

William Shakespeare was about to complete his latest play. As he was nearing what would have been the climax, a truly strange thing happened. The characters in the story began to rebel and do whatever they wanted. Everything he wrote almost immediately changed on the page right in front of him. Because of what the characters wanted, the story was going in a much different direction than he had intended. There were a few characters that were behaving normally, but enough of the principle characters were rebelling to warrant intervention. Shakespeare began to wonder if he should just destroy this book. But then he remembered how much time and effort he had spent getting the characters this far in the story. And even beyond that point, he had grown fond of several of the characters in his story. He decided at that moment to write himself into the story and see if he could regain control that way.

He entered the story in an inconspicuous place, so that he could observe and assess what was going wrong. He, posing as a man named Ben, decided he would meet with and try to persuade his characters to complete the journey he had intended for them.

He began to meet with a few of the extras in the story to see if he could explain who he was and what he was doing there. At first, the extras did not believe him, but the author of the story quickly convinced them through a series of what the characters in the story perceived as unexplainable events.

Word about his abilities quickly spread but caused an uproar among the principle characters. They were very angry at the notion they were only characters in a story. They captured and tortured Ben in order to get him to take back his claims.

Shakespeare leaned back from the book, disgusted at what was written on the page. He was heartbroken that the characters in his story, who he had learned to love, were about to kill him. He knew, however, that if his characters killed him in the story, Shakespeare, the man, would suffer no harm. In spite of this fact, Shakespeare thought about saving Ben's life by destroying the men who were killing him. By the time Shakespeare looked back down at the text, the outcome had already been decided; the characters had killed him.

Out of all the principle characters in his story, only two were sincerely mourning his death. When the crowd left the body, only Rosencrantz & Guildenstern remained. Shakespeare was touched by their sentiment and decided to write Ben back to life for their sake. The character of Ben stayed just long enough to ensure the two compassionate men he had plans for them. He told the two men he intended to burn the book in which they were characters. However, before its destruction, he would take them from this place to use them in a different and much greater story. With that, Shakespeare wrote down the names of the two men in his ledger and threw the rogue book into the fireplace.