's why he's so great.

**NICK**

Oh yeah? Did you see Romeo and Juliet? What's so great about two lovers who kill themselves in the end?

**LORD CLAPHAM**

OH, YOU'VE SPOILT IT! I'm seeing it this evening.

**NIGEL**

You should. It's life-changing.

**NICK**

Is it? "Love you, stab myself, drink poison, the end."

**LORD CLAPHAM**

*(putting fingers in his ears, stomping like a child)*

STOP IT! STOP IT, STOP IT! You're ruining everything! Now I paid for an original play and you will lose my patronage, do you hear? No more money—unless I hear a new idea—on the morrow! ← **End**

**TOM SNOOT**

I think that means "tomorrow"