

SINGERS *'They took down his body to be burned.'*

ISABEL – is it too tight?

GAVESTON Is what?

ISABEL The ring, the ring –
is Mortimer's ring too tight for your finger?
Don't move away from me – no –
sit close sit close to me Gaveston sit closer –

SINGERS *And David said:
where is my brother?
oh where is my brother Jonathan?*

But GAVESTON stands when he sees MORTIMER staring at him from the edge of the space. Members of the onstage AUDIENCE stand around him as if to block an escape. The SINGERS continue.

GAVESTON Dead man Mortimer –
what've you come to tell me, dead man
Mortimer? –
the price of butter? – or is it the price of bread?

MORTIMER I've come for my property.

GAVESTON Oh? Oh? Property? Here's your property.
Take her.

*He pushes ISABEL towards MORTIMER.
Now the KING notices the disturbance.*

SINGERS *'Where is my brother Jonathan?'*

KING Arrest this man. Stop the song. Stop the music.
I SAID STOP THE MUSIC NOW!

The onstage SINGERS stop.

PART TWO

SCENE 5

MORTIMER'S HOUSE

MORTIMER, ISABEL *and* BOY. *Later, the* MADMAN.
The GIRL *is skipping.*

MORTIMER D'you like dogs?
 I'll buy you a dog.
 Or maybe you'd like a lion?
 Would you like to be king
 and keep lions?

BOY My father
 is king

MORTIMER Your father cannot be king –
 he wants you to take his place.

BOY I'm a boy.
 I have
 no experience.

MORTIMER Your mother and I will advise you.

BOY What kind of dog?

ISABEL A greyhound –

MORTIMER – yes an immaculate greyhound.
 But first you must show us
 you understand justice and can protect
 the people.

BOY Oh?

Don't you see:
The thread is already broken.
You are already dead.

KING No.

Long pause

Why do I feel nothing?

STRANGER The dead
can't feel.

KING No.
Why is my mind blank?

STRANGER The dead
have no thoughts.

KING No. When
did I die?

STRANGER When
means nothing.

KING And how?
Was it murder?

STRANGER Murder – murder
means nothing.

KING No.
Make me feel.

STRANGER I can't.

KING No.
Make me alive again.