

Macbeth

By William Shakespeare
Edited to bits by Farrar Williams

Cast

Macbeth
Lady Macbeth
Queen Duncan
Malcolm
Donalbain
Lennox
Ross
Banquo
Fleance
Macduff

A Doctor
A Lady
A Captain
A Messenger
Soldiers

Hecate
First Witch
Second Witch
Third Witch
First Child
Second Child

ACT I

SCENE I

Outdoors, dark, foggy and eerie.

ENTER WITCHES

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

SECOND WITCH: When the hurly-burly's done,
When the battle's lost and won.

THIRD WITCH: That will be before the set of sun.

FIRST WITCH: Where is the place?

SECOND WITCH: Upon the heath.

THIRD WITCH: There to meet with MacBeth.

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

EXIT WITCHES

ACT I

SCENE II

Duncan's Castle

ENTER DUNCAN, CAPTAIN, MALCOLM, DONALBAIN, and LENNOX. CAPTAIN is bleeding and weak.

DUNCAN:
What bloody man is that?

MALCOLM:
This is the sergeant
Who like a good and hardy soldier fought
Against my captivity. Hail, brave friend!

CAPTAIN:
All's too weak for brave MacBeth - well, he deserves that name.
He faced the villain my captor
never shood hands nor bade farewell to him
Till he unseamed him from the nave to the chaps
And fixed his head upon our battlements.

DUNCAN:
O valiant cousin, worthy gentlemen!
So well thy words become thee as they wounds,
They smack of honor both. Go get him surgeons.

EXIT ALL

ACT I

SCENE III

On the heath

ENTER MACBETH and BANQUO

MACBETH:
So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

ENTER WITCHES

BANQUO:
Fouler still as the day goes on, Macbeth.
What are these so withered and so wild in their attire
That look not like inhabitants of the earth and yet are on it?

FIRST WITCH:
All hail Macbeth, Thane of Glamis!

SECOND WITCH:
All hail Macbeth, Thane of Cawdor!

THIRD WITCH:
All hail Macbeth, who shall one day be king!

BANQUO:
Why fear what sounds so fair?
If you can look into the seeds of time
And say which grain will grow and which will not,
Then speak to me of what MY life shall be!

ALL WITCHES:
Hail!

FIRST WITCH:
Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.

SECOND WITCH:
Not so happy, yet much happier.

THIRD WITCH:
Thou shalt be the father of kings, though thou be none.

ALL WITCHES:
So hail Macbeth and Banquo!

EXIT WITCHES

MACBETH:
Your children shall be kings!

BANQUO:
YOU shall be king!

MACBETH:
And thane of Cawdor too, went it not so?

ENTER ROSS and LENNOX

ROSS:
Hail, Thane of Cawdor!

MACBETH:
Why do you dress me in borrowed robes? The Thane of Cawdor lives!

LENNOX:
Not for long. He has betrayed the king and is condemned to die.
His land and title come from Duncan's hand to thee,
In gratitude for your great deeds in battle.

BANQUO:
Be not too eager. Remember, the powers of darkness
May use a bit of truth to lure a man to doom.

MACBETH:
Come what may.
Time and the hour runs through the roughest day.
Let us toward the king!

EXIT ALL

ACT I

SCENE IV

Macbeth's Castle

ENTER LADY MACBETH, reading a letter

LADY MACBETH:

Yet I do fear your nature, my husband.
It is too full of the milk of human kindness
To catch the nearest way. I shall have to urge thee on.

ENTER MACBETH

MACBETH:

My dearest love. Duncan comes here tonight.

LADY MACBETH:

Tonight! And when does he leave?

MACBETH:

Tomorrow.

LADY MACBETH:

Never shall tomorrow come, my lord.
Your face is like a book where I may read strange matters.
Let no one else see. Look like the innocent flower,
But be the serpent under it. Leave all the rest to me.

EXIT MACBETH and LADY MACBETH

Servants bustle through preparing for the feast.

ENTER LADY MACBETH followed by DUNCAN. Lady Macbeth greets the king.

DUNCAN:

Fair and noble hostess, we are your guest tonight.
Give me your hand. Conduct me to mind host; we love him highly
And shall continue our graces toward him.
By your leave, hostess.

EXIT ALL

ENTER MACBETH

MACBETH:

If it were done, would be well
To do it quickly...
The king is here in double trust:
First, I am his kinsman and his subject,
Then, I am his host.
I should shut the door against his murderer,
Not bear the knife myself-

ENTER LADY MACBETH

MACBETH:

We will proceed no further in this business!

LADY MACBETH:

Would you live a coward in your own esteem,
Letting "I dare not" wait upon "I would"?

MACBETH:

I pray thee, peace.
I dare do all that may become a man - no more.

LADY MACBETH:

What made you bring this idea to me?
When you did, THEN you were a man.

MACBETH:

And if we should fail?

LADY MACBETH:

Fail?
Are you afraid to claim your greatness?
Screw your courage to the sticking place!

MACBETH:

I am settled upon this terrible deed.
Away, and mock the time with fairest show.
False face must hide what the false heart doth know.

ACT II

SCENE I

ENTER BANQUO and FLEANCE

BANQUO:
How goes the night, boy?

FLEANCE:
The moon is down; I have no heard the clock.

BANQUO:
And she goes down at twelve.

FLEANCE:
I take it, it's later, sir.

ENTER MACBETH and SERVANT, with a torch)

BANQUO:
Who's there?

MACBETH:
A friend.

BANQUO:
What, sir, not yet at rest? The king's abed. I dreamt last night of the three weird sisters. To you they have shown some truth.

EXIT BANQUO, SERVANT, and FLEANCE

MACBETH:
Is this a dagger I see before me, the handle toward my hand?
Come, let me clutch thee.
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.

Bell sounds.

MACBETH:
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 MACBETH

ACT II

SCENE II

A pantomime of the drugging of the guards and the killing of Duncan. Duncan's body stays onstage. A cry from off stage is heard.

ENTER MACBETH and LADY MACBETH. Macbeth carries the bloody daggers.

LADY MACBETH:

Why did you bring these with you? Get some water and wash this filthy witness from your hands.

MACBETH:

I'll go no more. I am afraid to think what I have done.

LADY MACBETH:

Infirm of purpose! Give me the daggers!

Knocking.

MACBETH:

Whence is that knocking?
Why is it that every noise appalls me?
What hands are these? Ha!
This hand will turn the green seas red.

LADY MACBETH:

My hands are of your color, but I shame
To wear a heart so white.

Knocking.

LADY MACBETH:

I hear a knocking at the south entry.
Let us go to our chamber.
A little water clears us of this deed.
How easy it is then!

MACBETH:

To know my deed, it would be best not to know myself.

Knocking.

I would we could wake Duncan with thy knocking!

EXIT MACBETH and LADY MACBETH

ACT II

SCENE III

Knocking.

ENTER MACDUFF and LENNOX from one side and MACBETH from the other.

MACDUFF:

Good morrow, sir. The king did command me to call timely on him. I have almost slipped the hour.

MACBETH:

I will bring you to him.

This is the door.

EXIT MACDUFF

LENNOX:

The night has been unruly.

Chimneys were blown down

And strange screams of death seemed to fill the air.

MACBETH:

Twas a rough night.

ENTER MACDUFF

MACDUFF:

Oh horror, horror, horror! Confusion now hath made his masterpiece! Ring the alarm bell! Rouse the house! Murder and treason!

ENTER MALCOLM and DONALBAIN, LADY MACBETH, and BANQUO)

DONALBAIN:

What is amiss?

MACDUFF:

Your royal father's murdered.

MALCOLM:

By whom?

MACDUFF:

It would seem the very men who were pledged to guard him.

LENNOX:

Those of his chamber, it seems have done it.

Their hands and faces were all badged with blood.

MACBETH:

Oh, I do repent me of my fury
That I did kill them.
Who could be loyal to the king and neutral, in a moment?

LADY MACBETH:

Oh, help me hence! *(She swoons as if to faint.)*

MACDUFF:

Look to the lady.

EXIT ALL except MALCOLM and DONALBAIN

MALCOLM:

What will you do? Let's not consort with them. 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: the near in blood,
The nearer bloody.

MALCOLM:

And let us not be dainty of leave-taking.

EXIT MALCOLM and DONALBAIN

ACT III

SCENE I

ENTER BANQUO

BANQUO:

(aside) Thou hast it now: king, Cawdor, Glamis, all,
As the weird women promised, and, I fear,
Thou play'dst most foully for't.

ENTER MACBETH

MACBETH:

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

BANQUO:

Let your highness command upon me.

MACBETH:

Fail not our feast.

BANQUO:

My lord, I will not.

EXIT BANQUO

MACBETH:

Our fears in Banquo stick deep.
No son of mine succeeding. If 't be so,
For Banquo's issue have I filed my mind;
For them the gracious Duncan have I murder'd.

ENTER MURDERER

MACBETH:

You know that Banquo was your enemy.

MURDERER:

True, my lord.

MACBETH:

So is he mine.

MURDERER:

I shall, my lord, perform what you command.

EXIT ALL

ACT III

SCENE II

ENTER LADY MACBETH, MACBETH, LENNOX, ROSS, and LORDS. Banquet begins and is pantomimed.

ENTER BANQUO'S GHOST

MACBETH:
Which of you has done this?

LENNOX:
What, my good lord?

MACBETH:
Thou can not say I did it. Never shake your gory locks at me!

ROSS:
Gentlemen, rise. His highness is not well.

EXIT BANQUO'S GHOST

EXIT ALL

ACT IV

SCENE I

The heath

FIRST WITCH:

How now, Hecate? You look angerly.

HECATE:

Have I not reason, beldams as you are,
Saucy and overbold? How did you dare
To trade and traffic with Macbeth
In riddles and affairs of death;
And I, the mistress of your charms,
The close contriver of all harms,
Was never call'd to bear my part,
Or show the glory of our art?

FIRST WITCH:

Thrice the brinded cat hath mew'd.

SECOND WITCH:

Thrice, and once the hedgepig whined.

THIRD WITCH:

Harpier cries - 'Tis time, 'tis time!

ALL WITCHES:

Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting,
Lizard's leg and owlet's wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.

HECATE:

O well done! I commend your pains;
And every one shall share i' the gains;
And now about the cauldron sing,
Live elves and fairies in a ring,
Enchanting all that you put in.

(They circle the cauldron.)

SECOND WITCH:

By the pricking of my thumbs,

Something wicked this way comes.
Open, locks,
Whoever knocks!

ENTER MACBETH

MACBETH:
How now, you secret midnight hags!
What is it you do?

ALL WITCHES:
A deed without a name!

ENTER APPARITIONS as they speak. GHOSTS of DUNCAN and BANQUO stand behind the APPARITIONS

HECATE:
(drawing out the armored head and holding it aloft)
Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! beware Macduff;
Beware the thane of Fife. Dismiss me. Enough.

BLOODY CHILD:
None of woman born
Shall harm Macbeth.

CROWNED CHILD:
Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be until
Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill
Shall come against him.

EXIT APPARITIONS, GHOSTS and WITCHES

ENTER LENNOX

MACBETH:
Saw you the weird sisters?

LENNOX:
No, my lord! Macduff has fled to England!

MACBETH:
To England!
The castle of Macduff I will surprise;
Seize upon Fife; give to the edge o' the sword
His wife, his babes, and all unfortunate souls
That trace him in his line.

EXIT ALL

ACT IV

SCENE II

England

ENTER MACDUFF and MALCOLM followed by ROSS

MACDUFF:
My children too?
My wife kill'd too?

ROSS:
I have said.

MACDUFF:
Bleed, bleed, poor country!
Great tyranny!
Not in the legions
Of horrid hell can come a devil more damn'd
In evils to top Macbeth.

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.

ACT V

SCENE I

Macbeth's castle

ENTER LADY MACBETH sleepwalking followed by SERVANT and DOCTOR. Lady Macbeth mimes washing her hands.

LADY MACBETH:

Out, damned spot! out, I say!
Who would have thought the old man
to have had so much blood in him.

LADY:

She has spoke what she should not.

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!

DOCTOR:

This disease is beyond my practice
More needs she the divine than the physician.
God, God forgive us all! Look after her.

ACT V

SCENE II

Macbeth's castle

ENTER MACBETH

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?

ENTER MESSENGER

MACBETH:
The devil damn thee black, thou cream-faced loon!
Where got'st thou that goose look?

MESSENGER:
There is ten thousand...

MACBETH:
Geese?

MESSENGER:
Soldiers, sir!

MACBETH:
Go prick thy face, and over-red thy fear,
Thou lily-liver'd boy. What soldiers, patch?

MESSENGER:
The English force, so please you.

MACBETH:
I'll fight till from my bones my flesh be hack'd.
Give me my armour.

A cry is heard from offstage.

EXIT MACBETH

ENTER MALCOLM and SOLDIERS with branches in front of their faces. They march across the stage.

ENTER MACBETH followed by MESSENGER

MESSENGER:
The queen is dead.

MACBETH:
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.

Macbeth cries out and runs to the battle. ENTER MACDUFF, MALCOLM, LENNOX, and ROSS and other SOLDIERS

Fighting across the stage. EXIT ALL except MACDUFF and MACBETH

MACDUFF:
Yield thee, coward!

MACBETH:
I will not yield,
To kiss the ground before young Malcolm's feet.

EXIT MACDUFF and MACBETH, still fighting.

ENTER MALCOLM, ROSS, LENNOX, and SOLDIERS followed by MACDUFF with MACBETH's head.

MACDUFF:
Hail, king! for so thou art: behold, where stands
The usurper's cursed head

ALL:
Hail, King of Scotland!

MALCOLM:
So ends our tale of this dead butcher and his fiend-like queen,
Who, as 'tis thought, by self and violent hands
Took off her life; this, and 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 crown'd at Scone.

EXIT ALL