



Lord Hamlet's Castle



Acclaim for Hunter Steele's fourth novel

"A dazzlingly conceived detective story, *Lord Hamlet's Castle* takes the play apart scene by scene and reconstructs it in the light of secret plots, showing the reader what really lay behind the spectacle of the ghost, why Hamlet chose to delay his revenge, and who, all the time was manipulating Claudius. Steele's novel unfolds a monstrous claustrophobic world of incest, frustrated sexuality, naked political ambition and murder. As an imaginative reinterpretation of *Hamlet* it is clever, erotic and convincing. Now *Hamlet's* contradictions and enigmas have been exposed and explained, Shakespeare's masterpiece will never quite seem the same again." *Book People*.

"Whether you know Shakespeare's most famous tragedy backwards or hardly recognize the cast list, fasten your seatbelts and be ready for turbulence. Ophelia is a tramp, Hamlet has bugged Elsinore . . . the Ghost is a political hoax, Osric is gay and Polonius doubles as boss of of the secret police.

"Hunter Steele presents a really **rotten** State of Denmark in *Lord Hamlet's Castle*. Coolly pornographic in parts, it's fiendishly ingenious." *Daily Mail*.

"Shakespeare's greatest play suddenly becomes a detective story worthy of Agatha Christie at her most baffling." *Scotsman*.

"Entertaining, irreverent, racy and stylistically provoking." *Books in Scotland*.

"Any writer attempting to create a work of fiction around Shakespeare's most famous play is bound to be aware of the creative artists who have successfully done so previously, not least among them Tom Stoppard. With this highly entertaining novel, Hunter Steele joins the group of these artists. The plot and the dialogue belong to Shakespeare, but the way the author interprets both the situations and the characters is very much his own. The political scheming of the plot is strikingly original, for example, with Fortinbras playing a far more prominent part in the machinations. Nor are the characters interpreted as the theatregoer usually views them. There is a much heavier emphasis on sexual motives. Ophelia is a mature young lady with a penchant for for masturbation, and a previous incestuous relationship with Laertes. The author also satisfies those scholars who have wondered whether Ophelia sleeps with Hamlet.

"*Lord Hamlet's Castle* requires more than a nodding acquaintance with the original play in order to appreciate totally the subtle way in which the writer interprets the events. Sixth-formers and others studying the play will, no doubt, never regard the original in quite the same way after reading this book. It is also great fun: something of which Shakespeare would undoubtedly approve." *The School Librarian*.

Black Ace Books

PO Box 7547, Perth, PH2 1AU, Scotland

Answerphone: 01821-642822 Fax: 01821-642101

www.blackacebooks.com

