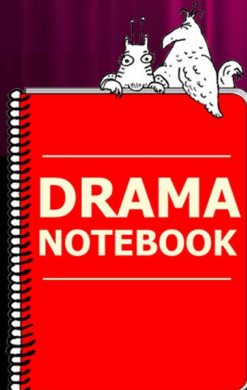


Macbeth

THE PLAY IN THIRTY MINUTES



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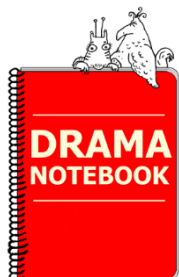
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Macbeth in 30 Minutes

Written by William Shakespeare
Adapted by Jennifer Reif

CHARACTERS

Duncan, King of Scotland

Malcom, Duncan's son

Donalbain, Duncan's son

Macbeth, general in the king's army (Thane of Glamis, later of Cawdor, later King of Scotland)

Lady Macbeth, his wife

Banquo, general in the King's army

Fleance, Banquo's son

Macduff, a Scottish Nobleman

Lady Macduff, his wife

Child, the child of Macduff and Lady Macduff

Seyton, Officer attending to Macbeth

Three Witches (Also known as the Weird Sisters)

Various Noblemen of Scotland:

Macduff

Lennox

Ross

Angus

Soldier

Two Murderers

Banquo's Ghost

Three Apparitions

Messenger

This is the story of Macbeth, whose name is so unlucky that people avoid speaking it. It is the tale of a great soldier who is tempted by prophecy to murder the king of Scotland and seize the crown. This thirty-minute version is an ideal introduction or alternative to the full-length play. The language is condensed but retains the integrity of Shakespeare's writing. This version stays true to Shakespeare's five act structure but cuts a few scenes for time's sake.

In Shakespeare's time, very little scenery was used allowing the story to flow quickly from one scene to the next. Keep that in mind when reading or performing this abridged version. Keep things moving along! Actors should enter and exit on their lines.

Macbeth in 30 Minutes

Written by William Shakespeare

Adapted by Jennifer Reif

ACT 1, SCENE 1

A Heath (open area of land)

(Enter the three Witches. Thunder sounds.)

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 ere the set of sun.

First Witch

Where the place?

Second Witch

Upon the heath!

Third Witch

There to meet with Macbeth!

All Three

Fair is foul and foul is fair: hover through the fog and filthy air!

ACT 1 SCENE 2

A Camp in near Forres in Scotland

(Enter King Duncan, Malcom, Donalbain, Lennox and Attendants. They meet a bleeding sergeant.)

King Duncan

What bloody man is that?

Malcom

This is the Sergeant*

**Officer*

Who like a good and hardy soldier fought

'Gainst my captivity. Hail, brave friend!

Say to the king the knowledge of the broil*

**Battle*

As thou didst leave it.

Captain

Brave Macbeth-well he deserves that name*
Disdaining fortune, with his brandished steel,
Which smoked with bloody execution.

**Macbeth was very brave*

King Duncan

O valiant cousin*! Worthy gentleman!

**Kinsman*

Captain

Mark, King of Scotland, mark:
No sooner justice had, with valor armed,
Compelled these skipping kerns to trust their heels
But the Norwegian* lord, surveying vantage*
With furbished arms and new supplies of men,
Began a fresh assault.

**A Norwegian lord saw an opportunity*

King Duncan

Dismayed not this
Our Captains, Macbeth and Banquo?

Captain

Yes; as sparrows eagles, or the hare the lion.
If I say sooth*, I must report they were
As cannons overcharged with double cracks*
But I am faint; my gashes cry for help.

**Truthfully*

**Explosives*

King Duncan

So well thy words become thee as thy wounds;
They smack of honor both. Go get him surgeons.

(Exit Captain and attendant as Ross and Angus enter)

King Duncan

Who comes here?

Malcom

The worthy Thane* of Ross

**Title of nobility*

Ross

God save the king!

King Duncan

Whence cam'st thou, worthy Thane?

Ross

From Fife, great King
Where the Norwegian banners flout the sky
And fan our people cold.

Ross

Norway* himself, with terrible numbers,
Assisted by that most disloyal traitor
The Thane of Cawdor, began a dismal* conflict
Point against point, rebellious arm'gainst arm,
Curbing his lavish* spirit: and, to conclude,
The victory fell on us.

**The King of Norway*

**Threatening*

**Wild*

King Duncan

Great happiness!

Ross

Norway's king craves composition*

**Peace Talks*

King Duncan

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

**Good intentions *Immediate title*

**Macbeth now has a new title.*

(All exit)

ACT 1, SCENE 3

On the Heath

(Thunder as the Witches enter. They gather in a circle. Sound of drum announces entrance of Macbeth and Banquo)

Third Witch

A drum! A drum! Macbeth doth come.

Macbeth

So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

Banquo *(Seeing the witches)*

What are these

So withered, and so wild in their attire,
That look not like th' inhabitants o' th' earth?

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

Lesser than Macbeth and greater.

Second Witch

Not so happy*, yet much happier.

**Fortunate*

Third Witch

Thou shalt get* kings, though thou be none.

**Beget*

First Witch

Banquo and Macbeth, all hail! (*Witches vanish*)

Macbeth

Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more:
By Sinel's* death I know I am Thane of Glamis;
But how of Cawdor? The Thane of Cawdor lives.
Say from whence you owe* this strange intelligence?
Speak, I charge you. (*But they are gone*)

**Macbeth's Father*

**How do you know this information*

Banquo

Were such things here as we do speak about?
You shall be King.

Macbeth

And Thane of Cawdor too. Went it not so?

(Sound from off stage)

Banquo

Who's there?

(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;
Only to herald thee into his sight.

Ross

And for an earnest* of a greater honor,
He bade me, from him, call thee Thane of Cawdor.

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 treasons capital, confessed and proved,
Have overthrown him.

Macbeth (*Aside*)

Glamis, and Thane of Cawdor:

The greatest is behind*

**Still ahead*

Thanks for your pains. (*To Ross and Angus. They bow and wait*)

(*Aside Continues*)

This supernatural soliciting*

**Invitation*

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.

Banquo

Worthy Macbeth, let us toward the King.

Macbeth (*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.*

**We will talk about this later*

Banquo

Very gladly

Macbeth

Till then, enough. Come friends.

(*They all exit*)

ACT 1, SCENE 4

The King's Palace

King Duncan

Is execution done on Cawdor?

Malcom

My liege, I have spoke
With one that saw him die, who did report
That very frankly he confessed his treasons,
Implored your Highness' pardon and set forth
A deep repentance.

King Duncan

He was a gentleman on whom I built
An absolute trust.

(Enter Macbeth, Banquo, Ross, and Angus)

King Duncan

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

** You were there at the front
* Make clear who will succeed
the throne*

Macbeth

I'll be myself the harbinger and make joyful
The hearing of my wife with your approach;*
So humbly take my leave.

** I'll tell my wife the king is coming*

King 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. *(Macbeth exits)*

(All exit)

ACT 1, SCENE 5

Macbeth's Castle in Inverness

(Enter Lady Macbeth, alone, with a letter sent by Macbeth)

Lady Macbeth

Glamis thou art, and Cawdor, and shalt be
What thou art promised. Yet do I fear thy nature;
It is too full o' th' milk of human kindness
To catch the nearest way. Thou wouldst be great,
Art not without ambition, but without
The illness* should attend it. Hie thee hither,
That I may pour my spirits in thine ear-
Come, you spirits that tend on mortal* thoughts,
And fill me, from the crown to the toe, top-full
Of direst cruelty!

** Wickedness*

** Deadly*

(Enter Macbeth)

Macbeth

My dearest love, Duncan comes here tonight.

Lady Macbeth

And when goes hence?

Macbeth

Tomorrow, as he proposes.

Lady Macbeth

O, never shall sun that morrow see!
Your face, my Thane, is as a book where men
May read strange matters. Look like th' innocent flower,
But be the serpent under't. You shall put
This night's great business into my dispatch*.

**I will take care of things. We must
kill the king so we can rise to power.*

Macbeth

We will speak further.

(They exit)

ACT 1, SCENE 6

Macbeth's Castle

(King Duncan enters with his sons and others. He is greeted by Lady Macbeth)

King Duncan

See, see, our honored hostess!

Lady Macbeth

All our service
In every point twice done, and then done double.

King Duncan

Fair and noble hostess, we are your guest tonight.

Lady Macbeth

Your servants ever. *(She curtsies to the king)*

King

Give me your hand. Conduct me to mine host.

(They exit)

ACT 1, SCENE 7
Macbeth's Castle

(Lady Macbeth and Macbeth speak in secret)

Macbeth

How now! What news?

Lady Macbeth

Why have you left the chamber?

Macbeth

We will proceed no further in this business*.

**He is nervous and doesn't want to talk of killing the king.*

Lady Macbeth

Art thou afeard to be the same in thine own act and valour as thou art in desire?

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
What made you break this enterprise to me?
When you durst do it, then you were a 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
His two chamberlains*

**The notch on a crossbow to keep bowstring taught*

**Attendants*

Will I with wine and wassail so convince
What cannot you and I perform upon
His spongy* officers, who shall bear the guilt
Of our great quell*?

**Drunk*

**Murder*

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?

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.

**Deceive everyone*

(Lady Macbeth exits)

ACT 2, SCENE

Macbeth's Castle

(Enter Banquo, and his son Fleance, carrying a torch. The banquet is over. All are going to sleep.)

Banquo

How goes the night, boy?

Fleance

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

Banquo

And she goes down at twelve.

Fleance

I take't, 'tis later, sir.

(Enter Macbeth. It's dark and they can't see him.)

Banquo

Give me my sword. Who's there?

Macbeth

A friend.

Banquo

What, sir, not yet at rest? The king's a-be*
I dreamt last night of the three weird sisters:
To you they have show'd some truth.

**The king is asleep. It's late.*

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!

(Exit Banquo and Fleance)

Macbeth *(Alone)*

Is this a dagger which I see before me,
The handle toward my hand? Come let me clutch thee. *(A bell rings.)*
I have thee not, fatal vision, sensible*
To feeling as to sight, or art thou but
A dagger of the mind, a false creation? *(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.

(He exits)

ACT 2, SCENE 2

Same Location

(Enter Lady Macbeth)

Lady Macbeth

That which had made them drunk hath made me bold,
Hark! Peace! I have drugged their possets*.
Alack, I am afraid they have awaked
And 'tis not done! I laid their daggers ready.
(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.

Macbeth

This is a sorry sight.

Lady Macbeth

A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.

Macbeth

There's one did laugh in 's sleep, and one cried "Murder!"
That they did wake each other. I stood and heard them.
But they did say their prayers, and addressed them again to sleep.

Lady Macbeth

There are two lodged together.

Macbeth

One cried "G-d bless us!" and "Amen" the other,
As they had seen me with these hangman's* hands.
List'ning their fear, I could not say "Amen,"
When they did say "G-d bless us!"

**Executioner*

Lady Macbeth

Consider it not so deeply.

Macbeth

But wherefore could not I pronounce "Amen?"
I had most need of blessing, and "Amen" stuck in my throat.

Lady Macbeth

These deeds must not be though after these ways.
So, it will make us mad.

Macbeth

Methought I heard a voice cry "Sleep no more!
Macbeth does murder sleep. Sleep no more!
Glamis hath murdered sleep, and therefore
Cawdor shall sleep no more. Macbeth shall sleep no more.

Lady Macbeth

You do unbend* your noble strength, to think
So brainsickly of things. Go get some water,
And wash this filthy witness* from your hand.
Why did you bring these daggers from the place?
They must lie there: go carry them, and smear
The sleepy grooms* with blood.

**Relax*

**Evidence of blood*

**The people we've killed*

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.

**I'll do it myself!*

**Paint them with blood*

(She exits to go put the daggers by the bodies. A knocking is offstage which frightens Macbeth.)

Macbeth

Whence is that knocking?
How is't with me, when every noise appalls me?
What hands are here? Ha! They pluck out mine eyes!
Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood
Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather
The multitudinous seas incarnadine*,
Making the green* one red.

**Becomes blood*

**The ocean becomes red with blood.*

(Lady Macbeth returns)

Lady Macbeth

My hands are of you color, but I shame to wear a heart so white. *(knocking)*
Retire we to our chamber. A little water clears us of this deed.

Macbeth

To know my deed, 'twere best not know myself. *(knocking)*

Wake Duncan with thy knocking! I would thou couldst.

**He wishes Duncan could be brought back to life*

(They exit)

ACT 2, SCENE 3

Same Location. Early Morning.

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. *(Points the way for Macduff, who exits to wake the King.)*

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 so blown down, and, as they say,
Lamentings heard in th' air, strange screams of death.*

**They had a wild night and thought they heard things, but figured it was just imagination.*

Macbeth

'Twas a rough night.

(Macduff rushes back onstage)

Macduff

Horror, horror, horror! Awake, awake!
Ring the alarum bell. Murder and Treason!

(Lady Macbeth enters)

Lady Macbeth

What's the business?

Macduff

O gentle lady,
'Tis not for you to hear what I can speak:
The repetition, in a woman's ear,
Would murder as it fell.
(Enter Banquo)
Our royal master's murdered!

Lady Macbeth

Woe, alas! What, in our house?

Banquo

Dear Duff, I prithee, contradict thyself,
And say it is not so.

(Enter Macbeth, Lennox, Ross, Malcom and Donalbain)

Donalbain

What is amiss?

Macduff

Your royal father's murdered.

Malcom

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.

Lady Macbeth

Help me hence, ho!

Macduff

Look to the lady.

(Some help Lady Macbeth to exit on these next lines leaving only Malcom and Donalbain.)

Banquo

Let us question this most bloody piece of work,
To know it further. Fears and scruples* shake us.

**Suspicious*

Macbeth

Let's briefly put on manly readiness,
And meet in th' hall together.

(Only the brothers, sons of the slain king, remain)

Malcom

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.

(They exit)

ACT 2, SCENE 4 *(cut in this version)*

ACT 3, SCENE 1

The Palace in Forres.

(Enter Banquo)

Banquo *(To self)*

Thou hast it now: King, Cawdor, Glamis, all,
As the weird women promised, and I fear
Thou play'st most foully for 't. But hush, no more!

(Sound heard as others enter: Macbeth as King, Lady Macbeth, Lennox, Ross, Lords and Attendants)

Macbeth

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

**Ceremonial*

Banquo

Let your Highness
Command upon me, to the which my duties
Are with a most indissoluble tie forever knit*.

**I am forever in your service.*

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

Goes Fleance with you?

Banquo

Ay, my good lord.

Macbeth

Fail not our feast.

Banquo

My lord, I will not.

Macbeth

Farewell

(Banquo and all others exit leaving Macbeth alone)

Macbeth

Our fears in Banquo stick deep,
And in his royalty of nature reigns* that
Which would be feared. He chid the sisters,
When first they put name of king upon me,
And bade them speak to him; then prophetlike
They hailed him father to a line of kings.
For Banquo's issue have I filed my mind;
For them the gracious Duncan have I murdered
To make them kings? The seeds of Banquo kings?
Rather than so, come, fate, into the list*,
And champion me to' the' utterance*! Who's there?

**Banquo's ability to lead*

**Arena*

**Give me an opponent*

(Enter the 2 murderers.)

First Murderer

So please your Highness.

Macbeth

Well then, now Have you considered my speeches?
Know that it was he in the times past, which held you
So under fortune*, which thought had been
Our innocent self. Well, thus did Banquo!

**Kept you from good fortune.*

Second Murderer

Aye, my liege.

Macbeth

Both of you know Banquo was your enemy.

Both 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 are both his and mine.

Second Murderer

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

First Murderer

Though our lives-

Macbeth

Your spirits shine through you.
Within this hour at most
I will advise you where to plant yourselves.
Fleance his son, that keeps him company,
Must embrace the fate of that dark hou.

Second Murderer

We are resolved, my lord.

(Murderers exit)

Macbeth

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

(Macbeth transitions into next scene with Lady Macbeth)

ACT 3, SCENE 2

Macbeth's Castle

Lady Macbeth

How now, my lord? Why do you keep alone?
Things without all remedy should be without regard;
What's done is done.

Macbeth

Duncan is in his grave.
After life's fitful fever he sleeps well.

Lady Macbeth

You must leave this!

Macbeth

O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife!
Thou know'st that Banquo, and his Fleance, lives.

Lady Macbeth

What's to be done?

Macbeth

Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck.
Till thou applaud the deed.
Things bad begun make strong themselves by ill.
So prithee, go with me. *(They exit)*

ACT 3, SCENE 3 *(cut in this version)***ACT 3, SCENE 4**

Macbeth's Castle

(At the Banquet: Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Ross, Lennox, Lords, and Attendants. Soon the Murderers enter. Macbeth crosses to them.)

Macbeth

There's blood upon thy face.

First Murderer

'Tis Banquo's then.

Macbeth

Is he dispatched?

Second 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!

First Murderer

Most royal sir, Fleance is scaped.

Macbeth *(Aside)*

Then comes my fit again!
I had else been perfect! Get thee gone.
Tomorrow we'll hear ourselves* again.

**We'll talk this over.*

(Exit Murderers)

Lady Macbeth

My royal lord,
You do not give the cheer*

**You do not appear welcoming*

(Enter the Ghost of Banquo who sits in Macbeth's place at the table)

Macbeth

Sweet remembrancer*

**Reminder*

Lennox

May it please your Highness sit...

Ross

Please 't your Highness to grace us with your royal company?

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?

Lady Macbeth

Sit, worthy friends. My lord is often thus,
And hath been from his youth. Pray you, keep seat.
This fit is momentary...Feed and regard him not.
(Secretly to Macbeth) Are you a man?

Macbeth

Prithie, see there!
Behold! Look! Lo! How say you?

(Exit Ghost)

Lady Macbeth

What, quite unmanned in folly?

Macbeth

If I stand here, I saw him.

Lady Macbeth

Fie, for shame!

My worthy lord, your noble friends do lack you.

Macbeth

I do forget.

Do not muse at me, my most worthy friends;

I have a strange infirmity, which is nothing

To those that know me. Come, love and health to all!

(Enter Ghost)

Avaunt! And quit my sight! Let the earth hide thee!

Thy bones are marrowless, thy blood is cold.

Hence, horrible shadow! Unreal mock'ry, hence!

(Ghost exits)

Why, so. Being gone, I am a man again.

Pray you, sit still.

Lady Macbeth

I pray you, speak not. He grows worse and worse.

Question enrages him. At once, good night. Go at once.

Lennox

Good night, and better health attend his Majesty!

Lady Macbeth

A kind good night to all!

(The guests exit)

Lady Macbeth

You lack the sense of all natures, sleep

Macbeth

Come, we'll to sleep. We are yet but young in deed*. **We are new at crime.*

ACT 3, SCENES 5 & 6 *(cut in this version)*

ACT 4, SCENE 1
Around a Cauldron

(Thunder, enter Three Witches)

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

All

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

First Witch

Cool it with a baboon's blood,

Then the charm is fire and good.

Third Witch

By the pricking of my thumbs,

Something wicked this way comes.

(Enter Macbeth)

I conjure you, by that which you profess,

Howe'er you come to know it, answer me.

Answer me to what I ask you.

First Witch

Speak.

Second Witch

Demand.

Third Witch

We'll answer.

Macbeth

Tell me, thou knowest power-

(First Apparition appears- a helmeted head)

First Apparition

Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! Beware Macduff! Beware the Thane of Fife!

(First Apparition vanishes. Second Apparition appears- a bloody child)

Second Apparition

Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth!
Be bloody, bold and resolute!
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...thou shalt not live!

(Second dissolves away and Third Apparition appears. A child with a crown and branch in hand.)

Third Apparition

Macbeth shall never vanquished be until great
Birnam Wood to high Dunsinane Hill shall come against him.

(Third Apparition vanishes.)

Macbeth

That will never be.
Yet my heart throbs to know one thing:
shall Banquo's issue ever reign in this kingdom?

All Three Witches

Seek to know no more.

Macbeth

I will be satisfied.

All Three Witches

Show his eyes, and grieve his heart;
Come like shadows, so depart.

(They vanish)

Macbeth

Where are they? Gone?

(Enter Lennox)

Lennox

Macduff is fled to England.

Macbeth

Fled to England?

Lennox

Aye, my good lord.

(Macbeth gestures for Lennox to leave. He does so.)

Macbeth

The castle of Macduff I will surprise
Seize upon Fife; give to th'edge of th' sword
His wife, his baes, and all unfortunate souls
That trace him in his line*. No boasting like a fool;
This deed I'll do before this purpose cool.

(He exits)

ACT 4, SCENE 2

Macduff's Castle

(Enter lady Macduff, her son, and Ross)

Lady Macduff

What had he done, to make Macduff fly to England?

Ross

You must have patience, madam.

Lady Macduff

He 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.
All is the fear and nothing is the love.

Ross

My dearest coz,
I pray you, school* yourself. But, for your husband,
He is noble, wise, judicious, and best knows
The fits o' the' season*. I dare not speak much further.

**Control*

**Disturbances of time*

Child

Was my father a traitor, mother?

Lady Macduff

Aye, that he was.

Child

What's a traitor?

Lady Macduff

Why, one that swears and lies*.

(Messenger Enters)

Messenger

Bless you, fair dame!
I doubt* some danger does approach you nearly. **Fear*
Be not found here. Hence, with your little ones.
Heaven preserve you! I dare abide no longer. *(He exits)*

Lady Macduff

Whither should I fly?
I have done no harm.

(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!

Child

Thou liest, thou shag-eared* villain!

(Second Murderer stabs child)

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

(Exit Lady Macduff crying "Murder!" followed by Murderers.)

ACT 4, SCENE 3

England- At the King's Palace

Macduff

Not in the legions of horrid Hell can come a devil
more damned in evils to top Macbeth.

Malcom

Our poor country sinks beneath the yoke.
Here from gracious England have I offer of goodly thousands...

(Ross arrives)

My gentle cousin, welcome hither. Stands Scotland where it did?

Ross

Alas, poor country!

Malcom

What's the newest grief?
Keep it not from me. Quickly, let me have it.

Ross

Your castle is surprised; your wife and babes savagely slaughtered.

Malcom

Merciful Heaven!

Macduff

My children too?

Ross

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

Macduff

My wife killed too?

Ross

I have said.

Macduff

He has no children! Did you say all? O Hell-Kite! All?
What, all my pretty chickens and their dam at one fell swoop?

Malcom

Let grief convert to anger-
Come, go we to the King. Macbeth
Is ripe for shaking!

(They exit)

ACT 5, SCENE 1

Macbeth's Castle

(Enter Lady Macbeth, who has gone mad with guilt)

Lady Macbeth

Out, damned spot! Out, I say! One, two, why,
Then 'til time to do't. Hell is murky. Fie, my lord, fie!
Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him?

The Thane of Fife had a wife. Where is she now?
What, will these hands ne'er be cleaned?

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!

(Lady Macbeth exits)

ACT 5, SCENE 2 (cut in this version)

ACT 5, SCENE 3

Macbeth's Castle

(Enter Macbeth, Doctor, and Seyton, holding a paper.)

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.'
Then fly, false thanes, And mingle with the English epicures:
The mind I sway by and the heart I bear
Shall never sag with doubt nor shake with fear.
(Seyton tries to speak and show paper)
The devil damn thee black, thou cream-faced loon! Where got'st thou that goose look?

Seyton

There is ten thousand —

Macbeth

Geese?!

Seyton

Soldiers, sir.

Macbeth

What soldiers?

Seyton

The English force, so please you.

Macbeth

I'll fight till from my bones my flesh be hack'd!
Send out more horses; skirr the country round;
Hang those that talk of fear. Give me mine armour.

(They exit)

ACT 5, SCENE 4

The country, near Birnam Wood.

(War drums sound. Enter Malcom, Macduff, Angus, Lennox, Ross, Fleance, and a Young Soldier.)

Malcom

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

Ross

We doubt it nothing.

Young Soldier

What wood is this before us?

Lennox

The wood of Birnam.

Malcom

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.

All Soldiers

It shall be done.

Macduff

The time approaches
That will with due decision make us know
What we shall say we have and what we owe.
Towards which advance the war.

(They Exit)

ACT 5, SCENE 5

Macbeth's Castle

(Enter Macbeth and Soldiers. Sounds of drumming and banners flying.)

Macbeth

Hang out our banners on the outward walls.

(Sound of women crying offstage)

Macbeth

What is that noise?

Seyton

The Queen, my lord, is dead.

Macbeth

She should have died hereafter.
There would have been 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 Messenger)

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 did I 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,
Within this three mile may you see it coming, I say a moving grove.

Macbeth

If thou speak'st false,
Upon the next tree shalt thou hang alive,
Till famine cling* thee. "Fear not, till Birnam
Wood do come to Dunsinane!" And now a wood
Comes toward Dunsinane. Arm, arm, and out!
Ring the alarum bell! Blow the wind, come wrack*!
At least we'll die with harness on our back.

**Destroy*

**Ruin*

(They exit)

ACT 5, SCENE 6 (cut in this version)

ACT 5, SCENE 7

Another part of the field

(Alarums. Enter Macbeth)

Macbeth

They have tied me to a stake; I cannot fly,
But, bear-like, I must fight the course. What's he That was not born of woman? Such a one
Am I to fear, or none.

(Enter Solider)

Soldier

What is thy name?

Macbeth

Thou'lt be afraid to hear it.

Soldier

No; though thou call'st thyself a hotter name than any is in hell.

Macbeth

My name's Macbeth

Soldier

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

Macbeth

No, nor more fearful.

Soldier

Thou liest, abhorr-ed tyrant; with my sword I'll prove the lie thou speak'st!

(They fight, and the young soldier is slain.)

Macbeth

Thou wast born of woman. *(Exits)*

(Alarums. Enter Macduff, running.)

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, fortune!

(Exit. Alarums.)

ACT 5, SCENE 8
Another Part of the field

(Enter Macbeth and Macduff from opposite sides)

Macbeth

Of all men else I have avoided thee.
But get thee back! My soul is too much charg'd
With blood of thine already.

Macduff

I have no words.
My voice is in my sword, thou bloodier villain
Than terms can give thee out.

Macbeth

Let fall thy blade on vulnerable crests.
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 has served
Tell thee, Macduff was from his mother's womb
Untimely ripped.

Macbeth

Accursed be that tongue that tells me so,
For it hath cowed my better part of man*!
I'll not fight with thee.

**Courage*

Macduff

Then yield thee, coward!

Macbeth

I will not yield. Before my body
I throw my warlike shield. Lay on Macduff,
And damned be him that first cries "Hold, enough!"

(They fight. Macbeth falls and Macduff beheads him; as the Witches gather around Mac's corpse, Witch sound cue. Alarums & flourish. Enter Malcom, Ross, Fleance, Lennox, Angus and Soldiers.)

Macduff

Hail, king! for so thou art: behold, where stands The usurper's curs-ed head; the time is free.
Hail, King of Scotland!

All

Hail, King of Scotland!
(Flourish)

Malcom

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's more to do,
Which would be planted newly with the time,
As calling home our exiled friends abroad
That fled the snares of watchful tyranny;
Producing forth the cruel ministers
Of this dead butcher and his fiend-like queen.
So, thanks to all at once and to each one!

(Flourish. Fade to black, as "Hail, King of Scotland!" is chanted by ALL)

CURTAIN

Need another script?



Have a play to share?

