

Macbeth

By William Shakespeare

Adapted by Bryon Cahill



CHARACTERS

(main characters in **boldface**)

Narrators 1, 2, 3

Witches 1, 2, 3

Duncan, *king of Scotland*

Malcolm, *Duncan's son*

Soldier

Ross, *a nobleman of Scotland*

Macbeth, *a general in the king's army*

Banquo, *a general in the king's army*

Lady Macbeth, *Macbeth's wife*

Lennox, *a nobleman of Scotland*

Macduff, *a nobleman of Scotland*

Donalbain, *Duncan's son*

Murderers 1, 2

Gentlewoman

Doctor

Young soldier

SCENE 1

Narrator 1: Lightning streaks across the sky over a Scottish moor. Thunder cracks as three witches appear.

Witch 1: When shall we three meet again? In thunder, lightning, or in rain?

Witch 2: When the hurlyburly's done, when the battle's lost and won.

Witch 3: Then we shall meet, upon the setting sun.

Witch 1: Where?

Witch 2: Upon the heath.

Witch 3: There to meet with Macbeth.

All witches: Fair is foul, and foul is fair. Hover through the fog and filthy air!

Narrator 2: The witches vanish.

SCENE 2

Narrator 3: At a military camp, King Duncan is attended by his sons, Malcolm and Donalbain. They are standing over a bloody soldier.

Duncan: What bloody man is that?

Malcolm: Father, this is the sergeant who fought valiantly to save me from capture. Speak, good friend! Tell your king what happened here.

Soldier: The merciless and rebellious Macdonald led the Irish to this place, my king. We fought bravely for Scotland, but it was brave Macbeth who deserves all glory. With his brandished steel, he carved out a path through the battle. He reached the traitorous Macdonald and carved him from the navel to the jaw and then fixed his head upon our battlements.

Duncan: O valiant cousin! O worthy gentleman!

Soldier: And no sooner did Macbeth defeat our enemy than the Norwegian lord began a fresh assault.

Duncan: Did this not dismay our captains, Macbeth and Banquo?

Soldier: Indeed it did. But our captains doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe. They charged into battle, and that is when I fell. O but I am faint. My gashes cry for help.

Duncan: You fought bravely, friend. Thank you for your words. You will have the best surgeons and will make a speedy recovery.

Narr 1: Duncan orders that the soldier be carried away immediately.

Narr 2: Ross, a nobleman, comes running to the king.

Ross: God save the king!

Duncan: Where are you coming from, worthy thane?

Ross: From Fife, great king, where the Norwegian army is in shambles. Scotland is victorious!

Duncan: No more shall the thane of Cawdor deceive our interests. Go now, fair Ross, pronounce his death to all. And bring his former title to greet Macbeth.

Ross: I'll see it done.

Duncan: What he hath lost, noble Macbeth hath won.

SCENE 3

Narr 3: Upon the heath, the three witches appear.

Witch 1: Where hast thou been, sister?

Witch 2: Killing swine.



Witch 3: A drum! A drum! Macbeth doth come!

Narr 1: Macbeth and Banquo arrive.

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

Narr 2: Banquo and Macbeth notice the witches.

Banquo: What are these? They look so withered and wild. They cannot be inhabitants of this earth. You should be women, but your beards forbid me to interpret that you are so.

Macbeth: Speak, if you can. What are you?

Witch 1: All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, thane of Glamis!

Witch 2: All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, thane of Cawdor!

Witch 3: All hail, Macbeth, that shall be king hereafter!

Narr 3: Macbeth is silent. It is true that he is the thane of Glamis but not the thane of Cawdor ... and certainly not king.

Banquo: If these are prophecies of the future you speak, then speak to me. I neither beg nor fear your favors nor your hate.

Witch 1: Hail, Banquo. Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.

Witch 2: Not so happy, yet happier.

Witch 3: Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none.

Narr 1: The witches vanish.

Banquo: The earth hath bubbles as water has, and these are them.

Narr 2: Macbeth stares at Banquo.

Macbeth: Your sons shall be kings.

Banquo: You shall be king!

Macbeth: And thane of Cawdor, too, it would seem.

Narr 3: Ross arrives. He brings Macbeth the news that the king has named him thane of Cawdor.

Narr 1: Macbeth is overwhelmed. He speaks quietly, to himself.

Macbeth: So I am thane of Cawdor, then. How will I become king? O present fears are worse than horrible imaginings. My thought, whose murder yet is fantastical, shakes my general state.

Narr 2: Macbeth shakes off the idea of becoming king and addresses Banquo.

Macbeth: Let us speak of these things at another time.

SCENE 4

Narr 3: Macbeth and Banquo are led to meet the king at his palace.

Narr 1: The king's sons, Malcolm and

Donalbain, are with him.

Duncan: Welcome! I have heard of your great deeds in battle, and I commend thee! Noble Banquo, I hold thee in my heart.

Banquo: There if I grow, the harvest is your own.

Duncan: And Macbeth! Newly named thane of Cawdor! I am glad you have come. For today, I name my son Malcolm the prince of Cumberland! He shall be king when I am gone.

Narr 2: Macbeth tries to understand this. He speaks to himself.

Macbeth: Prince of Cumberland? That is a step on which I must overleap. How am I to be king if Malcolm stands in my way?

Duncan: We shall celebrate at Macbeth's castle in Inverness.

Macbeth: My king, I must go ahead and tell my wife of your approach. I take my leave.

Narr 3: Macbeth exits ahead of the royal party.

SCENE 5

Narr 1: At Inverness, Lady Macbeth is reading a letter from her husband. In it, Macbeth describes the witches' prophecy and his promotion to thane of Cawdor.

Narr 2: An attendant enters the room and

announces that the king is on his way to Inverness and that Macbeth rides ahead of the royal party. The attendant leaves Lady Macbeth.

Lady Macbeth: *(to herself)* The raven himself is hoarse that croaks the fatal entrance of King Duncan under my roof. Come, you spirits that tend on mortal thoughts! Strip me of my womanhood and make thick my blood! Macbeth alone does not have the strength to do what must be done.

Narr 3: Macbeth arrives and enters the room.

Lady Macbeth: Great Glamis! Worthy Cawdor! Greater than both and all hereafter! I have received your letter, and I feel now that our future is upon us!

Macbeth: My dearest love, Duncan comes here tonight.

Lady Macbeth: And when is he planning to leave?

Macbeth: Tomorrow.

Lady Macbeth: O never shall he see tomorrow's sun.

Narr 1: Macbeth is silent.

Lady Macbeth: Your face, my thane, is a book where men may read strange matters. You must look like the innocent flower but be the serpent underneath.

Macbeth: He is coming. We shall speak on this further.

Lady Macbeth: Leave all the rest to me.

SCENE 6

Narr 2: King Duncan, Banquo, and the royal party arrive at Inverness. Lady Macbeth meets them at the front of the castle and welcomes them. She leads them inside.

Narr 3: Macbeth is in a far room of the castle. He is considering whether he should murder his king.

Macbeth: *(to himself)* Duncan is here now. He trusts me well. I am his kinsman and his subject. And today, I am his host. Who am I to murder a virtuous king? I have no reason to do so, other than my own ambition. And that is not reason enough.

Narr 1: Lady Macbeth enters the room.

Macbeth: How now? What news?

Lady Macbeth: The king has had dinner, and he asks for you.

Macbeth: We will proceed no further with this business.

Lady Macbeth: Art thou afraid to be the same in your act and valor as thou art in desire? Do not be a coward.

Macbeth: Peace. I dare do all that become a man. Who dares do more is not a man.

Lady Macbeth: You were resigned to do it before. Then you were a man. And you can be more than what you were. You can be so much more a man.

Narr 2: Macbeth thinks on this.

Macbeth: And if we should fail?

Lady Macbeth: We fail? Have courage, and we'll not fail. When Duncan is asleep, I will invite his two attendants to drink wine with me. When they fall to swinish sleep, Duncan will be unguarded. You can smear the king's blood on their faces and the blame will fall on them.

Macbeth: I am settled. Bring forth this terrible feat. False face must hide what the false heart doth know.

SCENE 7

Narr 3: It is nighttime at Inverness. Banquo is walking the halls with his son, Fleance.

Banquo: A heavy summons lies like lead upon me. And yet I cannot sleep.

Narr 1: Banquo hears a noise.

Banquo: Who's there?

Macbeth: A friend.

Banquo: What, sir? Are you not at rest? The king's asleep. He hath been in unusual pleasure as of late.

Narr 2: Banquo admits that he has

dreamed of the three witches, and Macbeth says he has not given them any thought. Banquo and his son head off to bed.

Macbeth: *(to himself)* Is this a dagger which I see before me, the handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee.

Narr 3: Macbeth tries to grasp the dagger he sees in the air. But he cannot touch it.

Macbeth: I have thee not, and yet I see thee still. Art thou not a fatal vision? Art thou but a dagger of the mind, a false creation proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain? I see thee still. Thou lead'st me the way that I was going.

Narr 1: Macbeth follows the ghostly dagger.

Macbeth: Mine eyes are made the fools of my other senses. I see thee still and on thy blade are gouts of blood. Ah, there's no such thing. It is the bloody business which informs thee to mine eyes.

Narr 2: A bell rings somewhere in the castle.

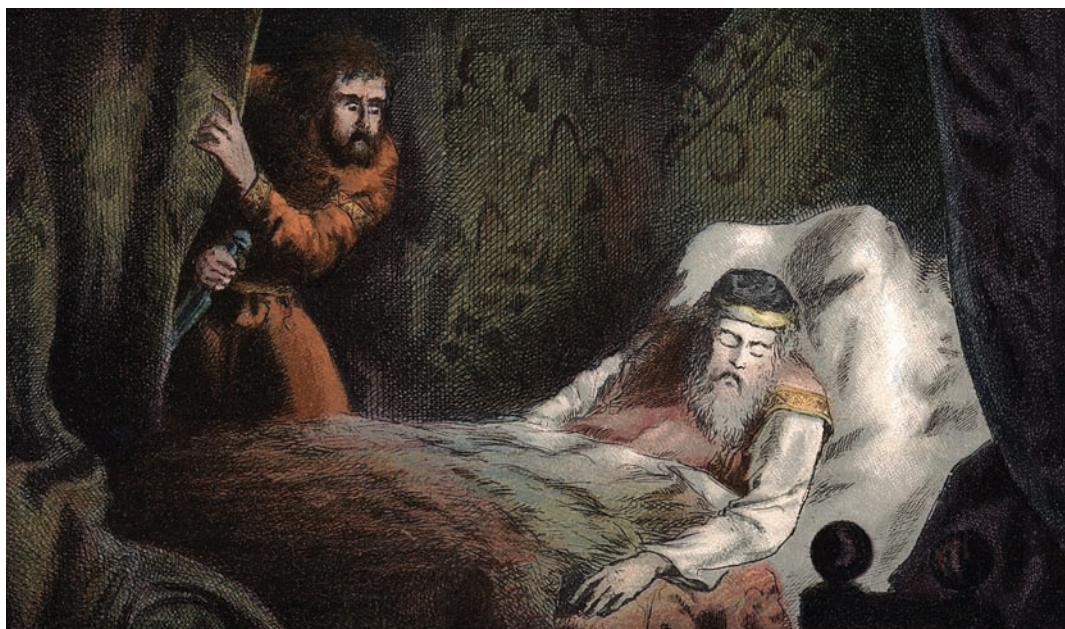
Macbeth: I go, and it is done. The bell invites me. Hear it not, Duncan, for it is a knell that summons thee to heaven or to hell.

SCENE 8

Narr 3: Lady Macbeth is awake in her room. She cannot imagine how Macbeth could fail. She laid the daggers out herself.

Narr 1: Macbeth enters the room.

Macbeth: I have done the deed. Didst thou hear a noise?



Lady Macbeth: I heard the owl scream and the crickets cry.

Macbeth: When?

Lady Macbeth: Now.

Macbeth: As I descended?

Lady Macbeth: Ay.

Narr 2: Macbeth looks at his bloody hands.

Macbeth: This is a sorry sight.

Lady Macbeth: A foolish thought to say “a sorry sight.”

Macbeth: One of the king’s attendants cried out in his sleep. “Murder!” he said, and that did wake the other. I hid behind a curtain and listened as they said their prayers and fell back to sleep. When they said “Amen,” I tried to say it with them but had “Amen” stuck in my throat.

Lady Macbeth: We must not think of these deeds. They will make us mad.

Narr 3: Macbeth ignores her and continues to speak, as if in a trance.

Macbeth: I thought I heard a voice cry, “Sleep no more! Macbeth doth murder sleep!”—the innocent sleep. The sleep that knits up the raveled sleeve of care. The death of each day’s life, sore labor’s bath.

Lady Macbeth: What do you speak of?

Macbeth: Still it cried, “Sleep no more! Glamis hath murdered sleep and therefore shall sleep no more!”

Lady Macbeth: Who was it that thus cried? It was no one. You do unbend your noble strength to think so brainsickly of things. Go, get some water and wash this filthy witness from your hands.

Narr 1: Now Lady Macbeth notices the daggers in Macbeth’s hand.

Lady Macbeth: Why did you bring these daggers from that place? They must lie there. Go, carry them, and smear the sleepy attendants with the king’s blood.

Macbeth: I’ll go no more. I am afraid to think what I have done. Look on it again, I dare not.

Lady Macbeth: Give me the daggers then! The sleeping and the dead are but pictures. ’Tis the eye of childhood that fears a painted devil.

Narr 2: Lady Macbeth leaves the room. Macbeth is startled by a knocking from somewhere in the castle.

Macbeth: (*to himself*) How is it with me that

every noise appalls me?

Narr 3: Macbeth looks at his hands.

Macbeth: What hands are here? Ha! They pluck out mine eyes! Will all great Neptune’s ocean wash this blood clean from my hand?

Narr 1: Lady Macbeth returns. Her hands are now bloody as well.

Lady Macbeth: There is a knocking at the south entry. Let us retire to our chamber. A little water will clear us of this deed.

Macbeth: To know my deed, ’twere best not know myself.

Narr 2: The knocking continues. It is even louder now.

Macbeth: Wake Duncan with thy knocking! I would thou couldst!

‘Sleep no more! Macbeth doth murder sleep!’

SCENE 9

Narr 3: In the early hours of morning, Macduff and Lennox, noblemen of Scotland, arrive at Inverness to attend to the king.

Narr 1: Macbeth goes to the door and welcomes them.

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 upon him at this early hour.

Macbeth: I’ll bring you to him.

Narr 2: Macbeth leads Macduff and Lennox to the king’s chamber. As they walk, Lennox tells Macbeth of awful storms they had to travel through.

Lennox: The night has been unruly. Our chimneys were blown down, and at times it seemed that strange screams of death filled the air.

Macbeth: ’Twas a rough night, indeed.

Narr 3: They reach the king’s chamber door. Macduff is the first to enter.

Macduff: O horror, horror, horror!

Lennox: What’s the matter?

Macbeth: What is it?

Macduff: Approach the chamber and see for yourselves.

Narr 1: Macbeth and Lennox enter the king’s chamber. Macduff screams to wake the castle.

Macduff: Awake! Awake! Ring the alarm bell! Murder and treason! Banquo and Donalbain! Malcolm! As from your graves, rise up and walk like sprites to lay your eyes on this horror!

Narr 2: Lady Macbeth enters.

Macduff: O gentle lady, ’tis not for you to hear what I speak.

Narr 3: Banquo enters.

Macduff: O Banquo, Banquo! Our royal master’s murdered!

Lady Macbeth: Woe, alas! In our house?

Banquo: Too cruel anywhere.

Narr 1: The king’s sons, Malcolm and Donalbain, enter. Meanwhile, Macbeth and Lennox return from the king’s inner chamber.

Donalbain: What is amiss?

Macbeth: You are and don’t know it.

Macduff: Your royal father’s been murdered.

Lennox: It seems that his attendants have done the deed. Their hands and faces were drenched in his blood. Their daggers, unwiped, were found upon their pillows.

Macbeth: I could not hold back my fury. I killed the foul traitors just now.

Narr 2: Everyone is shocked into silence.

Lady Macbeth: Help me hence, ho!

Banquo: Look to the lady!

Narr 3: Lady Macbeth faints. Banquo carries her back to her chamber.

Narr 1: Everyone except the king’s sons follows them.

Malcolm: We must flee this place. We are not safe here. I’ll go to England.

Donalbain: And to Ireland, I. Our separated fortune shall keep us both safer. There’s daggers in men’s smiles. The near in blood, the nearer bloody.

SCENE 10

Narr 2: Fearing for their lives, Malcolm and Donalbain flee Scotland after the murder of their father, King Duncan. Because they flee, many people believe they had something to do with the king’s death.

Narr 3: In the absence of Malcolm and Donalbain, Macbeth is crowned king. The witches' prophecy has come true, and yet Macbeth is restless.

Narr 1: King Macbeth recalls the second part of the witches' prophecy: that Banquo's heir will be king someday. Macbeth enlists two murderers to ensure that that part of the prophecy does not come true. Any **qualms** Macbeth may have had about murder are long gone.

Narr 2: The murderers wait outside the palace. It is eerily quiet.

Murderer 1: The west yet glimmers with some streaks of day.

Narr 3: Banquo and his son, Fleance, approach the murderers.

Murderer 2: Here comes the subject of our watch.

Murderer 1: 'Tis he!

Murderer 2: Stand to it.

Banquo: (*to Fleance*) It will be rain tonight.

Murderer 1: Let it come down.

Narr 1: The murderers emerge from the shadows and attack Banquo.

Banquo: O treachery! Fly, good Fleance! Fly, fly, fly!

Narr 2: Banquo is overcome and dies.

Narr 3: Fleance escapes.

SCENE 11

Narr 1: Inside the palace, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth enter the dining hall. Ross, Lennox, lords, and attendants rise from their seats when the king and queen enter.

Macbeth: You know your place well. Now sit down, and let us enjoy a hearty welcome.

Lennox: Thanks to your majesty.

Ross: Thanks to your majesty.

Narr 2: One of the murderers enters the hall discreetly, and Macbeth walks over to him.

Macbeth: There's blood upon thy face.

Murderer 1: 'Tis Banquo's.

Macbeth: Is he dispatched?

Murderer 1: My lord, his throat is cut. That I did for him.

Macbeth: Thou art the best of the cutthroats. And Fleance?

Murderer 1: Most royal sir ... Fleance has escaped.

Macbeth: Then comes my fit again. I had else been perfect. The crown I wear is heavy. But Banquo's surely safe?

Murderer 1: Ay, my good lord. Safe in a ditch, he bides. With 20 trenched gashes in his head. The least of which, a death to nature.

Macbeth: Thanks for that. There the grown serpent lies. But the worm that's fled hath nature that, in time, revenge and venom

will breed.

Narr 3: Macbeth dismisses the murderer and returns to his subjects.

Lennox: May it please your highness to sit?

Narr 1: Macbeth looks to his chair and sees the ghost of Banquo sitting in it

Macbeth: Banquo! It cannot be!

Ross: Banquo's absence, sir, is truly a treachery unknown. Think not on Banquo, my lord. But grace us with your royal company.

Narr 2: Macbeth stares in horror straight at Banquo's ghost.

Macbeth: (*softly*) The table's full.

Narr 3: Everyone is shocked. They see King Macbeth staring at an empty chair.

Macbeth: Which one of you hath done this?

Lennox: Done what, my good lord?

Macbeth: (*to Banquo's ghost*) Thou canst not say I did it. Do not shake thy gory head at me!

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

Lady Macbeth: No, sit, worthy friends. My lord does often fall under these strange spells. The fit is momentary and shall pass.

Narr 1: Lady Macbeth rises and takes Macbeth aside. His eyes are still stuck on Banquo's ghost.

Lady Macbeth: (*aside to Macbeth*) Are you a man?

Macbeth: Ay, and a bold one, that dare look upon that sight that would appall the devil.

Lady Macbeth: O for heaven's sake! This is the very painting of your fear! This is the same air-drawn dagger which, you said, led you to Duncan! O these flaws are shame itself! Why do you make such faces when all is done? Why do you look upon an empty chair?

Narr 2: Banquo's ghost rises from the chair and disappears.

Macbeth: He is gone. But I swear to you I saw him.

Narr 3: Macbeth now looks upon his guests.

Macbeth: (*to the entire hall*) Do forgive me, worthy friends. I have a strange infirmity

* vocab

QUALMS: uneasy feelings



which is nothing. Come, let's have some wine and good health to all!

Narr 1: Macbeth heads toward the empty chair, but Banquo's ghost reappears and sits in it again.

Macbeth: (*screaming*) Away! And quit my sight! Let the earth hide thee! Thy blood is cold!

Narr 2: Lady Macbeth apologizes to all and asks that they leave her husband for the evening. As they exit the hall, Banquo's ghost once more disappears.

Macbeth: It will have blood, they say. Blood will have blood.

Narr 3: Macbeth comes back to himself and approaches his wife.

Macbeth: Where is Macduff this evening? Why is he not present?

Lady Macbeth: Did you send for him?

Macbeth: (*in confusion*) I do not know. But I will send for him, and he will come. Strange things I have in my head.



Lady Macbeth: You lack sleep, my lord. Come, let's to bed.

Macbeth: Yes. Sleep. My strange fears weigh heavy on me. We are but young in the deed.

Narr 1: Outside the palace, Lennox and another lord talk about the evening's events.

Narr 2: Banquo's body has been discovered and his son, Fleance, has fled. Though the blame of Banquo's death is placed on Fleance, Lennox and many others suspect Macbeth.

Narr 3: Meanwhile, in England, Macduff has joined King Duncan's son Malcolm. They suspect Macbeth in Duncan's murder. Together, they prepare for war.

SCENE 12

Narr 1: Macbeth is weary and does not know how to proceed. He hears of a cave nearby that houses three weird sisters. He goes there to consult the witches about their prophecies.

Witch 1: By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes.

Macbeth: How now, you secret, black, and midnight hags! I demand that you show me the nature of your prophecies!

Narr 2: The witches stir some heinous ingredients into a cauldron, and an image of a floating head appears. The **apparition** tells Macbeth to beware Macduff.

Narr 3: Then a new image of a bloody child comes bubbling to the surface. The ghostly child tells Macbeth that no man that was born of a woman could ever harm him. It also tells him that he will be safe until Birnam Wood moves toward his castle.

Macbeth: A forest that moves? That can never be.

Narr 1: Macbeth leaves the witches and returns to his castle, where he learns that Macduff has fled to England but has left his wife and children behind. He orders that Macduff's family be slain, and his orders are carried out.

Narr 2: In England, Macduff gets word that his entire family has been murdered. He swears allegiance to Malcolm, and he swears revenge on Macbeth.

SCENE 13

Narr 3: Things are not right with Lady Macbeth. Her mind has been burdened with treason and murder, and she has been sleepwalking lately.

Narr 1: A gentlewoman who attends to Lady Macbeth calls a doctor one night to come and witness the sleepwalking spectacle.

Gentlewoman: Every night she rises and mutters terrible things in her sleeping state.

Doctor: What have you heard her say?

Gentlewoman: That, sir, I will not report. You must hear for yourself. Look, here she comes now.

Narr 2: Lady Macbeth enters the room. Her eyes are wide-open, but she is sleepwalking. She looks down at her hands.

Lady Macbeth: Yet here's a spot.

Doctor: Hark! She speaks in **defiance** of sleep!

Narr 3: Lady Macbeth begins rubbing her hands together furiously.

Lady Macbeth: Out, damned spot! Out, I say! Who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him?

Doctor: We should not be privy to this. These are foul-sounding words, indeed!

Lady Macbeth: I smell this blood on my hands still. All the perfumes of Arabia could not sweeten this little hand.

Doctor: Her mind is not well. But look, she washes some invisible blood from her hands!

Gentlewoman: It is the same thing every night. And now, she will go back to her bed.

Narr 1: Lady Macbeth returns to her room.

SCENE 14

Narr 2: The English army of 10,000 strong has advanced into Scotland. They stop briefly at Birnam Wood. Malcolm orders every soldier to cut down a branch from a tree and advance on Dunsinane. In doing so, he hopes to disguise their great numbers.

Narr 3: A woman's shriek echoes throughout the castle.

Macbeth: What is that noise?

Narr 1: An attendant comes running with the news that Lady Macbeth's plunge into madness has ended her. She has committed suicide.

* vocab

APPARITION: a ghost

DEFIANCE: a daring or bold resistance



Macbeth:

She should have died hereafter;
There would have been a time for such a word.

To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,

Creeps in the 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.

Narr 2: A messenger comes to the castle and informs Macbeth that the forest is moving toward them. Macbeth can hardly believe it is true, yet he recalls the witches' prophecy.

Macbeth: So let it come. Let he who was never born of woman show his face before me. Hang out our banners on the outward walls! Our castle's strength will scorn their **siege**. We will beat them backward to their home! Ring the alarm bell! Blow, wind! Come, wrack! At least we'll die with harness on our back.

SCENE 15

Narr 3: As Macbeth flies through the

castle in a rage preparing for war, Macduff has led his army to the front gates of Dunsinane. Here, all 10,000 soldiers cast aside their branches.

Narr 1: Soon the ranks begin to file into the castle. Macbeth, dressed in full armor, flies from soldier to soldier, killing everyone in his path.

Narr 2: A young soldier now faces Macbeth.

Young soldier: What is thy name?

Macbeth: Thou would be afraid to hear it.

Narr 3: The young soldier does not appear to be afraid. He stands, ready to fight for England.

Macbeth: My name's Macbeth.

Narr 1: On hearing his name, the young soldier summons up all his courage.

Young soldier: The devil himself could not pronounce a title more hateful to mine ear.

Macbeth: No, nor more fearful.

Narr 2: The young soldier lunges at Macbeth. They fight. Macbeth stabs him, and the young soldier dies.

*** vocab**

SIEGE: an attack

USURPER: one who seizes a throne by force

Macbeth: Thou was born of woman. Swords I laugh at. Weapons I scorn brandished by man that's of a woman born!

Narr 3: Macduff enters the castle and meets Macbeth with swordplay.

Macbeth: Of all men else I have avoided thee. But get thee back. My soul has taken enough blood from you already.

Macduff: I have no words. My voice is in my sword, thou bloody villain!

Narr 1: The two men's swords clang and echo through the great hall. The fight moves from room to room.

Macbeth: Your efforts are worthless. Your keen sword will not make me bleed. For I bear a charmed life, which must not yield to one of woman born.

Macduff: Despair thy charm and know this—Macduff was untimely ripped from his mother's womb.

Macbeth: It cannot be true! I'll not fight with thee then.

Macduff: Then yield thee, coward!

Narr 2: Macbeth does not yield. His rage controls his sword with blazing speed.

Macbeth: I will not yield to kiss the ground before Malcolm's feet. Though Birnam Wood has come to Dunsinane. And thou opposed, being of no woman born. Yet I will fight. Before my body I throw the warlike shield. Lay on, Macduff! And damned be him that first cries, "Hold, enough!"

SCENE 16

Narr 3: Outside the castle walls, Malcolm stands tall among the English soldiers.

Narr 1: They look to the castle gate and see Macduff coming toward them. In his hand, he holds Macbeth's severed head.

Macduff: Hail, king! Behold the **usurper's** cursed head. Hail, king of Scotland!

Narr 2: The entire army cheers for Malcolm. Once again, Scotland will have its rightful king. ■

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