

To Be or Not To Be

Ryan North

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Ryan North reimagines Shakespeare's Hamlet as a choose-your-own-adventure story with To Be or Not To Be. The reader's able to play as Ophelia, Hamlet, and even Hamlet's father! It goes far beyond a typical reimagining with its many different endings and modern language. It's a great way to get a grasp on the characters without reading the original. It's an interesting experience that takes Shakespearean elements and pushes them to their limits.

I loved all the different plots you could explore. Like every choose-your-own-adventure novel, there were definitely some endings I greatly preferred, and finding them was challenging but a lot of fun. And in areas where the plot was lacking, the humor made up for. The story is written with modern English and slang, and I loved how each character's personality shone through their dialogue. Despite being based on Hamlet, the story could not be more different if it tried. The novel's a comedy in every way the original wasn't. There were some darker parts, but these were treated pretty lightly. The story did not take itself seriously, which made for an unapologetically over the top read.

The novel is great for older teenagers in high school and young adults. Some of the humor can be a little crude, so if that's not your cup of tea, you might want to veer away. People who hate Shakespeare will definitely enjoy this. It's not at all like his works. And people who love Shakespeare will absolutely love this. It's a very refreshing take on his classic play. Because of all the various endings, this book's definitely one you'd enjoy reading again and again. It makes the perfect gift for anyone with a sense of humor.

Recommended Titles:

Romeo and/or Juliet: A Chooseable-Path Adventure by Ryan North

Good Omens by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney