

Macbeth

by William Shakespeare
Edited by Nathan Criman

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Story of the Play

Edited for time and archaic expressions this version of "The Scottish Play" moves quickly and tensely. The dagger speech is cut down, but could be re-inserted in its entirety. Full evening.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

MACBETH: A general of the Scottish army.
LADY MACBETH
BANQUO: A general of the Scottish army.
MACDUFF: Scottish nobleman.
LENNOX: Scottish nobleman.
ROSS: Scottish nobleman.
ANGUS: Scottish nobleman.
DUNCAN: King of Scotland.
MALCOLM: Son of Duncan.
DONALBAIN: Son of Duncan.
THREE WITCHES
HECATE
LADY MACDUFF
SON OF MACDUFF
FLEANCE: Son of Banquo.
GENTLEWOMAN: Attendant to Lady Macbeth.
A SCOTTISH DOCTOR
A SERGEANT
A PORTER
AN OLD MAN / WOMAN
SIWARD: Earl of Northumberland; general of the English forces.
YOUNG SIWARD: Son of Siward.
SEYTON: An officer attending on Macbeth.
MENTEITH: Scottish nobleman.
CAITHNESS: Scottish nobleman.
AN ENGLISH DOCTOR
APPARITIONS
LORDS, GENTLEMEN, OFFICERS, SOLDIERS,
MURDERERS, ATTENDANTS, MESSENGERS

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1: *An open place.*

Scene 2: *A camp near Forres.*

Scene 3: *A heath. Thunder.*

Scene 4: *Forres. A room in the palace.*

Scene 5: *Inverness. A room in Macbeth's castle.*

Scene 6: *Inverness. Before Macbeth's castle.*

Scene 7: *Inverness. A lobby in Macbeth's castle.*

ACT II

Scene 1: *Inverness. Court of Macbeth's castle.*

Scene 2: *Inverness. Court of Macbeth's castle.*

Scene 3: *Inverness. Court of Macbeth's castle.*

Scene 4: *Without Macbeth's castle.*

ACT III

Scene 1: *Forres. The palace.*

Scene 2: *Forres. The palace.*

Scene 3: *A park, with a gate leading to the palace.*

Scene 4: *A room of state in the palace. Banquet prepared.*

Scene 5: *A heath. Thunder.*

Scene 6: *Forres. A room in the palace.*

ACT IV

Scene 1: *A cavern. In the middle, a caldron boiling. Thunder.*

Scene 2: *A room in Macduff's castle.*

Scene 3: *England. Before the King's palace.*

ACT V

Scene 1: *Dunsinane. A room in the castle.*

Scene 2: *The country near Dunsinane.*

Scene 3: *Dunsinane. A room in the castle.*

Scene 4: *Country near Dunsinane: a wood in view.*

Scene 5: *Dunsinane. Within the castle.*

Scene 6: *Dunsinane. A plain before the castle.*

Scene 7: *Dunsinane. Another part of the plain.*

Scene 8: *Dunsinane. Another part of the plain.*

ACT I
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.

FIRST WITCH: I come, Graymalkin!

SECOND WITCH: Paddock calls:- anon!

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

(Exeunt.)

Scene 2

(A camp near Forres. Alarum within. Enter DUNCAN, MALCOLM, DONALBAIN, LENNOX, with ATTENDANTS, meeting a bleeding SERGEANT.)

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

MALCOLM: This is the sergeant,
Who, like a good and hardy soldier, fought
'Gainst my captivity.- Hail, brave friend!
Say to the king thy knowledge of the broil
As thou didst leave it.

SERGEANT: Doubtful it stood;
As two spent swimmers, that do cling together.
The merciless Macdonwald-
on his damned quarrel smiling,
Show'd like a rebel's whore: but all's too weak;

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For brave Macbeth,- well he deserves that name,-
Disdaining fortune, with his brandish'd steel,
Which smoked with bloody execution,
Carved out his passage till he faced the slave;
And fix'd his head upon our battlements.

DUNCAN: O valiant cousin! worthy gentleman!

SERGEANT: Mark, king of Scotland, mark:
No sooner justice had, with valour arm'd,
But the Norway lord, With furbish'd arms
and new supplies of men,
Began a fresh assault.

DUNCAN: Dismay'd not this
Our captains, Macbeth and Banquo?

SERGEANT: Yes;
As sparrows eagles, or the hare the lion.
So they
Doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe:
Or memorize another Golgotha,
But I am faint, my gashes cry for help.

DUNCAN: So well thy words become thee as thy wounds;
They smack of honour both.- Go get him surgeons.

(Exit SERGEANT, attended.)

DUNCAN: *(Cont'd.)* Who comes here?

(Enter ROSS.)

MALCOLM: The worthy thane of Ross.

LENNOX: What haste looks through his eyes!

ROSS: God save the king!

DUNCAN: Whence camest thou, worthy thane?

ROSS: From Fife, great king;
Where that most disloyal traitor
The thane of Cawdor, began a dismal conflict;
Till that Bellona's bridegroom, brave Macbeth,
Confronted him with self-comparisons,
Point against point rebellious, arm 'gainst arm,
Curbing his lavish spirit:
The victory fell on us.

DUNCAN: Great happiness!

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LENNOX: 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.)

Scene 3

(A heath. Thunder. Enter the three WITCHES.)

FIRST WITCH: Where hast thou been, sister?

SECOND WITCH: Killing swine

THIRD WITCH: Sister, where thou?

FIRST WITCH: A sailor's wife had chestnuts in her lap,
And munch'd, and munch'd, and munch'd:- "Give me," quoth
I:

"Aroint thee, witch!" the rump-fed ronyon cries.

Her husband's to Aleppo gone, master o' th'Tiger:

But in a sieve I'll thither sail,

And, like a rat without a tail,

I'll do, I'll do, and I'll do.

SECOND WITCH: I'll give thee a wind

FIRST WITCH: Th'art kind.

THIRD WITCH: And I another.

FIRST WITCH: I myself have all the other;

And the very ports they blow,

All the quarters that they know

I' th'shipman's card.

I will drain him dry as hay:

Sleep shall neither night nor day

Hang upon his pent-house lid;

He shall live a man forbid:

Weary se'nnights nine times nine

Shall he dwindle, peak, and pine:

Though his bark cannot be lost,

Yet it shall be tempest-toss'd.-

Look what I have

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SECOND WITCH: Show me, show me.

FIRST WITCH: Here I have a pilot's thumb,
Wrack'd as homeward he did come. (*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; SOLDIERS at some distance.*)

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

BANQUO: How far is't call'd to Forres?- What are these
So wither'd, and so wild in their attire,
That look not like th'inhabitants o' th'earth,
And yet are on't?- Live you? or are you aught
That man may question? You seem to understand me,
By each at once her choppy finger laying
Upon her skinny lips:- you should be women,
And yet your beards forbid me to interpret
That you are so.

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, that shalt be king hereafter!

BANQUO: Good sir, why do you start; and seem to fear
Things that do sound so fair?- I' th'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.

End of Freeview

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