

MACBETH

By William Shakespeare
Extreme Edits by Sam Wood

Cast

Queen Duncan, *Queen of Scotland*
Malcolm, *her son*
Donalbain, *her son*

Macbeth, *general in the Queen's Army*
Banquo, *general in the Queen's Army*
Cathness, *lady sergeant in the Queen's Army*

Macduff, *nobleman of Scotland*
Lennox, *noble lady of Scotland*
Rosse, *nobles of Scotland*
Angus, *nobles of Scotland*
Menteth, *noble lady of Scotland*

Lady Macbeth
Fleance, *son of Banquo*

A Lady Doctor
Servant
Murderer #1
Murderer #2
Soldiers, Malcolm's army
Soldiers Macbeth's army
(Cast should be divided into for the final battle)

Hecate
First Witch
Second Witch
Third Witch
Fourth Witch
Fifth Witch
Sixth Witch

Bloody Child
Crowned Child

THE HEATH

Thunder and Lighting. Enter WITCHES

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 before the set of sun.

FOURTH WITCH

Where is the place?

FIFTH WITCH

Upon the heath.

SIXTH WITCH

There to meet with MacBeth.

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

Exit WITCHES

DUNCAN'S CASTLE

Enter DUNCAN, MALCOLM, DONALBAIN,

LENNOX, with MENTETH supporting SARGEANT CATHNESS who is bleeding and weak.

DUNCAN

What bloody man is that?

MALCOLM

This is the sergeant,
Who like a good and hardy soldier fought
Against my captivity. Hail, brave friend!

MENTETH

Say to the king the knowledge of the broil
As thou didst leave it.

SARGEANT

Hail brave MacBeth - well, he deserves that name.

He faced the rebel Tahne of Cawdor
Which ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,
Till he unseam'd him from the nave to the chaps,
And fix'd his head upon our battlements.

DUNCAN

O valiant cousin, worthy gentlemen!
So well thy words become thee as they wounds,
They smack of honor both. Go get him surgeons.

Exit MALCOM along with MENTETH supporting CATHNESS. Enter ROSSE and ANGUS

DUNCAN

Who comes here?

DONALBAIN

The worthy thanes of Ross and Angus.

LENNOX

They have a look that seems to speak things strange.

ROSS and ANGUS

God save the Queen!

DUNCAN

Whence camest thou, worthy thanes?

ROSS

From Fife, great king;
The victory fell on us.

DUNCAN

Great happiness!

ANGUS

No more will that villain, the Thane of Cawdor,
Deceive the interest of your kingdom.

DUNCAN

Go pronounce his present death,
And with his former title greet Macbeth.

DONALBAIN

I'll see it done.

Exit All

THE HEATH

Thunder. Enter MACBETH and BANQUO

MACBETH

So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

Enter WITCHES

BANQUO

Fouler still as the day goes on, Macbeth.

What are these so withered and so wild in their attire

That look not like inhabitants of the earth and yet are on it?

FIRST WITCH and SECOND WITCH

All hail Macbeth, Thane of Glamis!

THIRD WITCH and FOURTH WITCH

All hail Macbeth, Thane of Cawdor!

FIFTH and SIXTH WITCH

All hail Macbeth, who shall one day be king!

BANQUO

If you can look into the seeds of time

And say which grain will grow and which will not,

Then speak to me of what my life shall be!

ALL WITCHES

Hail!

FIRST WITCH and SECOND WITCH

Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.

THIRD WITCH and FOURTH WITCH

Not so happy, yet much happier.

FIFTH and SIXTH WITCH

Thou shalt be the father of kings, though thou be none.

ALL WITCHES

So hail Macbeth and Banquo!

Exit WITCHES

BANQUO

You shall be king!

MACBETH
And thane of Cawdor too?

Enter DONALBAIN

DONALBAIN
Hail, Thane of Cawdor!

MACBETH
Thane of Cawdor lives!

DONALBAIN
Not for long. He has betrayed the king and is condemned to die.
His land and title come from Duncan's hand to thee,
In gratitude for your great deeds in battle.

BANQUO
Remember, the powers of darkness
May use a bit of truth to lure a man to doom.

MACBETH
Come what may. Let us toward the king!

Exit All

MACBETH'S CASTLE
Enter LADY MACBETH, reading a letter

LADY MACBETH
Yet I do fear your nature, my husband.
It is too full of the milk of human kindness.
I shall have to urge thee on.

Enter MACBETH

MACBETH
My dearest love. Duncan comes here tonight.

LADY MACBETH
Tonight! And when does he leave?

MACBETH
Tomorrow.

LADY MACBETH
Never shall tomorrow come! The Queen shall die.

MACBETH

Alas!

LADY MACBETH

Your face, my thane, is as a book where men
May read your thoughts. Look like the innocent flower,
But be the serpent under it.

MACBETH

We will speak further.

Exit MACBETH

LADY MACBETH

Leave all the rest to me.

*Enter DUNCAN, MALCOLM, DONALBAIN, BANQUO, LENNOX, MACDUFF, ROSS,
ANGUS, and MENTETH*

MALCOLM

See, see, our honour'd hostess!

DUNCAN

Give me your hand;
Conduct me to mine host: we love him highly,
And shall continue our graces towards him.

Exit All. Enter MACBETH

MACBETH

If it were done, would be well To do it quickly...
The king is here in double trust:
First, I am his kinsman and his subject, Then, I am his host.
I should shut the door against his murderer, Not bear the knife myself-

Enter LADY MACBETH

MACBETH

We will proceed no further in this business!

LADY MACBETH:

Would you live a coward in your own esteem,
Letting "I dare not" wait upon "I would"?

MACBETH

And if we should fail?

LADY MACBETH

Fail? Are you afraid to claim your greatness?
Screw your courage to the sticking place!

MACBETH

I am settled upon this terrible deed.
False face must hide what the false heart doth know.

Exit MACBETH and LADY MACBETH. Enter BANQUO and FLEANCE who is holding a lantern

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 it, it's later, sir.

Enter MACBETH and SERVANT, with a lantern

BANQUO

Who's there?

SERVANT

The Thane of Cawdor.

MACBETH

A friend, Banquo

BANQUO

What, sir, not yet at rest? The Queen is going to bed.
I dreamt last night of the three weird sisters.
To you they have shown some truth.

MACBETH

I think not of them. Good repose the while!

BANQUO

Thanks, sir: the like to you!

Exit BANQUO, FLEANCE, and SERVANT

MACBETH

Is this a dagger I see before me,
the handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee.
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.

Bell sounds.

MACBETH

I go, and it is done; the bell invites me.
Hear it not, Duncan; for it rings thy death.

Exit MACBETH

Up stage. A pantomime of the Duncan going to bed guided by SERVANT with a lantern. MACBETH and LADY MACBETH silently enters and each stab DUNCAN killing her. MACBETH and LADY MACBETH drag DUNCAN's body off stage. (Maybe some scary music?)

Enter MACBETH and LADY MACBETH

LADY MACBETH

Get some water and wash this filthy witness from your hands.

MACBETH:

I am afraid to think what I have done.

LADY MACBETH

Infirm of purpose! Give me the daggers!

Knocking

MACBETH

Whence is that knocking?
How is't with me, when every noise appalls me?
Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood
Clean from my hand?

LADY MACBETH:

My hands are of your color; but I shame
To wear a heart so white.

Knocking

I hear a knocking

At the south entry: retire we to our chamber;

A little water clears us of this deed:

Exit LADY MACBETH

MACBETH

To know my deed, it would be best not to know myself.

Knocking

I would we could wake Duncan with thy knocking!

Enter MACDUFF and LENNOX, MACBETH hides his hands

MACDUFF

Good morrow, sir. The king did command me to call timely on him. I have almost slipped the hour.

MACBETH

I will bring you to him. This is the door.

Exit MACDUFF

LENNOX

The night has been unruly. Chimneys were blown down
And strange screams of death seemed to fill the air.

MACBETH

Twas a rough night.

Enter MACDUFF

MACDUFF

Oh horror, horror, horror! Awake! Awake!
Confusion now hath made his masterpiece!

Exit LENNOX into the murder chamber.

Ring the alarm bell! Murder and treason!

Enter ENTIRE CAST except for the SERVANT and the WITCHES

DONALBAIN

What is amiss?

MACDUFF

Your royal father's murdered.

MALCOLM
By whom?

Enter LENNOX

LENNOX
It would seem the very servant who was pledged to guard him.

LADY MACBETH:
Oh, help me hence! (She swoons as if to faint.)

MACDUFF:
Look to the lady.

Exit ALL except MALCOLM and DONALBAIN

MALCOLM
Let's not consort with them. I'll to England.

DONALBAIN
To Ireland, I; our separated fortune
Shall keep us both the safer: where we are,
There's daggers in men's smiles: the near in blood,
The nearer bloody.

MALCOLM
And let us not be dainty of leave-taking.

*Exit MALCOLM and DONALBAIN
Enter BANQUO*

BANQUO
Thou hast it now: king, Cawdor, Glamis, all,
As the weird women promised, and, I fear,
Thou play'dst most foully for't.

Enter MACBETH

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

BANQUO
Let your highness command upon me.

MACBETH
Fail not our feast.

BANQUO
My lord, I will not.

Exit BANQUO

MACBETH
Our fears in Banquo stick deep.
No son of mine succeeding. If 't be so,
For Banquo's issue have I filed my mind;
For them the gracious Duncan have I murder'd.

Enter MURDERER

MACBETH
You know that Banquo was your enemy.

MURDERER #1
True, my lord.

MACBETH
So is he mine.

MURDERER #2
We shall, my lord, perform what you command.

Exit MURDERER #1 and #2

*Enter ENTIRE CAST except for DUNCAN, MURDERER #1, MURDERER #2, BANQUO,
MALCOLM, DONALBAIN, and WITCHES
Banquet begins and is pantomimed. Enter BANQUO'S GHOST*

MACBETH
Which of you has done this?

LENNOX
What, my good lord?

MACBETH
Thou cannot say I did it. Never shake your gory locks at me!

ROSS
Gentlemen, rise. His highness is not well.

Exit BANQUO'S GHOST followed by everyone else

THE HEATH

FIRST WITCH

How now, Hecate? You look angerly.

HECATE

Have I not reason, beldams as you are,
Saucy and overbold? How did you dare
To trade and traffic with Macbeth
In riddles and affairs of death;
And I, the mistress of your charms,
The close contriver of all harms,
Was never call'd to bear my part,
Or show the glory of our art?

FIRST WITCH and SECOND WITCH

Thrice the brinded cat hath mew'd.

THIRD WITCH and FORTH WITCH

Thrice, and once the hedgepig whined.

FIFTH WITCH and SIXTH WITCH

Harpier cries - 'Tis time, 'tis time!

ALL WITCHES

Double, double toil and trouble; Fire burn and cauldron bubble. 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 owlet's wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble, Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.

HECATE:

O well done! I commend your pains;
And everyone shall share i' the gains;
And now about the cauldron sing,
Live elves and fairies in a ring,
Enchanting all that you put in.

(They circle the cauldron.)

FIRST WITCH and SECOND WITCH

By the pricking of my thumbs,

THIRD WITCH and FORTH WITCH
Something wicked this way comes.

FIFTH WITCH and SIXTH WITCH
Open, locks, Whoever knocks!

Enter MACBETH

MACBETH
How now, you secret midnight hags! What is it you do?

ALL WITCHES
A deed without a name!

Enter APPARITIONS as they speak. GHOSTS of DUNCAN and BANQUO stand behind the APPARITIONS

HECATE:
Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! beware Macduff;
Beware the thane of Fife.

BLOODY CHILD:
None of woman born Shall harm Macbeth.

CROWNED CHILD:
Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be until Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill Shall come against him.

Exit APPARITIONS, GHOSTS and WITCHES
Enter LENNOX

MACBETH:
Saw you the weird sisters?

LENNOX:
No, my lord! Macduff has fled to England!

MACBETH:
To England!
The castle of Macduff I will surprise;
Seize upon Fife; give to the edge o' the sword
His wife, his babes, and all unfortunate souls
That trace him in his line.

Exit All

ENGLAND

Enter MACDUFF and MALCOLM followed by ROSS

MACDUFF
My children too? My wife kill'd too?

ROSS
I have said.

MACDUFF:
Bleed, bleed, poor country! Great tyranny!

MALCOLM:
Be this the whetstone of your sword: let grief
Convert to anger; blunt not the heart, enrage it.
Come, go we to the king; our power is ready.

MACBETH's CASTLE

ENTER LADY MACBETH sleepwalking followed by SERVANT and DOCTOR. Lady Macbeth mimes washing her hands.

LADY MACBETH
Out, damned spot! out, I say!
Who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him.

SERVANT
She has spoke what she should not.

LADY MACBETH
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
This disease is beyond my practice
More needs she the divine than the physician.
God, God forgive us all! Look after her.

Enter MACBETH

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?

Enter MENTETH

MACBETH

Where got'st thou that goose look?

MENTETH

There is ten thousand...

MACBETH

Geese?

MENTETH

Soldiers, sir!

MACBETH

Go prick thy face, and over-red thy fear, Thou lily-liver'd boy. What soldiers?

MENTETH

The English force, so please you.

MACBETH

I'll fight till from my bones my flesh be hack'd. Give me my armour.

LADY MACBETH's cry is heard from offstage. Exit MACBETH

Enter MACDUFF, MALCOLM and his SOLDIERS with branches in front of their faces.
They march across the stage.

Enter MACBETH

MACBETH

The queen is dead.

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.

Macbeth cries out and runs to the battle.

*Enter MALCOLM's SOLDIERS and MACBETH's SOLDIERS from opposite side of the stage
Fighting across the stage. Exit All except MACDUFF and MACBETH*

MACDUFF

Yield thee, coward!

MACBETH

I will not yield,
To kiss the ground before young Malcolm's feet.

Exit MACDUFF and MACBETH, still fighting

ENTER MALCOLM, MACDUFF with MACBETH's crown followed by all of the soldiers

MACDUFF

Hail, king! for so thou art: behold, where stands The usurper's cursed crown

ALL:

Hail, King of Scotland!

MALCOLM:

So ends our tale of this dead butcher and his fiend-like queen,
Who, as 'tis thought, by self and violent hands
Took off her life; this, and what needful else
That calls upon us, by the grace of Grace,
We will perform in measure, time and place:
So, thanks to all at once and to each one,
Whom we invite to see us crown'd at Scone.

Exit All