

# The Scottish Play- Macbeth

(Hazel Imbert, Jane Moats, Janet Olearski, Shelagh Rixon)  
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## Scene 1

**Narrator:**

This is a play about how the prophecies of three witches change the life of a great Scottish Thane called Macbeth. The three witches are arranging to meet Macbeth in a desolate place on a terrible night full of thunder and lightning.

**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.

**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.

## Scene 2

**Narrator:**

Macbeth and his friend Banquo are on their way to the camp of King Duncan, riding home after defeating the Norwegian army which had been trying to invade Scotland.

**Macbeth:**

So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

**Banquo:**

What are these,  
So withered and so wild in their attire?

**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:**

If you can look into the seeds of time  
And say which grain will grow and which will not. Speak then to me,

**First Witch:**

Hail. 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.

**Macbeth:**

Stay. Tell me more.

I know I am Thane of Glamis,

But how of Cawdor? The Thane of Cawdor lives, and to be king.

*( before Macbeth can get reply the witches vanish)*

**Macbeth:**

Your children shall be kings.

**Banquo:**

You shall be king.

**Macbeth:**

And Thane of Cawdor too.

**Scene 3**

**Narrator:**

While they are talking, two soldiers sent by King Duncan approach them.

**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:**

He bade me, from him, call thee Thane of Cawdor.

**Banquo:**

What, can the devil speak true?

**Macbeth:**

The Thane of Cawdor lives.

**Angus:**

Who was the thane lives yet,

But under judgement of that life

Which he deserves to lose.

**Macbeth:**

Glamis, and Thane of Cawdor!

**Banquo:**

The instruments of darkness tell us truths;  
Win us with honest trifles, to betray's  
In deepest consequence.

#### Scene 4

**Narrator:**

Macbeth and the others ride on to King Duncan's castle where the king thanks Macbeth and Banquo for their service. He also tells them that his eldest son, Malcolm, is to succeed him. Duncan's decision comes as a shock to Macbeth as it was the custom in Scotland for each king to be elected by the Thanes. Moreover, Duncan wants to visit Macbeth to show his gratitude.

**Narrator:**

Macbeth sends a letter to his wife so she may prepare for the king's visit and then rushes off to his castle at Inverness.

**Narrator:**

Lady Macbeth is delighted with her husband's letter and realises that Duncan's visit is the perfect opportunity to make the final prediction come true. When Macbeth arrives home, she persuades Macbeth to murder Duncan. But he struggles with his conscience as he should protect the king, not kill him.

**Lady Macbeth:**

Art thou afeared  
And live a coward in thy own esteem

**Macbeth:**

I dare do all that may become a man  
Who dares do more is none.

**Narrator:**

When Lady Macbeth questions his bravery, he changes his decision not to kill the king. They devise a plan to drug the two men who guard the king at night and kill Duncan with their daggers. Macbeth hesitates but, suddenly, he sees a vision of a dagger covered in blood, with the handle pointing towards him.

**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 a dagger of the mind, a false creation?  
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.

### Scene 5

**Narrator:**

Lady Macbeth is waiting for her husband to return. She has drugged Duncan's bodyguards and left their daggers ready for Macbeth.

**Macbeth:**

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

**Lady Macbeth:**

I heard the owl scream and the crickets cry.

**Macbeth:**

This is a sorry sight.

**Lady Macbeth:**

A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.

**Macbeth:**

Methought I heard a voice cry, "Sleep no more:  
Macbeth doth murder sleep," the innocent sleep  
Still it cried "Sleep no more" to all the house;  
"Glamis hath murdered sleep", and therefore Cawdor  
Shall sleep no more: Macbeth shall sleep no more.

**Lady Macbeth:**

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:**

Give me the daggers.  
The sleeping and the dead  
Are but as pictures.

### Scene 6

**Narrator:**

Lady Macbeth places the daggers near the drugged guards and returns to her husband with blood-stained hands. Suddenly, there is the sound of knocking on the castle door.

**Lady Macbeth:**

Retire we to our chamber;  
A little water clears us of this deed.

How easy is it then!  
Hark, more knocking.  
Get on your night- gown.

**Macbeth:**

Wake Duncan with your knocking:  
I would thou couldst.

### Scene 7

**Narrator:**

Macbeth is coming in his nightclothes to greet Lennox and Macduff.

**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.

**Macbeth:** I'll bring you to him. This is the door.

*( Macbeth and Macduff leave and then come back )*

**Macduff:** O horror, horror, horror.

**Macbeth/ Lennox:** What's the matter?

**Macduff:** Awake, awake!

Ring the alarum bell! Murder and treason!

Banquo and Donaldbain! Malcolm, awake,

As from your graves rise up and walk like spirits

To countenance this horror.

*( Lady Macbeth comes rushing in )*

**Lady Macbeth:** What's the business?

**Macduff:** O gentle lady, 'Tis not for you to hear what I can speak.

*( Banquo joins them )*

**Macduff:** O Banquo, Banquo, our royal master's murdered.

**Lady Macbeth:** What, in our house!

**Banquo:** Too cruel, anywhere.

*( Malcolm and Donaldbain join the others )*

**Donaldbain:** What is amiss?

**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 which, unwiped, we found.  
Upon their pillows.

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

**Macduff:** Wherefore did you do so?

*( Lady Macbeth faints interrupting their conversation)*

**Lady Macbeth:** Help me hence, ho.

*( She is helped to her chamber.)*

**Narrator:**

Malcolm and Donaldbain decide to escape in case they are targets to be murdered next .

**Malcolm:** What will you do? I'll to England.

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

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

**Macduff:** Those that Macbeth has slain.  
They were suborned.

Malcolm and Donaldbain, the king's two sons,  
Are stol'n away and fled, which puts on 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.

## Scene 8

**Narrator:** Macbeth, now king, is afraid of Banquo and his son, Fleance, because Banquo's descendants are to become king after him if the witches' predictions come true. He has invited both men to celebrate his coronation, but he intends to have them killed.

**Macbeth:** Here's our chief guest.  
Tonight we hold a supper sir,  
And I'll request your presence.

**Banquo:** Let your highness command upon me.

**Macbeth:** Ride you this afternoon?

**Banquo:** Ay, my good lord.

**Macbeth:** Is't far you ride?

**Banquo:** As far, my lord, as will fill up the time  
'twixt this and supper.

**Macbeth:** Fail not our feast.

**Banquo:** My lord, I will not.

**Macbeth:** Goes Fleance with you?

**Banquo:** Ay, my good lord.

**Macbeth:** I wish your horses swift and sure of foot.  
Farewell.

**Narrator:**

Macbeth hires some men to commit the murders for him.

**Macbeth:** Both of you know  
Banquo was your enemy.

**Murderers:** True, my lord.

**Macbeth:** So is he mine, and though I could  
With barefaced power sweep him from my  
Sight... yet I must not,  
For certain friends that are both his and mine.  
Whose loves I may not drop...

**Macbeth:** I will advise you where to plant yourselves,  
... for't must be done tonight,  
And something from the palace...

**Murderers:** We are resolved my lord.

## Scene 9

**Lady Macbeth:** My lord, why do you keep alone?  
What's done, is done.

**Macbeth:** ...Better be with the dead  
Whom we have sent to peace.  
... Duncan is in his grave...  
... he sleeps well...

Nothing can touch him further.

**Lady Macbeth:** Come, gentle my lord,  
... be bright and jovial  
Among your guests tonight.

**Macbeth:** So shall I, love.

**Macbeth:** O, full of scorpions is my mind.

**Lady Macbeth:** What's to be done?

**Macbeth:** Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck,  
Till thou applaud the deed.

## Scene 10

**Narrator:**

In a nearby forest the two murderers have been joined by the third and as Banquo passé, they attack.

**Second Murderer:** A light, a light!

**Third Murderer:** 'Tis he.

**Banquo:** It will be rain tonight.

**First Murderer:** Let it come down.

**Banquo:** O, treachery!

Fly, good Fleance, fly, fly, fly!

Thou mayst revenge.

( Banquo dies but *Fleance manages to escape* )

## Scene 10

**Narrator:**

The guests are arriving at Macbeth's celebration banquet. The murderers arrive to give Macbeth the news.

**Macbeth:** There's blood upon thy face.

**First Murderer:** 'Tis Banquo's then.

**Macbeth:** Is he dispatched?

**First Murderer:** My lord, his throat is cut.

**Macbeth:** Thou art the best o'the'cut-throats,  
Yet he's good that did the like for Fleance.

**Second Murderer:** Most royal sir, Fleance is escaped.

**Macbeth:** Then comes my fit again, I had else been  
Perfect.. But Banquo's safe?

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

**Macbeth:** Thanks for that. Get thee gone.

( *The murderers leave* )

**Narrator:**

The guests ask Macbeth to join them at the table.

**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 sees the ghost of Banquo* )

**Macbeth:** Which of you have done this?

**Lords:** What, my good lord?

**Macbeth:** Thou canst not say I did it.

**Ross:** Gentlemen, rise, his highness is not well.



*( They all stand up as Lady Macbeth enters)*

**Lady Macbeth:** Sit, worthy friends. My lord is often thus  
And hath been from his youth...  
The fit is momentary;...  
He will again be well.

*( Lady Macbeth goes to her husband's side and whispers angrily)*

**Lady Macbeth:** Are you a man?

**Macbeth:** Ay, and a bold one.

**Lady Macbeth:** This is the very painting of your fear;  
Why do you make such faces?  
When all's done. You look but on a stool.

**Macbeth:** See there! Behold, look!

... The time has been

That when the brains were out, the man would die,  
And there an end. But now they rise again...  
And push us from our stools. This is more strange...

*(Macbeth tries to calm himself and proposes a toast.)*

**Lady Macbeth:** My noble lord,  
Your worthy friends do lack you

**Macbeth:** ...Come, love and health to all.

Give me some wine; full, full!

And to our dear friend Banquo, whom we miss.

Would he were here!

*(The ghost reappears)*

**Macbeth:** Quit my sight! Let the earth hide thee!

... Thy blood is cold.

**Lady Macbeth:** He grows worse and worse.

At once good night.

**Lennox:** Good night, and better health

Attend his majesty.

**Lady Macbeth:** A kind good night to all.

*( The guests are leaving)*

**Macbeth:** It will have blood they say: blood will have blood.

I will tomorrow – to the weird sisters.

More shall they speak.

**Lady Macbeth:** You lack the season of all natures, sleep.

**Macbeth:** Come, we'll to sleep...

We are yet young in deed.

## Scene 11

**Narrator::**

Many of the Scottish thanes are worried about the terrible state of Scotland under Macbeth's rule. King Edward, the king of England, has given Malcolm an army to overthrow Macbeth.

**First Witch:**

Round about the cauldron go;  
In the poisoned entrails throw.

**All:**

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

**Second Witch:**

Fillet of a fenny snake,  
In the cauldron boil and bake:  
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 howlet's wing,  
For a charm of powerful trouble.  
Like a hell-broth, boil and bubble.

**All:**

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

**Third Witch:**

Scale of dragon, tooth of wolf,  
Witches' mummy, maw and gulf.  
Add the ingredients of our cauldron.

**All:**

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

**Second Witch:**

Cool it with a baboon's blood,  
Then the charm is firm and good.

*( Macbeth is approaching)*

**Second Witch:** By the pricking of my thumbs,  
Something wicked this way comes;  
Open locks, whoever knocks.

**Macbeth:** ...You secret, black, and midnight hags!  
What is it you do?

**All:** A deed without a name.

**Macbeth:** Answer me to what I ask you.

**First Witch:** Speak.

**Second Witch:** Demand.

**Third Witch:** Say id thou'dst rather hear it from our mouths,  
Or from our masters'?

**Macbeth:** Call 'em, let me see 'em.

*(The witches call three apparitions)*

**First Apparition ( an armed head):**

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

**Macbeth:** Whate'er thou art, for thy good caution, thanks;  
Thou has harped my fear alright.

**Second Apparition ( a bloody child):**

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

**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.

**Third Apparition:**

Be... proud, and take no care.  
Macbeth shall never vanquished be until  
Great Birnam Wood to high Dunsinane hill  
Shall come against him.

**Macbeth:** That will never be:

Who can impress the forest, bid the tree?

## Scene 12

**Narrator:**

Lennox comes to Macbeth with urgent news that Macduff has gone to England to see Malcolm. Macbeth decides to attack Macduff's castle and murder everyone in it. The Ross arrives from Macduff's castle and tells about the murder of his family. Macduff cannot hide his grief and wants revenge. He asks Malcolm and Ross to lead their army towards Scotland.

**Narrator:**

The Scottish lords are also gathering an army against Macbeth. They arrange to meet Malcolm and his army near Birnam Wood.

**Narrator:**

Back in Scotland, Lady Macbeth's gentlewoman is worried about her mistress and has asked the Doctor to watch her sleep-walking.

**Gentlewoman:**

Since his majesty went into the field, I have seen her rise from her bed, throw her night- gown upon her...and again return to bed, yet all this while in a most fast sleep.

**Doctor:**

Besides her walking...

What at any time have you heard her say?

**Gentlewoman:**

That, sir, which I will not report after her.

**Doctor:**

You may to me.

**Gentlewoman:**

Neither to you, nor anyone.

*(Lady Macbeth enters)*

**Gentlewoman:**

Lo you, here she comes.

Fast asleep. Observe her, stand close.

**Doctor:**

You see her eyes are open.

**Gentlewoman:**

Ay, but their sense are 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.

**Lady Macbeth:**

Yet here's a spot.

**Doctor:**

Hark, she speaks.

**Lady Macbeth:**

Out damned spot! Out, I say!

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?

**Lady Macbeth:**

The Thane of Cawdor had a wife. Where is she now?

What will these ne'er be clean?

**Doctor:**

Go to, go to; you have known what you should not.

**Gentlewoman:**

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

**Lady Macbeth:**

Here's the smell of blood still;

all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand. O,O,O.

**Doctor:**

Well, well, well...

**Lady Macbeth:**

Wash your hands, put on your night- gown, look not so pale.  
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:**

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, and still keep eyes upon her. So, good night.

**Gentlewoman:**

Good night, dear doctor.

**Scene 13**

**Narrator:**

Macbeth is in Dunsinane Castle, angry at the news that soldiers are deserting from his army. The English army is approaching his castle.

**Macbeth:**

Bring me no more reports;  
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  
...have pronounced me thus:  
'Fear not, Macbeth, no man that's born of woman  
Shall e'er have power upon thee.'

**Macbeth:**

I'll fight till from my bones my flesh be hacked.  
Give me my armour.  
I will not be afraid of death and bane,  
Till Birnam Forest come to Dunsinane.  
Hang out our banners on the outward walls...  
...What is that noise?

**Seyton:**

It is the cry of women, my good lord.

**Macbeth:**

I have almost forgot the taste of fears;  
Wherefore was that cry?

**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.

**Scene 14**

**Narrator:**

The English army, led by Malcolm Macduff and Siward, have met up with the Scottish lords.

**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.

**Scene 15**

**Narrator:**

Later that day a messenger rushes excitedly into Macbeth's castle to tell him that Birnam Wood seems to be moving.

**Macbeth:**

Thou com'st to use thy tongue: thy story quickly.

**Messenger:**

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

**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!

If thou speak'st false,

Upon the next tree shall thou hang...

I... begin to doubt... the fiend

That lies like truth. 'Fear not, till Birnam Wood

Do come to Dunsinane', and now a wood

Comes toward Dunsinane. Arm, arm, and out!

Ring the alarum bell!

### Scene 16

**Narrator:**

Macbeth leads his soldiers out to fight the enemy. Malcolm's army approach the castle walls and then throw away their camouflage of branches and prepare to attack. Macduff calls out for Macbeth.

**Macduff:**

Tyrant show thy face!

If thou be'st slain, and with no stroke of mine,

My wife and children's ghosts will haunt me still.

Let me find him.

**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.

**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.

**Macbeth:**

I will not yield  
To kiss the ground before young Malcolm's feet.  
Though Birnam Wood be come to Dunsinane  
And thou opposed being of no woman born,  
Yet I will try the last. Lay on, Macduff,  
And damned be him that first cries, 'Hold, enough!'

*( Macbeth attacks Macduff and they fight ferociously) Macduff kills Macbeth.*

**Narrator:**

With flags flying Triumphantly, Malcolm, Siward, Ross, the Scottish lords and soldiers enter the castle. Macduff arrives carrying Macbeth's head. He hails Malcolm as the new King of Scotland.

**Macduff:**

Hail, king, for so thou art.  
Hail, King of Scotland.

**All:**

Hail, king of Scotland.

**Malcolm:**

...Thanks to all at once and to each one,  
Whom we invite to see us crowned at Scone.