

RSC ASSOCIATE SCHOOLS  
PROGRAMME

**PLAYMAKING**  
FESTIVAL

**MACBETH**  
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

EDITED BY ROBIN BELFIELD

IN COLLABORATION WITH REGIONAL THEATRES

ALHAMBRA  
THEATRE

NEW VIC THEATRE

THE GRAND  
THEATRE | BLACKPOOL

N  
NORTHERN  
STAGE

Hull  
TRUCK  
THEATRE

N Norwich  
Theatre

INTER+MISSION  
YOUTH THEATRE

THE  
MARLOWE

THEATRE ROYAL  
ROYAL CONCERT  
HALL

HALL  
for CORNWALL

SILHOUETTE YOUTH THEATRE

Y  
YORK  
THEATRE  
ROYAL

The Associate Schools programme is our partnership programme with regional theatres and schools across England. It is built around the principle of schools working in local partnerships to develop communities of practice inspired by Shakespeare's work. Each local partnership consists of a theatre partner (either the RSC or the school's local theatre) and a Lead Associate School who in turn recruits a number of Associate Schools. The programme aims to enrich the teaching, learning and enjoyment of Shakespeare's work across the country.

The Associate Schools programme also supports young people to perform Shakespeare's plays, engaging with his work as actors and theatre makers; exploring character and staging, making interpretive choices and speaking the language with understanding and confidence. This Playmaking pack - an abridged version of William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* - has been created for young people and teachers. It is designed to support performances that will take place across the country through the Associate Schools programme and with our Stratford Schools partnership.

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This Playmaking Pack is an abridged version of *Macbeth*.

Some characters and their names have been edited in terms of gender and pronouns used. We support you to edit these yourself to fit the company you are working with.

As well as the usual scene divisions, this script has been broken down further into units of action for ease in rehearsals.

Dramatis Personae

**DUNCAN** King of Scotland

**MACBETH** Thane of Glamis, later of Cawdor, then King of Scotland

**LADY MACBETH** his wife

**MACDUFF** Thane of Fife, a nobleman of Scotland

**LADY MACDUFF** his wife

**MALCOLM** son of Duncan

**DONALBAIN** son of Duncan

**BANQUO** a Thane

**FLEANCE** his son

**LENNOX** nobleman of Scotland

**ROSS** nobleman of Scotland

**MENTEITH** nobleman of Scotland

**ANGUS** nobleman of Scotland

**CAITHNESS** nobleman of Scotland

**SIWARD** Earl of Northumberland, general of the English forces

**YOUNG SIWARD** his son

**SEYTON** attendant to Macbeth

**THREE WITCHES**

**BOY** Son of Macduff

**GENTLEWOMAN** attending on Lady Macbeth

**DOCTOR** attending on Lady Macbeth

**PORTER**

**AN OLD MAN**

**OTHER LORDS, GENTLEMEN, OFFICERS, SOLDIERS, MURDERERS,  
ATTENDANTS, AND MESSENGERS**

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# 1

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## ACT 1 SCENE 1

*An open place.  
Thunder and lightning. Enter three Witches.*

### **FIRST WITCH**

When shall we three meet again  
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?

### **SECOND WITCH**

When the hurlyburly's done,  
When the battle's lost and won.

### **THIRD WITCH**

That will be ere the set of sun.

### **FIRST WITCH**

Where the place?

### **SECOND WITCH**

Upon the heath.

### **THIRD WITCH**

There to meet with Macbeth.

### **ALL**

Fair is foul, and foul is fair:  
Hover through the fog and filthy air.

*Exeunt.*

# 2

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## ACT 1 SCENE 2

*A camp near Forres.  
Alarum within. Enter DUNCAN, MALCOLM, DONALBAIN,  
LENNOX, with Attendants, meeting a bleeding ROSS.*

### **DUNCAN**

What bloody man is that? He can report,  
As seemeth by his plight, of the revolt  
The newest state.

*Enter ROSS.*

### **MALCOLM**

The worthy thane of Ross.

### **LENNOX**

What a haste looks through his eyes!

### **ROSS**

God save the King!

**DUNCAN**

Whence camest thou, worthy thane?

**ROSS**

From Fife, great king;  
Where the Norwegian banners flout the sky  
And fan our people cold. Norway himself,  
With terrible numbers,  
Assisted by that most disloyal traitor  
The thane of Cawdor, began a dismal conflict;  
Till that valiant Macbeth, lapped in proof,  
Confronted him with self-comparisons,  
Point against point rebellious, arm 'gainst arm.  
Curbing his lavish spirit: and, to conclude,  
The victory fell on us.

**DUNCAN**

Great happiness!  
No more that thane of Cawdor shall deceive  
Our bosom interest: go pronounce his present death,  
And with his former title greet Macbeth.

**ROSS**

I'll see it done.

**DUNCAN**

What he hath lost noble Macbeth hath won.

*Exeunt.*

# 3

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**ACT 1 SCENE 3**

*A heath near Forres.  
Thunder. Enter the three WITCHES. Drum within.*

**THIRD WITCH**

A drum, a drum!  
Macbeth doth come.

**ALL**

The weird sisters, hand in hand,  
Posters of the sea and land,  
Thus do go about, about:  
Thrice to thine and thrice to mine  
And thrice again, to make up nine.  
Peace! The charm's wound up.

*Enter MACBETH and BANQUO*

**MACBETH**

So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

**BANQUO**

What are these  
So withered and so wild in their attire,  
That look not like the inhabitants o' the earth,  
And yet are on't? Live you? You seem to understand me,  
By each at once her choppy finger laying  
Upon her skinny lips.

**MACBETH**

Speak, if you can: what are you?

**FIRST WITCH**

All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, thane of Glamis!

**SECOND WITCH**

All hail, Macbeth, hail to thee, thane of Cawdor!

**THIRD WITCH**

All hail, Macbeth, thou shalt be king hereafter!

**BANQUO**

Good sir, why do you start; and seem to fear  
Things that do sound so fair? I' the name of truth,  
Are ye fantastical, or that indeed  
Which outwardly ye show? My noble partner  
You greet with present grace and great prediction  
Of noble having and of royal hope,  
That he seems rapt withal: to me you speak not.  
If you can look into the seeds of time,  
And say which grain will grow and which will not,  
Speak then to me, who neither beg nor fear  
Your favours nor your hate.

**FIRST WITCH**

Hail!

**SECOND WITCH**

Hail!

**THIRD WITCH**

Hail!

**FIRST WITCH**

Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.

**SECOND WITCH**

Not so happy, yet much happier.

**THIRD WITCH**

Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none:  
So all hail, Macbeth and Banquo!

**FIRST WITCH**

Banquo and Macbeth, all hail!

**MACBETH**

Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more:  
The thane of Cawdor lives, and to be king  
Stands not within the prospect of belief,  
Say from whence  
You owe this strange intelligence? Speak!

*WITCHES vanish.*

**BANQUO**

The earth hath bubbles, as the water has,  
And these are of them. Whither are they vanished?

**MACBETH**

Into the air; and what seemed corporal melted  
As breath into the wind. Would they had stayed!  
Your children shall be kings.

**BANQUO**

You shall be king.

**MACBETH**

And thane of Cawdor too: went it not so?

**BANQUO**

To the selfsame tune and words. Who's here?

# 4

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*Enter ROSS and ANGUS.*

**ROSS**

The king hath happily received, Macbeth,  
The news of thy success.

**ANGUS**

We are sent  
To give thee from our royal master thanks;

**ROSS**

And, for an earnest of a greater honour,  
He bade me, from him, call thee "Thane of Cawdor":  
In which addition, hail, most worthy thane!  
For it is thine.

**BANQUO**

What, can the devil speak true?

**MACBETH**

The thane of Cawdor lives: why do you dress me  
In borrowed robes?

**ANGUS**

Who was the thane lives yet;  
But under heavy judgment bears that life  
Which he deserves to lose.  
For treasons capital, confessed and proved,  
Have overthrown him.

**MACBETH**

(Aside) Glamis, and thane of Cawdor!  
The greatest is behind. (To Ross and Angus) Thanks for your pains.  
(To Banquo) Do you not hope your children shall be kings,  
When those that gave the thane of Cawdor to me  
Promised no less to them?

**BANQUO**

That trusted home  
Might yet enkindle you unto the crown,  
Besides the thane of Cawdor. But 'tis strange:  
And oftentimes, to win us to our harm,  
The instruments of darkness tell us truths.  
Cousins, a word, I pray you.

**MACBETH**

(Aside) Two truths are told,  
As happy prologues to the swelling act  
Of the imperial theme. – I thank you, gentlemen.  
(Aside) Cannot be ill, cannot be good: if ill,  
Why hath it given me earnest of success,  
Commencing in a truth? I am thane of Cawdor:  
If good, why do I yield to that suggestion  
Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair  
And make my seated heart knock at my ribs.

**BANQUO**

Look, how our partner's rapt.

**MACBETH**

(Aside) If chance will have me king, why, chance may crown me,  
Without my stir. Come what come may,  
Time and the hour runs through the roughest day.

**BANQUO**

Worthy Macbeth, we stay upon your leisure.

**MACBETH**

Give me your favour: my dull brain was wrought  
With things forgotten. Let us toward the king.  
(To Banquo.) Think upon what hath chanced, and, at more time,  
The interim having weighed it, let us speak  
Our free hearts each to other.

**BANQUO**

Very gladly.

**MACBETH**

Till then, enough. Come, friends.

*Exeunt.*

# 5

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## ACT 1 SCENE 4

*Forres. The palace.*

*Flourish. Enter DUNCAN, MALCOLM, DONALBAIN, LENNOX, and Attendants.*

**DUNCAN**

Is execution done on Cawdor? Are not  
Those in commission yet returned?

**MALCOLM**

My liege,  
They are not yet come back. But I have spoke  
With one that saw him die: who did report  
That very frankly he confessed his treasons.

**DUNCAN**

He was a gentleman on whom I built  
An absolute trust.  
O worthiest cousin!  
The sin of my ingratitude even now  
Was heavy on me. Only I have left to say,  
More is thy due than more than all can pay.

*Enter MACBETH, BANQUO, ROSS, and ANGUS.*

**MACBETH**

The service and the loyalty I owe,  
In doing it, pays itself. Your highness' part  
Is to receive our duties; and our duties  
Are to your throne and state children and servants.

**DUNCAN**

Welcome hither:  
I have begun to plant thee, and will labour  
To make thee full of growing. Noble Banquo,  
That hast no less deserved, nor must be known  
No less to have done so, let me enfold thee  
And hold thee to my heart.

**BANQUO**

There if I grow, the harvest is your own.

**DUNCAN**

Sons, kinsmen, thanes,  
And you whose places are the nearest, know  
We will establish our estate upon  
Our eldest, Malcolm, whom we name hereafter  
The Prince of Cumberland.  
(*To Macbeth*) From hence to Inverness,  
And bind us further to you.

**MACBETH**

The rest is labour, which is not used for you:  
I'll be myself the harbinger and make joyful  
The hearing of my wife with your approach;  
So humbly take my leave.

**DUNCAN**

My worthy Cawdor!

**MACBETH**

(*Aside*) The Prince of Cumberland! That is a step  
On which I must fall down, or else o'erleap,  
For in my way it lies. Stars, hide your fires:  
Let not light see my black and deep desires.  
The eye wink at the hand; yet let that be,  
Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see.

*Exit.*

**DUNCAN**

True, worthy Banquo; he is full so valiant,  
And in his commendations I am fed;  
It is a banquet to me. Let's after him,  
Whose care is gone before to bid us welcome:  
It is a peerless kinsman.

*Flourish. Exeunt.*

# 6

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## ACT 1 SCENE 5

*Inverness. Macbeth's castle.  
Enter LADY MACBETH, reading a letter.*

**LADY MACBETH**

(*Reading a letter*) 'They met me in the day of success: and I have learned by the perfectest report, they have more in them than mortal knowledge. When I burned in desire to question them further, they made themselves air, into which they vanished. Whiles I stood rapt in the wonder of it, came missives from the king, who all-hailed me 'Thane of Cawdor;' by which title, before, these weird sisters saluted me, and referred me to the coming on of time, with 'Hail, king that shalt be!' This have I thought good to deliver thee, my dearest partner of greatness, that thou mightst not lose the dues of rejoicing, by being ignorant of what greatness is promised thee. Lay it to thy heart, and farewell.'

Glamis thou art, and Cawdor; and shalt be  
What thou art promised: yet do I fear thy nature;  
It is too full o'the milk of human kindness  
To catch the nearest way. Thou wouldst be great,  
Art not without ambition, but without  
The illness should attend it. What thou wouldst highly,  
That wouldst thou holily: wouldst not play false,  
And yet wouldst wrongly win. Hie thee hither,  
That I may pour my spirits in thine ear  
And chastise with the valour of my tongue  
All that impedes thee from the golden round,  
Which fate and metaphysical aid doth seem  
To have thee crowned withal.

7

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*Enter a MESSENGER.*

**LADY MACBETH**

What is your tidings?

**MESSENGER**

The king comes here tonight.

**LADY MACBETH**

Thou'rt mad to say it:

Is not thy master with him?

**MESSENGER**

So please you, it is true: our thane is coming.

*Exit MESSENGER.*

**LADY MACBETH**

The raven himself is hoarse  
That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan  
Under my battlements. Come, you spirits  
That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here  
And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full  
Of direst cruelty! Make thick my blood,  
Stop up the access and passage to remorse,  
That no compunctious visitings of nature  
Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between  
The effect and it! Come, thick night,  
And pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell,  
That my keen knife see not the wound it makes,  
Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark,  
To cry 'Hold, hold!'

## 8

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*Enter MACBETH.*

**LADY MACBETH**

Great Glamis! Worthy Cawdor!  
Greater than both, by the all-hail hereafter!  
Thy letters have transported me beyond  
This ignorant present, and I feel now  
The future in the instant.

**MACBETH**

My dearest love,  
Duncan comes here tonight.

**LADY MACBETH**

And when goes hence?

**MACBETH**

Tomorrow, as he purposes.

**LADY MACBETH**

O, never  
Shall sun that morrow see!  
Your face, my thane, is as a book where men  
May read strange matters. To beguile the time,  
Look like the time; bear welcome in your eye,  
Your hand, your tongue: look like the innocent flower,  
But be the serpent under't. He that's coming  
Must be provided for, and you shall put  
This night's great business into my dispatch;  
Which shall to all our nights and days to come  
Give solely sovereign sway and masterdom.

**MACBETH**

We will speak further.

**LADY MACBETH**

Only look up clear;  
To alter favour ever is to fear:  
Leave all the rest to me.

*Exeunt.*

## 9

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ACT 1 SCENE 6

*Before Macbeth's castle.  
Enter DUNCAN, MALCOLM, DONALBAIN, BANQUO,  
LENNOX, MACDUFF, ROSS, ANGUS, and Attendants.*

**DUNCAN**

This castle hath a pleasant seat: the air  
Nimbly and sweetly recommends itself  
Unto our gentle senses.  
See, see, our honoured hostess!

*Enter LADY MACBETH.*

**LADY MACBETH**

All our service  
In every point twice done and then done double  
Were poor and single business to contend  
Against those honours deep and broad wherewith  
Your majesty loads our house.

**DUNCAN**

Where's the thane of Cawdor?  
We coursed him at the heels, but he rides well,  
And his great love, sharp as his spur, hath holp him  
To his home before us. Fair and noble hostess,  
We are your guest tonight.

**LADY MACBETH**

Your servants ever.

**DUNCAN**

Give me your hand,  
Conduct me to mine host: we love him highly,  
And shall continue our graces towards him.  
By your leave, hostess.

*Exeunt.*

# 10

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**ACT 1 SCENE 7**

*Macbeth's castle.*

*Enter Servants who pass over the stage with dishes.*

*Then enter MACBETH.*

**MACBETH**

If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well  
It were done quickly: that but this blow  
Might be the be-all and the end-all here,  
But here, upon this bank and shoal of time,  
We'd jump the life to come. But in these cases  
We still have judgment here, this even-handed justice  
Commends the ingredients of our poisoned chalice  
To our own lips. He's here in double trust:  
First, as I am his kinsman and his subject,  
Strong both against the deed: then, as his host,  
Who should against his murderer shut the door,

Not bear the knife myself. Besides, this Duncan  
Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been  
So clear in his great office, that his virtues  
Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against  
The deep damnation of his taking-off:  
I have no spur  
To prick the sides of my intent, but only  
Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself  
And falls on the other –

11

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*Enter LADY MACBETH.*

**MACBETH**

How now! What news?

**LADY MACBETH**

He has almost supped. Why have you left the chamber?

**MACBETH**

Hath he asked for me?

**LADY MACBETH**

Know you not he has?

**MACBETH**

We will proceed no further in this business:  
He hath honoured me of late –

**LADY MACBETH**

Was the hope drunk  
Wherein you dressed yourself? Art thou afeard  
To be the same in thine own act and valour  
As thou art in desire? Wouldst thou have that  
Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life,  
And live a coward in thine own esteem,  
Letting 'I dare not' wait upon 'I would,'?

**MACBETH**

Prithee, peace:  
I dare do all that may become a man;  
Who dares do more is none.

**LADY MACBETH**

What beast was't, then,  
That made you break this enterprise to me?  
When you durst do it, then you were a man  
And, to be more than what you were, you would  
Be so much more the man.

**MACBETH**

If we should fail?

**LADY MACBETH**

We fail!

But screw your courage to the sticking-place,  
And we'll not fail. When Duncan is asleep –  
Whereto the rather shall his day's hard journey  
Soundly invite him – his two chamberlains  
Will I with wine and wassail so convince  
That memory, the warder of the brain,  
Shall be a fume. When in swinish sleep  
Their drenched natures lie as in a death,  
What cannot you and I perform upon  
The unguarded Duncan? What not put upon  
His spongy officers, who shall bear the guilt  
Of our great quell?

**MACBETH**

Will it not be received,  
When we have marked with blood those sleepy two  
Of his own chamber and used their very daggers,  
That they have done't?

**LADY MACBETH**

Who dares receive it other,  
As we shall make our griefs and clamour roar  
Upon his death?

**MACBETH**

I am settled, and bend up  
Each corporal agent to this terrible feat.  
Away, and mock the time with fairest show:  
False face must hide what the false heart doth know.

*Exeunt.*

# 12

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**ACT 2 SCENE 1**

*Court of Macbeth's castle.*

*Enter BANQUO, and FLEANCE bearing a torch before him.*

**BANQUO**

How goes the night, boy?

**FLEANCE**

The moon is down; I have not heard the clock.

*Enter MACBETH.*

**BANQUO**

Give me my sword. – Who's there?

**MACBETH**

A friend.

**BANQUO**

What, sir, not yet at rest? The king's a-bed:  
He hath been in unusual pleasure, and  
Sent forth great largess to your offices.  
All's well.

I dreamt last night of the three weird sisters:  
To you they have showed some truth.

**MACBETH**

I think not of them:  
Yet, when we can entreat an hour to serve,  
We would spend it in some words upon that business,  
If you would grant the time.

**BANQUO**

At your kind'st leisure.

**MACBETH**

Good repose the while!

**BANQUO**

Thanks, sir: the like to you!

*Exeunt BANQUO and FLEANCE.*

# 13

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**MACBETH**

Is this a dagger which I see before me,  
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee.  
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.  
Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible  
To feeling as to sight? Or art thou but  
A dagger of the mind, a false creation,  
Proceeding from the heat-oppressèd brain?  
I see thee yet, in form as palpable  
As this which now I draw.  
Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going,  
And such an instrument I was to use.  
Mine eyes are made the fools o' the other senses,  
Or else worth all the rest. I see thee still,  
And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood,  
Which was not so before. There's no such thing:  
It is the bloody business which informs  
Thus to mine eyes. Thou sure and firm-set earth,  
Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear  
Thy very stones prate of my whereabouts.  
Whiles I threat, he lives:  
Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives.

A bell rings  
I go, and it is done: the bell invites me.  
Hear it not, Duncan, for it is a knell  
That summons thee to heaven or to hell.

*Exit.*

# 14

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## ACT 2 SCENE 2

*The same.  
Enter LADY MACBETH.*

### **LADY MACBETH**

That which hath made them drunk hath made me bold:  
What hath quenched them hath given me fire. –  
Hark! Peace! –  
It was the owl that shrieked. He is about it:  
The doors are open, and the surfeited grooms  
Do mock their charge with snores: I have drugged their possets,  
That death and nature do contend about them,  
Whether they live or die.

### **MACBETH**

*(Within)* Who's there? What, ho?

### **LADY MACBETH**

Alack, I am afraid they have awaked,  
And 'tis not done. I laid their daggers ready;  
He could not miss 'em. Had he not resembled  
My father as he slept, I had done't.

*Enter MACBETH.*

My husband!

### **MACBETH**

I have done the deed. Didst thou not hear a noise?

### **LADY MACBETH**

I heard the owl scream and the crickets cry.  
Did not you speak?

### **MACBETH**

When?

### **LADY MACBETH**

Now.

### **MACBETH**

As I descended?

### **LADY MACBETH**

Ay.

**MACBETH**

Hark, who lies i'the second chamber?

**LADY MACBETH**

Donalbain.

**MACBETH**

*(Looking on his hands)* This is a sorry sight.

**LADY MACBETH**

A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.  
Why did you bring these daggers from the place?  
They must lie there: go carry them and smear  
The sleepy grooms with blood.

**MACBETH**

I'll go no more:  
I am afraid to think what I have done:  
Look on't again I dare not.

**LADY MACBETH**

Infirm of purpose!  
Give me the daggers. The sleeping and the dead  
Are but as pictures: If he do bleed,  
I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal,  
For it must seem their guilt.

*Exit. Knocking within.*

**MACBETH**

Whence is that knocking?  
How is't with me, when every noise appals me?  
What hands are here? Ha? They pluck out mine eyes.  
Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood  
Clean from my hand?

*Re-enter LADY MACBETH.*

**LADY MACBETH**

My hands are of your colour; but I shame  
To wear a heart so white.  
I hear a knocking  
At the south entry: retire we to our chamber.  
A little water clears us of this deed:  
How easy is it, then!  
Hark! More knocking.  
Be not lost so poorly in your thoughts.

*Knocking within.*

*Knocking within.*

**MACBETH**

To know my deed, 'twere best not know myself.  
Wake Duncan with thy knocking! I would thou couldst!

*Knocking within.*

*Exeunt.*

# 15

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## ACT 2 SCENE 3

*The same.  
Knocking within. Enter a PORTER.*

**PORTER**

Here's a knocking indeed!  
Knock, knock! Who's there?

*Knocking within.  
Opens the gate and enter MACDUFF and LENNOX.*

**MACDUFF**

Is thy master stirring?  
Our knocking has awaked him; here he comes.

*Enter MACBETH.*

**LENNOX**

Good morrow, noble sir.

**MACBETH**

Good morrow both.

**MACDUFF**

Is the king stirring, worthy thane?

**MACBETH**

Not yet.

**MACDUFF**

He did command me to call timely on him:  
I have almost slipped the hour.

**MACBETH**

I'll bring you to him.

**MACDUFF**

I know this is a joyful trouble to you;  
But yet 'tis one.

**MACBETH**

The labour we delight in physics pain.  
This is the door.

**MACDUFF**

I'll make so bold to call,  
For 'tis my limited service.

*Exit.*

**LENNOX**

Goes the king hence today?

**MACBETH**

He does: he did appoint so.

**LENNOX**

The night has been unruly. Where we lay,  
Our chimneys were blown down, and, as they say,  
Lamentings heard i'the air; strange screams of death,  
The obscure bird  
Clamoured the livelong night. Some say, the earth  
Was feverous and did shake.

**MACBETH**

'Twas a rough night.

**LENNOX**

My young remembrance cannot parallel  
A fellow to it.

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*Re-enter MACDUFF.*

**MACDUFF**

O horror, horror, horror!  
Tongue nor heart cannot conceive nor name thee!

**MACBETH and LENNOX**

What's the matter?

**MACDUFF**

Approach the chamber, and destroy your sight  
With a new Gorgon: do not bid me speak;  
See, and then speak yourselves.  
Awake, awake!  
Ring the alarum bell. Murder and treason!  
Banquo and Donalbain! Malcolm, awake!  
Shake off this downy sleep, death's counterfeit,  
And look on death itself! Up, up, and see!  
Ring the bell.

*Exit MACBETH and LENNOX.*

*Bell rings. Enter LADY MACBETH.*

**LADY MACBETH**

What's the business,  
That such a hideous trumpet calls to parley  
The sleepers of the house? Speak, speak!

**MACDUFF**

O gentle lady,  
O Banquo, Banquo,  
Our royal master's murdered!

*Enter BANQUO.*

**LADY MACBETH**

Woe, alas!  
What, in our house?

**BANQUO**

Too cruel anywhere.  
Macduff, I prithee, contradict thyself,  
And say it is not so.

*Re-enter MACBETH and LENNOX, with ROSS.*

**MACBETH**

Had I but died an hour before this chance,  
I had lived a blessed time, for from this instant,  
There's nothing serious in mortality:  
All is but toys: renown and grace is dead.

*Enter MALCOLM and DONALBAIN.*

**DONALBAIN**

What is amiss?

**MACBETH**

You are, and do not know't:  
The spring, the head, the fountain of your blood  
Is stopped; the very source of it is stopped.

**MACDUFF**

Your royal father's murdered.

**MALCOLM**

O, by whom?

**LENNOX**

Those of his chamber, as it seemed, had done't:  
Their hands and faces were all badged with blood;  
So were their daggers.

**MACBETH**

O, yet I do repent me of my fury,  
That I did kill them.

**MACDUFF**

Wherefore did you so?

**MACBETH**

Who can be wise, amazed, temperate and furious,  
Loyal and neutral, in a moment? No man.

**LADY MACBETH**

Help me hence, ho!

**MACDUFF**

Look to the lady.

**MALCOLM**

*(Aside to DONALBAIN)* Why do we hold our tongues,  
That most may claim this argument for ours?

**DONALBAIN**

(To MALCOLM) What should be spoken here?  
Let's away: our tears are not yet brewed.

**BANQUO**

Look to the lady:  
And when we have our naked frailties hid,  
That suffer in exposure, let us meet  
And question this most bloody piece of work,  
To know it further.

*LADY MACBETH is carried out.*

**MACBETH**

Let's briefly put on manly readiness,  
And meet i'the hall together.

**ALL**

Well contented.

*Exeunt all but MALCOLM and DONALBAIN.*

**MALCOLM**

What will you do? Let's not consort with them:  
To show an unfelt sorrow is an office  
Which the false man does easy. I'll to England.

**DONALBAIN**

To Ireland, I. Our separated fortune  
Shall keep us both the safer: where we are,  
There's daggers in men's smiles.

**MALCOLM**

Therefore, to horse.

*Exeunt.*

# 17

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**ACT 2 SCENE 4**

*Outside Macbeth's castle.  
Enter ROSS and an OLD MAN.*

**OLD MAN**

Threescore and ten I can remember well:  
Within the volume of which time I have seen  
Hours dreadful and things strange; but this sore night  
Hath trifled former knowings.

**ROSS**

By the clock, 'tis day,  
And yet dark night strangles the travelling lamp:  
Is't night's predominance, or the day's shame,  
That darkness does the face of earth entomb,  
When living light should kiss it?

**OLD MAN**

'Tis unnatural,  
Even like the deed that's done.

**ROSS**

Here comes the good Macduff.  
How goes the world, sir, now?

*Enter MACDUFF.*

**MACDUFF**

Why, see you not?

**ROSS**

Is't known who did this more than bloody deed?

**MACDUFF**

Those that Macbeth hath slain.

**ROSS**

Alas, the day!  
What good could they pretend?

**MACDUFF**

They were suborned:  
Malcolm and Donalbain, the king's two sons,  
Are stolen away and fled, which puts upon them  
Suspicion of the deed.

**ROSS**

Then 'tis most like  
The sovereignty will fall upon Macbeth.

**MACDUFF**

He is already named, and gone to Scone  
To be invested.

**ROSS**

Will you to Scone?

**MACDUFF**

No, cousin, I'll to Fife.

**ROSS**

Well, I will thither.

**MACDUFF**

Well, may you see things well done there. Adieu!  
Lest our old robes sit easier than our new!

**ROSS**

Farewell, father.

**OLD MAN**

God's benison go with you, and with those  
That would make good of bad, and friends of foes!

*Exeunt.*

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## ACT 3 SCENE 1

*Forres. The palace.  
Enter BANQUO.*

### **BANQUO**

Thou hast it now: king, Cawdor, Glamis, all  
As the weird women promised, and I fear  
Thou playedst most foully for't. Yet it was said  
It should not stand in thy posterity,  
But that myself should be the root and father  
Of many kings. If there come truth from them –  
As upon thee, Macbeth, their speeches shine –  
Why, by the verities on thee made good,  
May they not be my oracles as well,  
And set me up in hope? But hush, no more.

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*Sennet sounded. Enter MACBETH, as king, LADY MACBETH, as queen,  
LENNOX, ROSS, Lords, Ladies, and ATTENDANTS.*

### **MACBETH**

Here's our chief guest.

### **LADY MACBETH**

If he had been forgotten,  
It had been as a gap in our great feast,  
And all-thing unbecoming.

### **MACBETH**

Tonight we hold a solemn supper sir,  
And I'll request your presence.

### **BANQUO**

Let your highness  
Command upon me, to the which my duties  
Are with a most indissoluble tie  
For ever knit.

### **MACBETH**

Ride you this afternoon?

### **BANQUO**

Ay, my good lord.

### **MACBETH**

We should have else desired your good advice.  
Fail not our feast.

**BANQUO**

My lord, I will not.

*Exit BANQUO.*

**MACBETH**

Let every man be master of his time  
Till seven at night. To make society  
The sweeter welcome, we will keep ourself  
Till supper-time alone: while then, God be with you!

*Exeunt all but MACBETH, and an ATTENDANT.*

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**MACBETH**

Sirrah, a word with you. Attend those men  
Our pleasure?

**ATTENDANT**

They are, my lord, without the palace gate.

**MACBETH**

Bring them before us.  
To be thus is nothing, but to be safely thus.  
Our fears in Banquo stick deep,  
And in his royalty of nature reigns that  
Which would be feared. 'Tis much he dares;  
And, to that dauntless temper of his mind,  
He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valour  
To act in safety. There is none but he  
Whose being I do fear. He chid the sisters  
When first they put the name of king upon me,  
And bade them speak to him: then prophet-like  
They hailed him father to a line of kings:  
Upon my head they placed a fruitless crown.  
For Banquo's issue have I filed my mind;  
For them the gracious Duncan have I murdered.  
To make them kings, the seed of Banquo kings!  
Rather than so, come fate into the list.  
And champion me to the utterance! Who's there!

*Exit ATTENDANT.*

*Re-enter ATTENDANT, with two MURDERERS.*

**MACBETH**

Now go to the door, and stay there till we call.  
Was it not yesterday we spoke together?

*Exit ATTENDANT.*

**FIRST MURDERER**

It was, so please your highness.

**MACBETH**

Well then, now  
Have you considered of my speeches?  
Both of you know Banquo was your enemy.

**BOTH MURDERERS**

True, my lord.

**MACBETH**

So is he mine; and in such bloody distance,  
That every minute of his being thrusts  
Against my near'st of life.

**SECOND MURDERER**

We shall, my lord,  
Perform what you command us.

**MACBETH**

Your spirits shine through you. Within this hour at most  
I will advise you where to plant yourselves,  
Acquaint you with the perfect spy o'the time,  
The moment on't, for't must be done tonight,  
And something from the palace, always thought  
That I require a clearness. And with him –  
To leave no rubs nor botches in the work –  
Fleance his son, that keeps him company,  
Whose absence is no less material to me  
Than is his father's, must embrace the fate  
Of that dark hour. Resolve yourselves apart:  
I'll come to you anon.

**BOTH MURDERERS**

We are resolved, my lord.

*Exeunt MURDERERS.*

**MACBETH**

It is concluded. Banquo, thy soul's flight,  
If it find heaven, must find it out to-night.

*Exit.*

## ACT 3 SCENE 3

*A park near the palace.  
Enter three MURDERERS.*

### **FIRST MURDERER**

The west yet glimmers with some streaks of day –

### **THIRD MURDERER**

Hark! I hear horses.

### **BANQUO**

*(Within)* Give us a light there, ho!

### **SECOND MURDERER**

Then 'tis he.

### **FIRST MURDERER**

A light, a light!

*Enter BANQUO, and FLEANCE with a torch.*

### **THIRD MURDERER**

'Tis he.

### **FIRST MURDERER**

Stand to't.

### **BANQUO**

It will be rain tonight.

### **SECOND MURDERER**

Let it come down.

*They set upon BANQUO.*

### **BANQUO**

O, treachery! Fly, good Fleance, fly, fly, fly!  
Thou mayst revenge. O slave!

*Dies. FLEANCE escapes.*

### **THIRD MURDERER**

There's but one down: the son is fled.

### **SECOND MURDERER**

We have lost  
Best half of our affair.

### **FIRST MURDERER**

Well, let's away,  
And say how much is done.

*Exeunt.*

## ACT 3 SCENE 4

*The same. Hall in the palace.  
A banquet prepared. Enter MACBETH, LADY MACBETH,  
ROSS, LENNOX, Lords, and ATTENDANTS.*

### **MACBETH**

You know your own degrees; sit down: at first  
And last the hearty welcome.

### **LORDS**

Thanks to your majesty.

### **MACBETH**

Ourself will mingle with society,  
And play the humble host:  
Our hostess keeps her state, but in best time  
We will require her welcome.

### **LADY MACBETH**

Pronounce it for me, sir, to all our friends,  
For my heart speaks they are welcome.

*FIRST MURDERER appears at the door.*

### **MACBETH**

There's blood on thy face.

### **FIRST MURDERER**

'Tis Banquo's then.

### **MACBETH**

'Tis better thee without than he within.  
Is he dispatched?

### **FIRST MURDERER**

My lord, his throat is cut: that I did for him.

### **MACBETH**

Thou art the best o' the cut-throats: yet he's good  
That did the like for Fleance.

### **FIRST MURDERER**

Most royal sir, Fleance is 'scaped.

### **MACBETH**

Then comes my fit again. I had else been perfect,  
Whole as the marble, founded as the rock,  
But now I am cabined, cribbed, confined, bound in  
To saucy doubts and fears. But Banquo's safe?

### **FIRST MURDERER**

Ay, my good lord: safe in a ditch he bides.

**MACBETH**

Thanks for that. Get thee gone: tomorrow  
We'll hear, ourselves, again.

*Exit MURDERER.*

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**LADY MACBETH**

My royal lord,  
You do not give the cheer.

*The GHOST OF BANQUO enters, and sits in MACBETH's place.*

**MACBETH**

Sweet remembrancer!  
Now, good digestion wait on appetite,  
And health on both!

**LENNOX**

May't please your highness sit.

**MACBETH**

The table's full.

**LENNOX**

Here is a place reserved, sir.

**MACBETH**

Where?

**LENNOX**

Here, my good lord. What is't that moves your highness?

**MACBETH**

Which of you have done this?

**LORDS**

What, my good lord?

**MACBETH**

Thou canst not say I did it: never shake  
Thy gory locks at me.

**ROSS**

Gentlemen, rise: his highness is not well.

*The Lords begin to rise.*

**LADY MACBETH**

Sit, worthy friends: my lord is often thus,  
And hath been from his youth. Pray you keep seat,  
The fit is momentary: upon a thought  
He will again be well. *(To Macbeth)* Are you a man?

**MACBETH**

*(To Lady Macbeth)* Ay, and a bold one, that dare look on that  
Which might appal the devil.

**LADY MACBETH**

O, proper stuff!

This is the very painting of your fear:  
This is the air-drawn dagger which you said  
Led you to Duncan. O, these flaws and starts –  
Impostors to true fear. Shame itself!  
Why do you make such faces? When all's done,  
You look but on a stool.

**MACBETH**

Prithee, see there! Behold, look, lo!  
Hence, horrible shadow! Unreal mockery, hence!

*GHOST OF BANQUO vanishes.*

**LADY MACBETH**

What, quite unmanned in folly?

**MACBETH**

If I stand here, I saw him.

**LADY MACBETH**

Fie, for shame!  
You have displaced the mirth, broke the good meeting,  
With most admired disorder.

**MACBETH**

Can such things be,

**LADY MACBETH**

*(To the Lords)* I pray you at once, good night:  
Stand not upon the order of your going,  
But go at once.

**LENNOX**

Good night; and better health  
Attend his majesty!

**LADY MACBETH**

A kind good night to all!

*Exeunt all but MACBETH and LADY MACBETH.*

**MACBETH**

It will have blood, they say: blood will have blood.  
Stones have been known to move and trees to speak.  
I will tomorrow, to the weird sisters:  
More shall they speak. For now I am in blood  
Stepped in so far that, should I wade no more,  
Returning were as tedious as go o'er.  
Strange things I have in head, that will to hand,  
Which must be acted ere they may be scanned.

**LADY MACBETH**

You lack the season of all natures, sleep.

*Exeunt.*

## ACT 4 SCENE 1

*A cavern. In the middle, a boiling cauldron.  
Thunder. Enter the three WITCHES.*

### **FIRST WITCH**

Round about the cauldron go;  
In the poisoned entrails throw.  
Eye of newt and toe of frog,  
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,  
Adder's fork and blindworm's sting,  
Lizard's leg and owlet's wing.

### **ALL**

Double, double toil and trouble:  
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.

*Music.*

### **SECOND WITCH**

By the pricking of my thumbs,  
Something wicked this way comes.  
Open, locks, whoever knocks!

*Enter MACBETH.*

### **MACBETH**

How now, you secret, black, and midnight hags!  
What is't you do?

### **ALL**

A deed without a name.

### **MACBETH**

I conjure you, by that which you profess –  
Howe'er you come to know it – answer me.

### **FIRST WITCH**

Speak.

### **SECOND WITCH**

Demand.

### **THIRD WITCH**

We'll answer.

### **FIRST WITCH**

Say, if thou'dst rather hear it from our mouths,  
Or from our masters?

### **MACBETH**

Call 'em; let me see 'em.

**ALL**

Come high or low;  
Thyself and office deftly show!

*Thunder. FIRST APPARITION: a head in armour.*

**MACBETH**

Tell me, thou unknown power –

**FIRST WITCH**

He knows thy thought:  
Hear his speech, but say thou nought.

**FIRST APPARITION**

Macbeth, Macbeth, Macbeth: beware Macduff;  
Beware the thane of Fife. Dismiss me. Enough.

*Descends.*

**MACBETH**

Whate'er thou art, for thy good caution, thanks:  
Thou hast harped my fear aright: but one word more –

**FIRST WITCH**

He will not be commanded. Here's another,  
More potent than the first.

*Thunder. SECOND APPARITION: a bloody child.*

**SECOND APPARITION**

Macbeth, Macbeth, Macbeth!

**MACBETH**

Had I three ears, I'd hear thee.

**SECOND APPARITION**

Be bloody, bold, and resolute: laugh to scorn  
The power of man, for none of woman born  
Shall harm Macbeth.

*Descends.*

**MACBETH**

Then live, Macduff: what need I fear of thee?  
But yet I'll make assurance double sure,  
And take a bond of fate: thou shalt not live,  
That I may tell pale-hearted fear it lies,  
And sleep in spite of thunder.

*Thunder.*

What is this  
That rises like the issue of a king,  
And wears upon his baby-brow the round  
And top of sovereignty?

*THIRD APPARITION: a child crowned, with a tree in his hand.*

**ALL**

Listen, but speak not to't.

### **THIRD APPARITION**

Be lion-mettled, proud, and take no care  
Who chafes, who frets, or where conspirers are:  
Macbeth shall never vanquished be until  
Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill  
Shall come against him.

*Descends.*

### **MACBETH**

That will never be  
Who can impress the forest, bid the tree  
Unfix his earth-bound root? Sweet bodements, good!  
Yet my heart  
Throbs to know one thing: tell me, if your art  
Can tell so much: shall Banquo's issue ever  
Reign in this kingdom?

*Music.*

### **FIRST WITCH**

Show!

### **SECOND WITCH**

Show!

### **THIRD WITCH**

Show!

### **ALL**

Show his eyes, and grieve his heart:  
Come like shadows, so depart!

*A show of Eight Kings, the last GHOST OF BANQUO with a mirror in his hand.*

### **MACBETH**

Thou art too like the spirit of Banquo: down!  
Horrible sight! Now, I see 'tis true,  
For the blood-boltered Banquo smiles upon me,  
And points at them for his.  
What, is this so?

*APPARITIONS vanish.*

### **FIRST WITCH**

Ay, sir, all this is so: but why  
Stands Macbeth thus amazedly?  
Come, sisters, cheer we up his sprites,  
And show the best of our delights:  
I'll charm the air to give a sound,  
While you perform your antic round:  
That this great king may kindly say,  
Our duties did his welcome pay.

*Music. The WITCHES dance and then vanish.*

**MACBETH**

Where are they? Gone? Come in, without there!  
Saw you the weird sisters?

*Enter LENNOX.*

**LENNOX**

No, my lord.

**MACBETH**

Infected be the air whereon they ride,  
And damned all those that trust them. I did hear  
The galloping of horse: who was't came by?

**LENNOX**

'Tis two or three, my lord, that bring you word  
Macduff is fled to England.

**MACBETH**

Fled to England!

**LENNOX**

Ay, my good lord.

**MACBETH**

The castle of Macduff I will surprise,  
Seize upon Fife. Where are these gentlemen?  
Come, bring me where they are.

*Exeunt.*

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**ACT 4 SCENE 2**

*Fife. Macduff's castle.  
Enter LADY MACDUFF, her SON, and ROSS.*

**LADY MACDUFF**

What had he done, to make him fly the land?

**ROSS**

You must have patience, madam.

**LADY MACDUFF**

Macduff had none:  
His flight was madness: when our actions do not,  
Our fears do make us traitors.

**ROSS**

You know not  
Whether it was his wisdom or his fear.

**LADY MACDUFF**

Wisdom? To leave his wife, to leave his babes,  
His mansion and his titles in a place  
From whence himself does fly? He loves us not.

**ROSS**

My dearest coz,  
Things at the worst will cease, or else climb upward  
To what they were before. My pretty cousin,  
Blessing upon you!

*Exit.*

**LADY MACDUFF**

Sirrah, your father's dead, and what will you do now?

**SON**

Was my father a traitor, mother?

**LADY MACDUFF**

Ay, that he was.

**SON**

What is a traitor?

**LADY MACDUFF**

Why, one that swears and lies.

**SON**

And be all traitors that do so?

**LADY MACDUFF**

Every one that does so is a traitor, and must be hanged.  
What are these faces?

*Enter MURDERERS.*

**FIRST MURDERER**

Where is your husband?

**LADY MACDUFF**

I hope, in no place so unsanctified  
Where such as thou mayst find him.

**SECOND MURDERER**

He's a traitor.

**SON**

Thou liest, thou shag-haired villain!

**SECOND MURDERER**

What, you egg?

*Stabbing him.*

**SON**

He has killed me, mother. Run away, I pray you!

*Dies.*

*Exit LADY MACDUFF, crying 'Murder!' with MURDERERS, following her.*

## ACT 4 SCENE 3

*England. Before the King's palace.  
Enter MALCOLM and MACDUFF.*

**MALCOLM**

Let us seek out some desolate shade, and there  
Weep our sad bosoms empty.

**MACDUFF**

I have lost my hopes.

**MALCOLM**

Perchance even there where I did find my doubts.  
I think our country sinks beneath the yoke;  
It weeps, it bleeds; and each new day a gash  
Is added to her wounds: I think withal  
There would be hands uplifted in my right;  
And here from gracious England have I offer  
Of goodly thousands:  
Old Siward, with ten thousand warlike men,  
Already at a point, was setting forth.

*Enter ROSS.*

**MACDUFF**

See, who comes here?  
My countryman; but yet I know him not.

**MACDUFF**

My ever-gentle cousin, welcome hither.

**MACDUFF**

Stands Scotland where it did?

**ROSS**

Alas, poor country!  
Almost afraid to know itself. It cannot  
Be called our mother, but our grave; where nothing,  
But who knows nothing, is once seen to smile;

**MALCOLM**

What's the newest grief?

**ROSS**

That of an hour's age doth hiss the speaker:  
Each minute teems a new one.

**MACDUFF**

How does my wife?

**ROSS**

Let not your ears despise my tongue for ever,  
Which shall possess them with the heaviest sound  
That ever yet they heard.

**MACDUFF**

Hum! I guess at it.

**ROSS**

Your castle is surprised; your wife and babes  
Savagely slaughtered: to relate the manner,  
Were, on the quarry of these murdered deer,  
To add the death of you.

**MALCOLM**

Merciful heaven!  
Give sorrow words: the grief that does not speak  
Whispers the o'er-fraught heart and bids it break.

**MACDUFF**

My children too?

**ROSS**

Wife, children, servants, all  
That could be found.

**MACDUFF**

And I must be from thence!  
He has no children. All my pretty ones?  
Did you say all? O hell-kite! All?  
What, all my pretty chickens and their dam  
At one fell swoop?

**MALCOLM**

Dispute it like a man.

**MACDUFF**

I shall do so;  
But I must also feel it as a man:  
I cannot but remember such things were,  
That were most precious to me. Did heaven look on,  
And would not take their part?

**MALCOLM**

Be this the whetstone of your sword: let grief  
Convert to anger; blunt not the heart, enrage it.  
Come, go we to the king; our power is ready;  
Our lack is nothing but our leave; Macbeth  
Is ripe for shaking, and the powers above  
Put on their instruments. Receive what cheer you may:  
The night is long that never finds the day.

*Exeunt.*

## ACT 5 SCENE 1

*Dunsinane. Ante-room in the castle.  
Enter a Doctor and a Waiting-Gentlewoman.*

### **DOCTOR**

I have two nights watched with you, but can perceive no truth in your report. When was it she last walked?

### **GENTLEWOMAN**

Since his majesty went into the field, I have seen her rise from her bed, throw her night-gown upon her, unlock her closet, take forth paper, fold it, write upon't, read it, afterwards seal it, and again return to bed; yet all this while in a most fast sleep. *Enter LADY MACBETH.*

Lo you, here she comes! This is her very guise; and, upon my life, fast asleep. Observe her; stand close.

### **DOCTOR**

You see, her eyes are open.

### **GENTLEWOMAN**

Ay, but their sense is shut.

### **DOCTOR**

What is it she does now? Look, how she rubs her hands.

### **GENTLEWOMAN**

It is an accustomed action with her, to seem thus washing her hands: I have known her continue in this a quarter of an hour.

### **LADY MACBETH**

Yet here's a spot.

### **DOCTOR**

Hark! She speaks: I will set down what comes from her, to satisfy my remembrance the more strongly.

### **LADY MACBETH**

Out, damned spot! Out, I say! – One: two: why, then, 'tis time to do't. – Hell is murky! – Fie, my lord, fie! A soldier, and afeard? – What need we fear who knows it, when none can call our power to account? – Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him.

### **DOCTOR**

Do you mark that? Go to, go to: you have known what you should not.

### **GENTLEWOMAN**

She has spoke what she should not, I am sure of that. Heaven knows what she has known.

### **DOCTOR**

This disease is beyond my practice; yet I have known those which have walked in their sleep who have died holily in their beds.

### **LADY MACBETH**

Wash your hands; put on your nightgown; look not so pale. I tell you yet again, Banquo's buried; he cannot come out on's grave.

**DOCTOR**

Even so?

**LADY MACBETH**

To bed, to bed! There's knocking at the gate. Come, come, come, come, give me your hand. What's done cannot be undone. To bed, to bed, to bed!

*Exit.*

**DOCTOR**

Will she go now to bed?

**GENTLEWOMAN**

Directly.

**DOCTOR**

More needs she the divine than the physician.  
God, God forgive us all! Look after her,  
Remove from her the means of all annoyance  
And still keep eyes upon her. So, good night.  
My mind she has mated, and amazed my sight.  
I think, but dare not speak.

**GENTLEWOMAN**

Good night, good doctor.

*Exeunt.*

# 29

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**ACT 5 SCENE 2**

*The country near Dunsinane.*

*Drum and colours. Enter MENTEITH, CAITHNESS, ANGUS, LENNOX, and Soldiers.*

**MENTEITH**

The English power is near, led on by Malcolm,  
His uncle Siward and the good Macduff:  
Revenge burn in them.

**ANGUS**

Near Birnam wood  
Shall we well meet them; that way are they coming.

**CAITHNESS**

Who knows if Donalbain be with his brother?

**LENNOX**

For certain, sir, he is not.

**MENTEITH**

What does the tyrant?

**CAITHNESS**

Great Dunsinane he strongly fortifies.  
Some say he's mad. Others that lesser hate him,  
Do call it valiant fury; but for certain,  
He cannot buckle his distempered cause  
Within the belt of rule.

**ANGUS**

Now does he feel  
His secret murders sticking on his hands.  
Those he commands move only in command,  
Nothing in love. Now does he feel his title  
Hang loose about him like a giant's robe  
Upon a dwarfish thief.

**CAITHNESS**

Well, march we on  
To give obedience where 'tis truly owed.

**LENNOX**

Make we our march towards Birnam.

*Exeunt, marching.*

# 30

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## ACT 5 SCENE 3

*Dunsinane. A room in the castle.  
Enter MACBETH, DOCTOR, and ATTENDANTS.*

**MACBETH**

Bring me no more reports; let them fly all.  
Till Birnam wood remove to Dunsinane,  
I cannot taint with fear. What's the boy Malcolm?  
Was he not born of woman? The spirits that know  
All mortal consequences have pronounced me thus:  
'Fear not, Macbeth; no man that's born of woman  
Shall e'er have power upon thee.'  
Seyton! Seyton, I say!

*Enter SEYTON.*

**SEYTON**

What is your gracious pleasure?

**MACBETH**

Give me my armour.

**SEYTON**

'Tis not needed yet.

**MACBETH**

I'll put it on.  
Send out more horses, skirr the country round,  
Hang those that talk of fear. – Give me mine armour. –  
How does your patient, doctor?

**DOCTOR**

Not so sick, my lord,  
As she is troubled with thick coming fancies,  
That keep her from her rest.

**MACBETH**

Cure her of that.  
Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased,  
Raze out the written troubles of the brain  
And with some sweet oblivious antidote  
Cleanse the stuffed bosom of that perilous stuff  
Which weighs upon the heart?

**DOCTOR**

Therein the patient  
Must minister to himself.

**MACBETH**

Throw physic to the dogs! I'll none of it.  
Come, put mine armour on, give me my staff.  
I will not be afraid of death and bane,  
Till Birnam forest come to Dunsinane.

*Exit.*

**DOCTOR**

Were I from Dunsinane away and clear,  
Profit again should hardly draw me here.

*Exeunt.*

# 31

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**ACT 5 SCENE 4**

*Country near Birnam wood.  
Drum and colours. Enter MALCOLM, SIWARD MENTEITH and other soilders.  
(including perhaps YOUNG SIWARD, MACDUFF,  
CAITHNESS, ANGUS, LENNOX, ROSS).*

**MALCOLM**

Cousins, I hope the days are near at hand  
That chambers will be safe.

**MENTEITH**

We doubt it nothing.

**SIWARD**

What wood is this before us?

**MENTEITH**

The wood of Birnam.

**MALCOLM**

Let every soldier hew him down a bough  
And bear't before him; thereby shall we shadow  
The numbers of our host and make discovery  
Err in report of us.

**SOLDIERS**

It shall be done.

**SIWARD**

The time approaches  
That will with due decision make us know  
What we shall say we have and what we owe.  
Thoughts speculative their unsure hopes relate,  
But certain issue strokes must arbitrate:  
Towards which advance the war.

*Exeunt, marching.*

# 32

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**ACT 5 SCENE 5**

*Dunsinane. Within the castle.  
Enter MACBETH and Soldiers, with drum and colours.*

**MACBETH**

Hang out our banners on the outward walls;  
The cry is still 'They come.'  
A cry of women within  
What is that noise?

*Enter SEYTON.*

**SEYTON**

The queen, my lord, is dead.

**MACBETH**

She should have died hereafter.  
There would have been a time for such a word.  
Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow,  
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day  
To the last syllable of recorded time;  
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools  
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!  
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player  
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage  
And then is heard no more. It is a tale  
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,  
Signifying nothing.

Enter a MESSENGER.

**MESSENGER**

Gracious my lord,  
I should report that which I say I saw,  
But know not how to do it.

**MACBETH**

Well, say, sir.

**MESSENGER**

As I did stand my watch upon the hill,  
I looked toward Birnam and anon methought,  
The wood began to move.

**MACBETH**

Liar and slave!

**MESSENGER**

Let me endure your wrath, if't be not so.

**MACBETH**

'Fear not, till Birnam wood  
Do come to Dunsinane' – and now a wood  
Comes toward Dunsinane. Arm, arm, and out!  
If this which he avouches does appear,  
There is nor flying hence nor tarrying here.  
I 'gin to be aweary of the sun,  
And wish the estate o' the world were now undone.  
Ring the alarum-bell! – Blow, wind! Come, wrack!  
At least we'll die with harness on our back.

*Exeunt.*

# 33

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ACT 5 SCENE 6

*Dunsinane. Before the castle.  
Drum and colours. Enter MALCOLM, SIWARD, MACDUFF,  
and their Army, with boughs.*

**MALCOLM**

Now near enough. Your leafy screens throw down,  
And show like those you are. You, worthy uncle,  
Shall, with my cousin, your right noble son,  
Lead our first battle. Worthy Macduff and we  
Shall take upon's what else remains to do,  
According to our order.

**SIWARD**

Fare you well.  
Do we but find the tyrant's power tonight,  
Let us be beaten, if we cannot fight.

**MACDUFF**

Make all our trumpets speak; give them all breath,  
Those clamorous harbingers of blood and death.

*Exeunt.*

# 34

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## ACT 5 SCENE 7

*Another part of the field.  
Alarums. Enter MACBETH and YOUNG SIWARD.*

**YOUNG SIWARD**

What is thy name?

**MACBETH**

Thou'lt be afraid to hear it.

**YOUNG SIWARD**

No, though thou call'st thyself a hotter name  
Than any is in hell.

**MACBETH**

My name's Macbeth.

**YOUNG SIWARD**

The devil himself could not pronounce a title  
More hateful to mine ear.

**MACBETH**

No, nor more fearful.

**YOUNG SIWARD**

Thou liest, abhorred tyrant! With my sword  
I'll prove the lie thou speak'st.

*They fight and YOUNG SIWARD is slain.*

**MACBETH**

Thou wast born of woman  
But swords I smile at, weapons laugh to scorn,  
Brandished by man that's of a woman born.

*Alarums.*

## ACT 5 SCENE 8

*The same.  
Enter MACDUFF.*

### **MACDUFF**

Turn, hell-hound, turn!

### **MACBETH**

Of all men else I have avoided thee:  
But get thee back; my soul is too much charged  
With blood of thine already.

### **MACDUFF**

I have no words:  
My voice is in my sword!

*They fight.*

### **MACBETH**

Thou lovest labour:  
I bear a charmed life, which must not yield,  
To one of woman born.

### **MACDUFF**

Despair thy charm;  
And let the angel whom thou still hast served  
Tell thee, Macduff was from his mother's womb  
Untimely ripped.

### **MACBETH**

Accursed be that tongue that tells me so,  
I'll not fight with thee.

### **MACDUFF**

Then yield thee, coward,  
And live to be the show and gaze o' the time:  
We'll have thee, as our rarer monsters are,  
Painted on a pole, and underwrit,  
'Here may you see the tyrant.'

### **MACBETH**

I will not yield,  
To kiss the ground before young Malcolm's feet,  
And to be baited with the rabble's curse.  
Though Birnam wood be come to Dunsinane,  
And thou opposed, being of no woman born,  
Yet I will try the last. Before my body  
I throw my warlike shield. Lay on, Macduff,  
And damn'd be him that first cries, 'Hold, enough!'

*Exeunt, fighting. Alarums.*

*Retreat. Flourish. Enter, with drum and colours, MALCOLM, SIWARD, ROSS, the other Thanes, and Soldiers.*

**MALCOLM**

I would the friends we miss were safe arrived.

**SIWARD**

Some must go off: and yet, by these I see,  
So great a day as this is cheaply bought.

**MALCOLM**

Macduff is missing, and your noble son.

**ROSS**

Your son, my lord, has paid a soldier's debt:  
He only lived but till he was a man;  
And like a man he died.

**SIWARD**

Then he is dead?

**ROSS**

Ay, and brought off the field.

**SIWARD**

Why then, God's soldier be he!  
Had I as many sons as I have hairs,  
I would not wish them to a fairer death:  
And so, his knell is knolled. Here comes new comfort.

*Re-enter MACDUFF, with MACBETH's head.*

**MACDUFF**

Hail, king! For so thou art: behold, where stands  
The usurper's cursed head: the time is free:  
I see thee compassed with thy kingdom's pearl,  
That speak my salutation in their minds;  
Whose voices I desire aloud with mine:  
Hail, King of Scotland!

**ALL**

Hail, King of Scotland!

*Flourish.*

**MALCOLM**

We shall not spend a large expense of time  
Before we reckon with your several loves,  
And make us even with you. My thanes and kinsmen,

Henceforth be earls, the first that ever Scotland  
In such an honour named. What needful else  
That calls upon us, by the grace of Grace,  
We will perform in measure, time and place:  
So, thanks to all at once and to each one,  
Whom we invite to see us crowned at Scone.

*Flourish. Exeunt*