

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

End of Freeview

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