

Alas, poor Shakespeare, we knew him well

Wikipedia, my current source for most information tells me that Modern English is the form of the English Language spoken since the 'Great Vowel Shift' in England in roughly 1550. It also tells me that the 'Queen's English' is the accent of Standard English in England and that the Queen herself has changed her pronunciation over the past 50 years.

How far this change has gone, Wikipedia doesn't say but I doubt if she's quite ready to adopt the latest version of 'Shakespeare Speak' which has just been updated by British satirist Martin Baum in his book, "To Be Or Not To Be, Innit." He apparently told reporters that his aim was to update "the important sexist, duplicitous, cross-dressing and violent moments that made William Shakespeare well wicked."

Martin Bauam's updated version of Hamlet reveals: "Dere was somefing minging in de State of Denmark."

The Danish Prince, who is re-named 'Amlet, asks: "To be or not to be, innit?", while Romeo pines for his "fit bitch Jools".

Mr Baum's version of Romeo and Juliet sets the scene for the star-crossed lovers with: "Verona was de turf of de feuding Montagues and de Capulet families.

"And coz they was always brawling and stuff, de prince of Verona told them to cool it or else they was gonna get well mashed if they carried on larging it with each other."

Mr Baum's other titles include Macbeff, Much Ado About Sod All, De 'Appy Bitches of Windsor, De Taming of de Bitch, Two Geezas Of Verona and All's Sweet That Ends Sweet, Innit.

In an extract from the latter we learn that:

"Helena was de orphaned bitch of de well famous quack doctor who, with de geeza called Bertram and his Countess muvva, had been living in de Rossillion turf forever. Although they had been well full of respect for each other, over de years, Helena had been falling for Bertram big time and wanted to get all jiggy jiggy with him. Bertram, though, being de all macho geeza, didn't really care coz he fought she was well minging. But his muvva, on de other hand, quite liked de idea of Helena becoming her son's bitch.

But true lurv was dealt de cruel blow when de King of France geeza was taken all deathly ill in Froggyland and without de moment of hesitation, Bertram decided to go to de King in de Paris ghetto leaving Helena all Billy No Mates. However, coz she was de daughta of dis well famous but dead quack doctor, she fought she could do somefing to help.

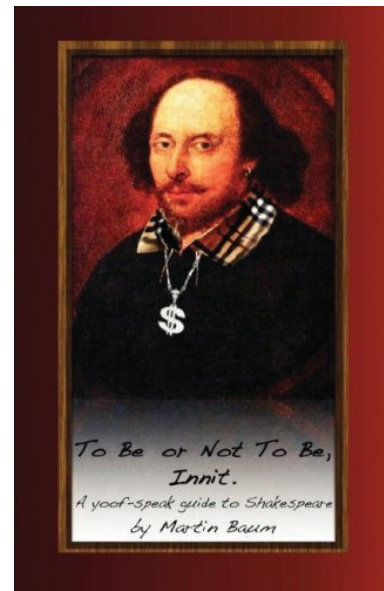
So unknown to Bertram, Helena followed him finking that she might be able to come up with de special cure for de King geeza - which amazingly she does! And all coz she was de daughta of de well famous but dead quack doctor, innit.

Well, as de King geeza is well chuffed with de bitch for saving his life, and as de sign of his respect for coming up with de cure for not being all dead, he gives her some well cool bling for her finger and tells de bitch that she could get all jiggy jiggy with one of de palace posse.

Dis was brilliant for Helena. Coz as Bertram was dere in de palace, she went all girl power and picked him ahead of all de others who was all ready, waiting and gagging for it. Bertram, on de other hand, was not. Alright, so Helena saved de King from being all stiff but even so, he still fought she was de first class minger who was stalking de crap out of him, innit."

If the Bard was living today, Mr Baum writes on his website, he would "still be writing in the Globe turf, getting loads of respect from the Stratford-upon-Avon massive and producing works of pure genius."

If you can't find a copy in your local bookshop, you can download a pdf file for only £2.95 from www.authorsonline.co.uk



SuDoku

Answer on to puzzle on page 41

8	3	6	6	5	2	7	1	4
1	5	4	9	7	3	6	8	2
7	2	9	8	4	1	5	3	9
5	4	8	1	9	6	2	7	3
9	7	2	3	8	5	4	9	1
9	1	3	4	2	7	8	5	6
2	8	1	5	9	4	3	6	7
4	9	5	7	3	9	1	2	8
3	9	7	2	1	8	9	4	5