The tragedy of Hamlet is generally considered an enigma. It differs from Shakespeare's other tragedies as well as from the works of others in that its course of action never fails to surprise and bewilder the spectator. This is why the essays and critical studies on the play are more like commentaries. They have one trait in common: all try to solve the riddle set by Shakespeare. Speaking of obscure books Brandes claims that Hamlet is one such: "At times a gulf opens between the action that envelops the play like a mantle, and the core of the play. Hamlet remains a mystery, says C O Brink, but an infinitely attractive one, because we know that it is not artificially construed but draws its origin from nature's wisdom. I am not aware of a called The Tragedy of Hamlet. Perhaps you are referring to the script written 400 years ago by William Shakespeare called The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark? This was a play script not a novel or a book. It was not meant to be read by the public but only to be seen when it was performed live in the theatre. Secondly, it's about Hamlet, the Prince of Denmark, who returns home from college when he learns his father has died, and his mother has married his father's brother. The ghost of his father the king appears to inform him that he was murdered by his usurping uncle. The rest of the play deals with Hamlet's psychological crisis; a desire to avenge his father, but his unwillingness to do so. Spoiler: Everybody dies. P.S. Try to go see the play. The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, often shortened to Hamlet, is a tragedy written by William Shakespeare sometime between 1599 and 1601. It is Shakespeare's longest play, with 29,551 words. Set in Denmark, the play depicts Prince Hamlet and his revenge against his uncle, Claudius, who has murdered Hamlet's father in order to seize his throne and marry Hamlet's mother.