

Death around the Globe by Matthew Minton

Something's rotten in the state of Shakespeare.
Not the visions of Macbeth, nor the madness of Lear,
Nor is it hunchbacks or once more unto the breaches
Neither is it Shylocks and bewildering speeches
It is Antony, Caesar and the Scottish King's head
Whether Hamlet, Juliet,
or a guy we just met
Everyone ends up dead!

To die or not to die That is the question.
And the variety of deaths in Shakespeare's collection.
Duncan was of witches and prophesy's intent,
Polonius was a 'happy' accident,
stabbed or poisoned is how most will die
(Except for the one that was baked in a pie.)
Romeo killed Tybalt, Tybalt killed Mercutio
Juliet killed herself after love killed Romeo!
Othello was tricked to killing Desdemona
(smothered to death unlike those in Verona)
For want of a horse King Richard was hacked
Only Edgar and two friends survived their last act
some plays even exceed King Lear's dark benchmark
Like Queen Cleopatra and the royals of Denmark.
Hamlet, Ophelia, Laertes, Polonius, then
The king, the queen, and two more men.
Caesar, murdered by conspirators plot
And the blood in Macbeth. (including the spot)
We thank you Shakespeare for all you have written
(Including the dead of the island of Britain)
So accept from us our bountiful praise
(and the bodies that lie at the end of your plays)
For all the stories and legends of yore
(for all the cannibalism, murder and gore)
You were the best, the bard of Avon
But next time less murder, and a little more savin'

