

MACBETH

THE ULTIMATE GRAPHIC RETELLING TO
GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE CLASSICS

BY
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



ILLUSTRATED BY NICK SPENDER

RETOLD BY STEPHEN HAYNES

MACBETH



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WHEN SHALL WE THREE
MEET AGAIN, IN THUNDER,
LIGHTNING, OR IN RAIN?
WHEN THE HURLY-BURLY'S DONE,
WHEN THE BATTLE'S LOST AND
WON. THAT WILL BE ERE¹ THE SET
OF SUN. FAIR IS FOUL, AND FOUL
IS FAIR: HOVER THROUGH THE
FOG AND FILTHY AIR.

¹ ere; before.



MACBETH, THANE OF GLAMIS



LADY MACBETH



BANQUO, A THANE OF SCOTLAND



DUNCAN, KING OF SCOTLAND



MALCOLM, DUNCAN'S ELDER SON



DONALBAIN, DUNCAN'S YOUNGER SON



MACDUFF, THANE OF FIFE



LADY MACDUFF



LENNOX AND ROSS, THANES OF SCOTLAND



ANGUS, A THANE OF SCOTLAND



THE WEIRD SISTERS

SCOTLAND, 1040 CE.

THE TREACHEROUS MACDONALD HAS REBELLED AGAINST KING DUNCAN, THE RIGHTFUL KING OF SCOTLAND. DUNCAN HAS SENT HIS TWO MOST TRUSTED GENERALS, MACBETH AND BANQUO, TO PUT DOWN THE REBELLION.

A WOUNDED SOLDIER GALLOPS INTO KING DUNCAN'S CAMP NEAR FORRES.* PRINCE MALCOLM RECOGNISES HIM.



THE SERGEANT DESCRIBES HOW MACBETH FEARLESSLY CHARGED THROUGH THE REBELS, LOOKING FOR THEIR LEADER.



HE SLEW MACDONALD AND STUCK HIS HEAD ON THE BATTLEMENTS AS A WARNING TO OTHERS.



NO SOONER HAD MACBETH DEFEATED THE REBELS THAN THE KING OF NORWAY³ ATTACKED FROM THE OTHER DIRECTION.



A SCOTTISH NOBLEMAN, THE THANE⁴ OF CAWDOR, FOUGHT ON THE NORWEGIAN SIDE, BUT MACBETH EVENTUALLY FORCED THEM TO SURRENDER.

Go pronounce his present⁵ death, and with his former title greet Macbeth.⁶



DUNCAN IS FURIOUS WHEN HE HEARS OF CAWDOR'S TREACHERY.

*For place names, see the map on page 43.

1. bloody; bloodstained. 2. 'gainst my captivity: to save me from being captured.

3. Norway: Some parts of Scotland are closer to Norway than they are to England, and raids were common.

4. Thane: a rank of the Scottish nobility, slightly below an English earl.

5. presents: immediate. 6. with... Macbeth: Tell Macbeth that he is the new Thane of Cawdor.



THE THREE WEIRD SISTERS¹ PREPARE TO WAYLAY MACBETH AND BANQUO AS THEY RETURN FROM THEIR VICTORIOUS CAMPAIGN.



All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, Thane of Cawdor!

All hail, Macbeth, that shalt⁴ be king hereafter!⁵



WHAT CAN THIS MEAN? BANQUO ASKS WHETHER THE SISTERS HAVE ANY MESSAGE FOR HIM. THEY ANSWER HIM WITH RIDDLES.



I know I am Thane of Glamis; but how of Cawdor? And to be king stands not within the prospect of belief.⁷



BUT INSTEAD OF ANSWERING HIM, THE WITCHES VANISH. MACBETH AND BANQUO CAN SCARCELY BELIEVE WHAT THEY HAVE HEARD.



THE THANES ROSS AND ANGUS COME RIDING TO MEET MACBETH WITH A MESSAGE FROM THE KING.



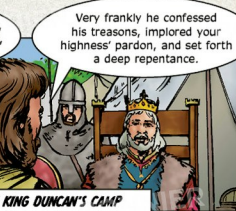
ANGUS EXPLAINS THAT CAWDOR HAS BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH, AND HIS TITLE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO MACBETH. DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE OTHER PROPHECIES MIGHT ALSO COME TRUE?



Glamis, and Thane of Cawdor! The greatest is behind.¹³



BANQUO WARNS HIM THAT THE WITCHES ARE MESSENGERS OF THE DEVIL AND CANNOT BE TRUSTED. BUT MACBETH IS NOT LISTENING. HE COULD BECOME KING, IF HE DARED... OR PERHAPS, IF HE IS FATED TO BE KING, IT WILL SOMEHOW JUST HAPPEN BY ITSELF?



BACK AT KING DUNCAN'S CAMP

PRINCE MALCOLM REPORTS TO HIS FATHER THAT THE TRAITOR, CAWDOR, HAS BEEN EXECUTED.



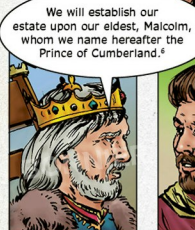
Nothing in his life became him¹⁷ like the leaving it.



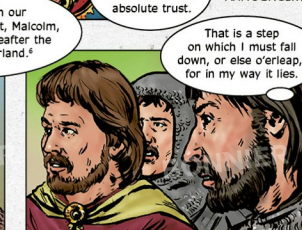
He was a gentleman on whom I built an absolute trust.



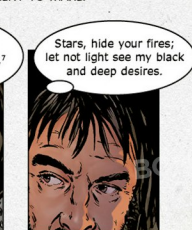
THE HEROES RETURN, AND THE KING CONGRATULATES THEM. BUT NOW DUNCAN HAS A MOST IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE.



HE HAS DECIDED WHO SHOULD SUCCEED HIM AS KING OF SCOTS.



MACBETH IS DISMAYED: THIS MEANS THAT MALCOLM, NOT MACBETH, IS NOW THE HEIR TO THE THRONE.



TO BE KING, HE WILL HAVE TO SEIZE THE CROWN FOR HIMSELF.

1. hast thou: have you. 2. doth come: is coming. 3. weird sisters: witches. 'Weird' means 'to do with fate or destiny'. 4. Hail to thee: Greetings to you. 5. Glamis: usually pronounced 'glams'. 6. shalt: shall. 7. hereafter: afterwards. 8. Thou... none: You will have children who are kings, but you will not be one yourself. 9. stands... belief: is totally unbelievable. 10. went it not so?: Isn't that what they said? 11. hath: have. 12. thy: your. 13. bade me: told me to ('bade' is usually pronounced 'baid'). 14. thee: you. 15. behind: still to come.

1. unfix my hair: make my hair stand on end. 2. without my stir: without my doing anything. 3. became him: was worthy of him. In other words, his death was the most noble act of his whole life. 4. There's... face: There is no way to judge a person's character from their appearance. 5. More is thy due: You deserve more. 6. Prince of Cumberland: the title of the heir to the Scottish throne. 7. a step... o'erleap: an obstacle that will stop me unless I can get over it.



MACBETH HAS WRITTEN TO HIS WIFE ABOUT THE WITCHES' PROPHECY AND HIS NEW APPOINTMENT AS THANE OF CAWDOR.



SHE IS THRILLED BY THE NEWS.



BUT WILL MACBETH BE RUTHLESS ENOUGH TO MAKE SURE THAT THE PROPHECY COMES TRUE?



AT LAST MACBETH HIMSELF ARRIVES. SHE GREETs HIM BY HIS NEW TITLE FOR THE FIRST TIME.



THEY BOTH HAVE THE SAME THOUGHT: DUNCAN MUST DIE.



THEY MUST WELCOME DUNCAN GRACIOUSLY AND BEHAVE AS THOUGH ALL IS WELL. HE WILL SUSPECT NOTHING.

1. goes hence: goes away – but it can also mean 'dies'. 2. purposes: intends. 3. put ... into my dispatch: let me organise it. 4. look up clear: look cheerful. 5. to after ... fear: changing your expression is always a sign that you are afraid.



IT WILL BE UP TO HER TO MAKE SURE THAT HE IS!



A SERVANT BRINGS THE NEWS THAT DUNCAN IS ON HIS WAY TO INVERNESS.



SO HER CHANCE HAS COME ALREADY! DUNCAN WILL BE HERE, IN HER OWN HOUSE, AT HER MERCY.



SHE MUST STEEL HERSELF, AND PUT ANY THOUGHT OF PITY OUT OF HER MIND.

1. thou art: you are. 2. hie thee hither: Hurry here. 3. chastise ... round: persuade you to ignore the doubts that keep you from seizing the crown. 4. Thou'rt mad to say it: Why is she so startled? Does she think for a moment that when the servant says 'the king' he means Macbeth? Or does she find it hard to believe that Duncan has already fallen into her hands? 5. tend on mortal thoughts: encourage thoughts of death. 6. unsex me: make me forget that I am a woman; make me as ruthless as a man.



KING DUNCAN AND HIS LORDS APPROACH MACBETH'S CASTLE. THEY ARE CHARMED BY THE DELIGHTFUL, PEACEFUL SCENE.



LADY MACBETH COMES OUT TO WELCOME THEM. CURTSEYING GRACIOUSLY.



BUT LADY MACBETH HAS LAID HER PLANS AND WILL NOT STOP NOW. WHERE IS HIS COURAGE?



From this time, such I account thy love.



A FEAST HAS BEEN LAID OUT FOR THE ROYAL GUEST, BUT MACBETH HAS LEFT TO BE ALONE. HE IS GETTING COLD FEET.



THERE ARE GOOD REASONS WHY HE SHOULD NOT KILL DUNCAN.



IN FACT, IT IS MACBETH'S DUTY TO PROTECT HIS GUEST.

I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent, but only vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself.



LADY MACBETH HAS COME TO FIND HIM. HE SHOULD BE WITH HIS ROYAL VISITOR, NOT SKULKING IN THE DARK BY HIMSELF.



MACBETH HAS FINALLY MADE UP HIS MIND.



SHE WOULD NOT GIVE UP SO EASILY. SHE WOULD MURDER HER OWN BABY, IF SHE HAD TO!



SHE WOULD NOT GIVE UP SO EASILY. SHE WOULD MURDER HER OWN BABY, IF SHE HAD TO!



NOW SHE TRIES TO FLATTER HIM.



But screw your courage to the sticking-place, and we'll not fail.



HER PLAN IS TO GET DUNCAN'S SERVANTS DRUNK, AND USE THEIR DAGGERS TO KILL HIM.



HER PLAN IS TO GET DUNCAN'S SERVANTS DRUNK, AND USE THEIR DAGGERS TO KILL HIM.

1. seat: location. 2. we are: I am. It was usual for kings and queens to call themselves 'we'; later, Macbeth will do the same. 3. If... done: If it could all be safely over and done with. 4. 'twere well: it would be a good thing. 5. kinsman: relative (Macbeth and Duncan are cousins). 6. I have... heart: The only thing that drives me on (as a spur drives a horse) is ambition, which makes me attempt too much. 7. supped: finished eating.

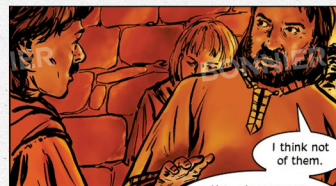
1. Was the hope... freely?: She compares him to a man who is brave when he is drunk, but not when he wakes up the next morning. 2. such... love: this is what I think your love for me is worth. 3. Prithee: beg you. 4. become a man: be worthy of a man. 5. who dares... none: anyone who does what is unworthy of a man is not a man. 6. durst: dared. 7. screw... sticking-place: summon all your courage (like winding a crossbow as tight as it will go). 8. received: believed by everyone. 9. done't: done it. 10. mock... show: trick everyone by pretending that all is well.



BANQUO AND HIS SON, FLEANCE, ARE ON THEIR WAY TO BED WHEN THEY HEAR FOOTSTEPS IN THE DARK. ALARMED, BANQUO DRAWS HIS SWORD - BUT IT IS ONLY MACBETH.



THE KING HAS ENTRUSTED BANQUO WITH A VALUABLE GIFT FOR LADY MACBETH.



MACBETH PRETENDS HE HAS FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE PROPHECIES. THEY BOTH KNOW THIS IS NOT TRUE.

Yet, when we can entreat an hour to serve,² we would spend it in some words upon that business - if you would grant the time.



MACBETH BIDS BANQUO AND FLEANCE GOODNIGHT.



MACBETH HAS ARRANGED FOR HIS WIFE TO GIVE A SECRET SIGNAL AS SOON AS THE SERVANTS ARE UNCONSCIOUS.



LEFT ALONE IN THE DARKENED CASTLE, MACBETH IS SUDDENLY CONFRONTED WITH A GHOSTLY APPARITION.



HE TRIES TO TAKE HOLD OF IT BUT HIS HAND GOES STRAIGHT THROUGH.



IT SEEMS TO BE LEADING HIM TOWARDS DUNCAN'S BEDCHAMBER. HE FOLLOWS, NOTICING BLOOD GLISTENING.



HE RUBS HIS EYES, AND THE DAGGER VANISHES.



HE TREADS AS QUIETLY AS HE CAN, AFRAID THAT ANY SOUND ON THE FLAGSTONES MAY GIVE HIM AWAY.



BEHIND HIM, THE BELL RINGS QUIETLY, AS PLANNED.



1. withal: with. 2. when we can entreat an hour to serve: when I have time to spare. Macbeth is already using the 'royal plural' - saying 'we' when he means 'I'. 3. the while: meanwhile. 4. the like: the same.

1. dudgeon: handle. 2. gouts: drops. 3. it is . . . eyes: the thought of murder is making me see things that are not real. 4. thy very stones: even your stones. 5. prate: tell tales. 6. I go . . . done: As soon as I go, it will be over and done with. 7. knell: funeral bell.



LADY MACBETH IS WAITING FOR HER HUSBAND TO RETURN AFTER KILLING DUNCAN. THE SUSPENSE IS UNBEARABLE; THE SLIGHTEST NOISE ALARMS HER. A VOICE CALLS OUT IN A DISTANT CORRIDOR.

SHE HAS DRUGGED THE SERVANTS AND PUT THEIR DAGGERS WHERE MACBETH COULD FIND THEM - WHAT COULD GO WRONG?



ONLY ONE THING STOPPED HER FROM KILLING DUNCAN HERSELF.

THE DOOR CREAKS OPEN.

BOTH OF THEM ARE ON EDGE.



MACBETH HAS BLOOD ON HIS HANDS.

SOMEWHERE IN THE CASTLE, HE IS SURE HE HEARD SOMEONE WAKE.

LADY MACBETH HAS NO TIME FOR THIS NONSENSE.



SHE SUDDENLY NOTICES THAT MACBETH IS STILL CARRYING THE SERVANTS' DAGGERS. HE WAS SUPPOSED TO LEAVE THEM AS INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE!



AS LADY MACBETH GOES TO RETURN THE DAGGERS, THERE IS A LOUD KNOCKING AT THE CASTLE GATE.



THE SOUTH GATE OF THE CASTLE: DAWN



Here's a knocking indeed! If a man were porter¹ of hell-gate, he should have old² turning the key.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

Anon, anon!³ I pray you, remember the porter.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

Is thy master stirring?⁴

THE GATEKEEPER FINALLY ARRIVES TO SEE WHO IS KNOCKING. HE HAS ENJOYED THE FEAST, AND HAD FAR TOO MUCH TO DRINK.



Is the king stirring, worthy thane?

Not yet.

He did command me to call timely⁵ on him.

MACDUFF AND LENNOX HAVE ARRIVED EARLY TO CALL ON THE KING. AS THEY STEP THROUGH THE GATE, MACBETH COMES TO MEET THEM, PULLING HIS CLOAK AROUND HIM TO MAKE THEM THINK HE HAS JUST WOKEN UP.

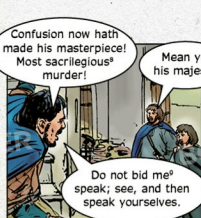


Our chimneys were blown down; and, as they say, lamentings heard i'th'air⁶ - strange screams of death.

'Twas a rough night.

O HORROR, HORROR, HORROR!

WHILE MACDUFF GOES TO SEE THE KING, LENNOX TELLS MACBETH THAT HE AND MACDUFF HAVE NOT SLEPT WELL. SUDDENLY, A SHOUT RINGS THROUGH THE CASTLE.



Confusion now hath made his masterpiece! Most sacrilegious⁸ murder!

Mean you his majesty?

Do not bid me⁹ speak; see, and then speak yourselves.



Awake, awake! Ring the alarm-bell!¹⁰ Murder and treason!

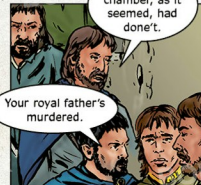


Our royal master's murdered!

What, in our house?

MACDUFF COMES RUSHING BACK FROM THE KING'S CHAMBER WITH THE MOST DREADFUL NEWS.

MACBETH AND LENNOX RUSH OFF TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES. WHILE MACDUFF ROUSES THE WHOLE HOUSEHOLD, LADY MACBETH AND BANQUO ARE THE FIRST TO ARRIVE.



Those of his chamber, as it seemed, had don't.

Your royal father's murdered.

MACDUFF BREAKS THE NEWS TO DUNCAN'S SONS, MALCOLM AND DONALBAIN. LENNOX IS, HAVING EXAMINED THE CRIME SCENE, CONVINCED BY MACBETH'S ALIBI.



O, yet I do repent me of my fury, that I did kill them.

Wherefore¹ did you so?

Who can be wise, amazed, temp'rate² and furious, loyal and neutral, in a moment? No man.³



Help me hence, ho!

Look to the lady.

WHILE MACBETH STRUGGLES TO ANSWER MACDUFF'S AWKWARD QUESTION, LADY MACBETH CREATES A DIVERSION BY PRETENDING TO FEEL FAINT.



Where we are, there's daggers in men's smiles.



A and most strange - and certain - turned wild in nature.

'Tis said they eat⁴ each other.

They did so.



Is't known who did this more than bloody⁵ deed?

Those that Macbeth hath slain.

DUNCAN'S SONS ARE AFRAID THAT THEY WILL BE KILLED NEXT. THEY DECIDE TO FLEE.



LATER THAT DAY, AS MACDUFF IS LEAVING THE CASTLE, HE FINDS ROSS AND AN OLD MAN DISCUSSING THE STRANGE OMENS THAT HAVE BEEN REPORTED.



The king's two sons are stol'n away and fled, which puts upon them suspicion of the deed.



Then 'tis most like⁶ the sovereignty⁷ will fall upon Macbeth.

He is already named, and gone to Scone⁸ to be invested.⁹



Will you to¹¹ Scone?

No, cousin, I'll to Fife.

God's benison¹⁰ go with you.

BUT NOW THE SUDDEN DEPARTURE OF MALCOLM AND DONALBAIN HAS GIVEN MACBETH A FURTHER ALIBI.

MACDUFF HAS DECIDED NOT TO ATTEND MACBETH'S CORONATION. HE IS GOING HOME INSTEAD.

1. porter, gatekeeper 2. old: a lot of. 3. anon, soon (in other words, 'I'm coming'). 4. stirring, awake. 5. timely: early. 6. i'th': in the. 7. woe: a woe. 8. sacrilegious: hateful to God. (In Shakespeare's time, it was believed that kings were chosen by God.) 9. bid me: ask me to. 10. alarm: alarm.

1. wherefore: why. 2. temp'rate: temperate, calm. 3. Who... no man: When you are astonished and angry, you cannot behave wisely and calmly; if you are loyal to your king, you cannot forget your loyalty. Macbeth is pretending that he was so angry with the servants that he could not help killing them. 4. eat: etc. 5. bloody: bloodthirsty. 6. like: likely. 7. sovereignty: kingship. 8. Scone: the ancient capital of Scotland, where the King of Scots was traditionally crowned. 9. invested: made king in a special ceremony. 10. benison: blessing. 11. Will you to: Will you go to.



... and I fear
thou play'st most
foully for't.¹

Thou hast it now:
King, Cawdor, Glamis,
all, as the weird women
promised...

MACBETH AND HIS LADY HAVE BEEN CROWNED AT SCONE.
THE WITCHES' PROPHECY TO MACBETH HAS BEEN FULFILLED.
BANQUO IS BEGINNING TO BE SUSPICIOUS.



Yet it was said...
myself should be the
root and father of
many kings.

BUT WHAT OF THEIR
PREDICTION FOR
BANQUO - THAT HIS
DESCENDANTS WILL
INHERIT THE THRONE?



MACBETH IS PLANNING A GRAND FEAST
TO CELEBRATE HIS CORONATION.
BANQUO IS TO BE THE GUEST
OF HONOUR.

We hear our bloody
cousins are bestowed² in
England and in Ireland, not
confessing their cruel parricide,⁴
filling their hearers with
strange invention.⁵



Ride you this
afternoon?

Ay, my
good lord.

Fall not³ our
feast.

My lord,
I will not.

BUT FIRST, BANQUO HAS
A JOURNEY TO MAKE.



THE OFFICIAL STORY NOW
IS THAT MALCOLM AND
DONALBAIN ARE THE KILLERS.



Goes Fleance
with you?

Ay, my good
lord.

Farewell.

BANQUO AND HIS YOUNG SON MOUNT
THEIR HORSES.



To be thus is nothing,
but to be safely thus.¹

Our fears in Banquo
stick deep. There is
none but he, whose
being I do fear.

MACBETH REALISES THAT BANQUO HAS
BEHAVED MORE WISELY THAN HE HAS.



For them the gracious
Duncan have I murdered;
to make them kings - the
seeds of Banquo, kings!

AND HE HAS NOT FORGOTTEN THE
PREDICTION ABOUT BANQUO'S
CHILDREN.



Both of you
know Banquo was
your enemy.

True,
my lord.

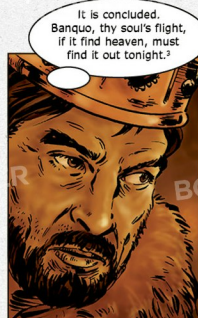
So is he
mine.

HE HAS ARRANGED A SECRET MEETING
WITH TWO DESPERATE CHARACTERS.



And with him - to leave no rubs nor
botches² in the work - Fleance his son,
must embrace the fate of that dark hour.

HE WANTS BANQUO KILLED, BUT IT MUST BE
DONE SECRETLY. FLEANCE MUST DIE TOO.



It is concluded.
Banquo, thy soul's flight,
if it find heaven, must
find it out tonight.³



Nought's had, all's spent, where our desire is got without content.¹

'Tis safer to be that which we destroy, than by destruction dwell in doubtful joy.

KING MACBETH AND HIS QUEEN ARE NOT ENJOYING THEIR NEW STATUS AT ALL. THEY LIVE IN CONSTANT FEAR AND ARE TORMENTED BY NIGHTMARES.



How now, my lord, why do you keep alone?

Things without all remedy should be without regard:² what's done is done.



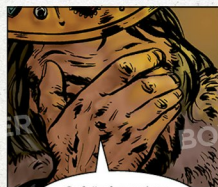
But let the frame of things disjoint,³ both the worlds⁴ suffer,

ere⁵ we will eat our meal in fear, and sleep in the affliction of these terrible dreams that shake us nightly.

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

Nothing can touch him further.

DUNCAN IS BETTER OFF THAN THEY ARE - HE NO LONGER HAS ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.



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



There shall be done a deed of dreadful note.

BUT MACBETH'S PLAN IS UNDERWAY...

Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck, till thou applaud the deed.⁶

1. Nought's had... content: When we get what we wanted and are still not happy, we have gained nothing for our trouble. 2. Things... regard: There is no point worrying about things that cannot be changed... 3. let... disjoint: let the whole world fall apart. 4. both the worlds: Heaven and Earth. 5. ere: before, rather than. 6. Be innocent... deed: You had better not know about it yet, but you will be pleased once it is done.



BONNIER

BONNIER

BONNIER

Light thickens, and the crow makes wing¹ to throoky wood; good things of day begin to droop and drowse, while night's black agents to their preys do rouse.²

OUTSIDE THE CASTLE, AS NIGHT FALLS



Hark! I hear horses.

THE TWO MURDERERS LIE IN WAIT FOR BANQUO AND FLEANCE AS THEY RETURN TO THE CASTLE. MACBETH HAS SENT A THIRD MAN TO GIVE THEM THEIR INSTRUCTIONS - AND PERHAPS TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEM AS WELL.



It will be rain tonight.

Let it come down!

BANQUO AND FLEANCE, SUSPECTING NOTHING, DISMOUNT FROM THEIR HORSES TO WALK TO THE CASTLE GATE.



O, treachery! Fly, good Fleance, fly, fly, fly! Thou mayst revenge.



Who did strike out the light?

Was't not the way?³

There's but one down;⁴ the son is fled.

1. makes wing: flies. 2. rouse: awakes. 3. Was't... way?: Wasn't that the plan? 4. but one down: only one killed.



THE NEW KING AND QUEEN HAVE PUT ON A SPLENDID BANQUET FOR THE SCOTTISH NOBLES. BUT MACBETH IS NOT AT THE TABLE; HE HAS SPOTTED ONE OF THE MURDERERS LURKING IN THE SHADOWS BY THE DOOR.



BUT THE MURDER HAS NOT GONE ACCORDING TO PLAN.



LADY MACBETH HAS CALLED HIM BACK TO THE FEAST.



BUT WHEN MACBETH GOES TO SIT DOWN, HE FINDS HIS SEAT TAKEN! BANQUO HAS COME TO THE FEAST AFTER ALL - JUST AS HE PROMISED.



1. dispatched: got rid of. 2. venom: poison. Once he is grown up, Fleance will be as dangerous to Macbeth as a poisonous snake, because he will want revenge. 3. gory locks: bloodstained hair.



THE GUESTS DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO THINK; THEY CANNOT SEE WHAT MACBETH IS STARING AT.



THIS IS THE VERY PAINTING OF YOUR FEAR.¹



THE GHOST HAS VANISHED.

NOW THAT THE GHOST HAS GONE, MACBETH PULLS HIMSELF TOGETHER AND PROPOSES A TOAST.



I drink to th'general joy o'th'whole table, and to our dear friend Banquo, whom we miss. Would he were here!



BUT AS SOON AS BANQUO'S NAME IS MENTIONED, AGAIN THE GHOST APPEARS. LADY MACBETH HAS TO SEND THE GUESTS AWAY.



He grows worse and worse.

At once, goodnight. Stand not upon the order of your going,⁷ but go at once.

1. thus: like this. 2. upon a thought: in no time at all. 3. painting of your fear: hallucination caused by fear. 4. you look but on: you are only looking at. 5. would: I wish. 6. Avaunt: Go away. 7. Stand . . . going: Don't insist on leaving in the proper order (with the most important people going first).



THE EMBARRASSED GUESTS HAVE GONE, LEAVING MACBETH AND HIS LADY ALONE.



MACDUFF WAS INVITED TO THE FEAST; WHY DIDN'T HE COME?



MACBETH HAS SPIES EVERYWHERE; HE NO LONGER TRUSTS ANYONE.



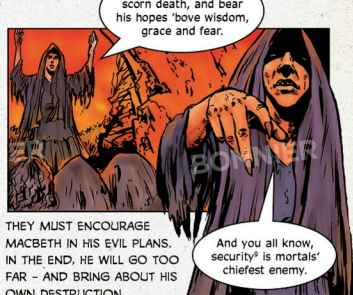
HE WANTS NO MORE UNCERTAINTY. HE WILL FIND OUT THE WORST BY CONFRONTING THE THREE SISTERS ONCE MORE.



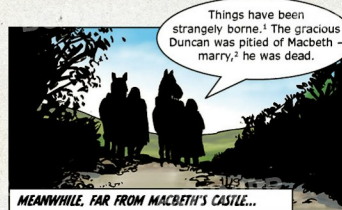
NOW THAT HE HAS SO MANY DEATHS ON HIS CONSCIENCE, THERE IS NO TURNING BACK.



HECATE, GODDESS OF SORCERY, IS ANGRY WITH THE WEIRD SISTERS. THEY SHOULD HAVE CONSULTED HER BEFORE MEDDLING WITH MACBETH'S DESTINY.

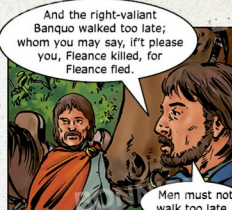


THEY MUST ENCOURAGE MACBETH IN HIS EVIL PLANS. IN THE END, HE WILL GO TOO FAR - AND BRING ABOUT HIS OWN DESTRUCTION.



MEANWHILE, FAR FROM MACBETH'S CASTLE...

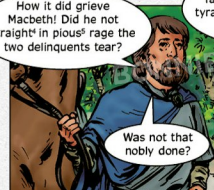
LENNOX AND ANOTHER LORD ARE DISCUSSING THE STATE THAT SCOTLAND IS IN NOW THAT MACBETH IS KING. EVERYONE KNOWS WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS, BUT NO-ONE DARES TO SAY SO.



SOME PEOPLE PRETEND TO THINK THAT FLEANCE KILLED BANQUO AND RAN.



WHO CANNOT WANT THE THOUGHT? HOW MONSTROUS IT WAS FOR MALCOLM AND DONALBAIN TO KILL THEIR GRACIOUS FATHER?



OTHERS SAY THAT MALCOLM AND DONALBAIN KILLED THEIR OWN FATHER. OR IS IT THE TWO MURDERED SERVANTS WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO BE GUILTY?



AND NOW MACDUFF IS SUSPECTED BECAUSE HE REFUSED TO ATTEND THE FEAST.



THE OTHER LORD HAS NEWS OF MACDUFF: HE IS IN ENGLAND, TRYING TO PERSUADE KING EDWARD THE CONFESSOR AND THE EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND TO FIGHT AGAINST MACBETH.

1. How . . . person: What do you think of the fact that Macduff refuses to come? 2. send to him: send a messenger to him (to find out why). 3. fear'd: paid. 4. betimes: early. 5. were: would be. Like a man wading through a river, he has gone so far that going back would be just as difficult as going on. 6. We are . . . did: We still have much more to do! We are not yet used to doing these things. 7. traffic: deal. 8. spurn: scorn. 9. security: thinking you are safe.

1. borne: done, carried out. 2. marry: a mild oath. 3. Who . . . thought: Everyone is bound to think. 4. straight: straight away. 5. pious: virtuous.



Thrice the brinded¹ cat hath mew'd.

Harpier² cries, 'Tis time, 'tis time!

Thrice and once the hedge-pig³ whined.

By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes.⁴

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

Fillet of a fenny⁵ snake, in the cauldron boil and bake; eye of newt and toe of frog, wool of bat and tongue of dog.

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

How now, you secret, black, and midnight hags! What is't you do?

A deed without a name.

MACBETH HAS COME TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE FUTURE.

I conjure you,⁶ by that which you profess,⁷ howe'er you come to know it, answer me.

Say if thou'dst rather hear it from our mouths, or from our masters'.

Call 'em; let me see 'em.

HE DEMANDS TO KNOW THE WHOLE TRUTH, COME WHAT MAY. HE IS NOT AFRAID TO FACE ANY EVIL SPIRITS.

Whate'er thou art, for thy good caution, thanks.

THROWING MORE GRISLY INGREDIENTS INTO THEIR CAULDRON, THE WITCHES CONJURE UP A FEARSOME APPARITION.

Macbeth, Macbeth, Macbeth! Beware Macduff; beware the Thane of Fife.⁸

Macbeth, Macbeth, Macbeth! Be bloody,⁹ bold, and resolute.¹⁰

Laugh to scorn!¹¹ the power of man, for none of woman born!¹² shall harm Macbeth.

AS THE FIRST APPARITION VANISHES, A SECOND ARISES FROM THE FUMING CAULDRON.



But yet I'll make assurance double sure: thou shalt not live.

Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be until Great Birnam Wood to high Dunsinane hill shall come against him.

That will never be!

Shall Banquo's issue¹ ever reign in this kingdom?

SO MACBETH NEED FEAR NO MORTAL MAN! BUT HE WILL TAKE NO CHANCES: MACDUFF MUST DIE.

A THIRD APPARITION EMERGES.

BUT THERE IS ONE MORE THING HE MUST KNOW.

IN ANSWER TO HIS QUESTION, THE WITCHES CONJURE UP A ROYAL PROCESSION.²

Thou art too like the spirit of Banquo. Down! Thy crown does sear mine eyeballs.

Filthy hags, why do you show me this?

What, will the line stretch out to th' crack of doom?³

And yet the eighth appears, who bears a glass which shows me many more.

Now I see 'tis true, for the blood-bolter'd⁴ Banquo smiles upon me, and points at them for his.

What, is this so?

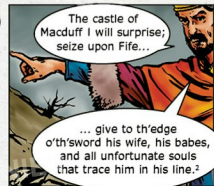
Ay, sir, all this is so.

1. issue: children, descendants. 2. royal procession: see page 42.
3. crack of doom: end of the world. 4. blood-bolter'd: bloodstained.

1. brinded: with dark stripes. 2. hedge-pig: hedgehog. 3. Harpier: the name of an evil spirit. 4. fenny: from a marshy place.
5. By... comes: Macbeth is now so evil that even the witches feel their skin tingle when he is near.
6. conjure you: solemnly call upon you. 7. profess: believe in. 8. Thane of Fife: Macduff. 9. bloody: bloodthirsty.
10. resolute: firm. 11. laugh to scorn: think nothing of. 12. none of woman born: this usually means 'no mortal man'.



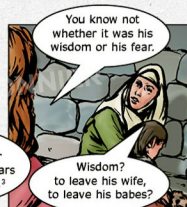
THE WITCHES AND THEIR APPARITIONS VANISH. MACBETH IS PUZZLED TO FIND HIMSELF SUDDENLY ALONE WITH THE THANE OF LENNOX.



SO MACBETH'S SUSPICIONS ARE CONFIRMED, AND THIS TIME HE WILL NOT HESITATE: HE WILL WIPE OUT THE ENTIRE FAMILY.



ROSS HAS COME TO WARN LADY MACDUFF THAT HER HUSBAND HAS FLED TO ENGLAND. SHE IS SHOCKED.



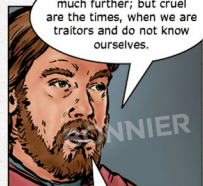
DID HE GO BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID, OR WAS IT PART OF A PLAN?



LADY MACDUFF IS OUTRAGED AT THE THOUGHT THAT HER HUSBAND HAS DESERTED THEM.



BUT ROSS BELIEVES THAT MACDUFF HAD GOOD REASONS FOR GOING TO ENGLAND.



My pretty cousin, blessing upon you. I take my leave at once.



THE LITTLE BOY IS PUZZLED BY ALL THIS TALK OF TRAITORS.



Then the liars and swearers are fools, for there are liars and swearers enough to beat the honest men and hang up them.



THEY ARE INTERRUPTED BY A MESSENGER WHO RUSHES IN UNANNOUNCED.



THERE IS NO TIME TO RUN: ALREADY, MACBETH'S HENCHMEN ARE AT THE DOOR.

1. Came they not by you? Didn't they pass you? 2. trace him in his line: are descended from him. 3. when... traitors: even when we have done nothing wrong, people think we are traitors because we run away in fear. 4. wants: lacks. 5. diminutive: tiny. 6. her young ones in her nest: when she has her young ones in her nest. 7. judicious: able to make wise decisions. 8. the fits o'th'season: the way things are now.

MEANWHILE, IN ENGLAND:



MALCOLM AND MACDUFF ARE AT THE COURT OF KING EDWARD THE CONFESSOR – A MAN SO SAINTLY, THEY SAY, THAT HE CAN HEAL THE SICK BY TOUCHING THEM.

Bleed, bleed, poor country! I would not be the villain that thou think'st.



MALCOLM HAS NO ANSWER TO THIS; HE CAN ONLY REPLY THAT HE IS LOYAL TO SCOTLAND.

When I shall tread upon the tyrant's head, or wear it on my sword, yet my poor country shall have more vines than it had before.



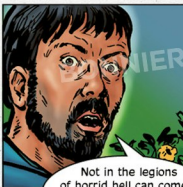
SO MALCOLM DECIDES TO CONFESS EVERYTHING TO HIM.



MALCOLM CANNOT STOP CHASING AFTER WOMEN. MACDUFF SAYS THIS IS A SHAME, BUT MANY WOULD BE HAPPY TO BE LOVED BY A KING.



MALCOLM IS SUSPICIOUS OF MACDUFF BECAUSE HE FLED SCOTLAND SO SUDDENLY, LEAVING HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN BEHIND.



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



HE CANNOT CONTROL HIS GREED. MACDUFF SAYS THIS IS WORSE; BUT SCOTLAND IS RICH, AND CAN COPE WITH A GREEDY KING.

1. tyrant: cruel ruler. 2. whose... tongues: whose name we hate to speak. 3. he hath not touched you yet: neither of them know yet what has happened to Macduff's family. 4. in that ranness: without protection. 5. I grant him bloody: I agree that he is bloodthirsty.



BUT WORST OF ALL, HE IS VIOLENT AND BLOODTHIRSTY, AND WOULD MAKE WAR ON THE WHOLE WORLD. WHEN HE HEARS THIS, MACDUFF IS IN DESPAIR.



ROSS ARRIVES WITH NEWS FROM SCOTLAND, BUT HE CANNOT BEAR TO TELL MACDUFF THE TRUTH.



MACDUFF TELLS ROSS THAT THE ENGLISH HAVE OFFERED TO HELP HIM DEFEAT MACBETH.



AT LAST ROSS SUMMONS UP THE COURAGE TO TELL MACDUFF WHAT HAS HAPPENED.



Within my sword's length set him; if he 'scape, heaven forgive him too.



HE SWEARS TO FIGHT FOR MALCOLM AND TO KILL MACBETH HIMSELF.

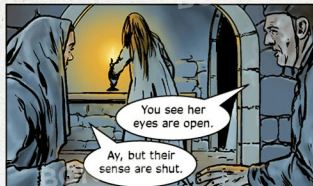


Did heaven look on, and would not take their part?



What I am truly is thine, and my poor country's, to command.

1. Stands... did?: Is Scotland still in the same state? 2. dam: mother. 3. take their part: be on their side.



FOR SOME TIME NOW, LADY MACBETH HAS BEEN SLEEPWALKING. ONE OF HER LADIES IN WAITING IS SO ALARMED THAT SHE HAS ASKED THE DOCTOR TO COME AND SEE FOR HIMSELF.



LADY MACBETH GOES THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF WASHING HER HANDS. SHE HAS BEEN DOING THIS EVERY NIGHT.



Hell is murky.



AGAIN, SHE SCOLDS MACBETH FOR HIS LACK OF COURAGE.



SHE IS RELIVING ALL THEIR PAST CRIMES.



SHE IS BEYOND THE DOCTOR'S HELP.




THE THANES OF SCOTLAND ARE NOW IN OPEN REBELLION AGAINST THE TYRANT MACBETH. THEY ARE ON THEIR WAY TO BIRNAM WOOD TO MEET THE ENGLISH ARMY WHICH HAS BEEN SENT TO HELP THEM.



1. afeard: afraid. 2. none . . . account: there is no-one who can hold us responsible for what we have done.
3. Thane of Fife; Macduff.

1. practice: professional skill or experience. 2. on's: of his. 3. More . . . physician: She needs a priest more than she needs a doctor.
4. power: army. 5. well meet: welcome.



Bring me no more reports; let them fly all!¹

Till Birnam wood remove to Dunsinane, I cannot taint with² fear.

The devil damn thee black, thou cream-faced loon!

There is ten thousand...

Geese, villain?

... soldiers, sir.

NEWS HAS REACHED MACBETH THAT THE SCOTTISH THANES ARE MOVING AGAINST HIM.

HE REMEMBERS THE WITCHES' LAST TWO PROPHECIES.

What's the boy Malcolm? Was he not born of woman?

A SERVANT COMES IN WITH MORE BAD NEWS. HE IS SO AFRAID OF MACBETH THAT HE CAN HARDLY SPEAK.



Seyton!⁵

I am sick at heart. I have lived long enough; my way of life is fall'n into the sere,³ the yellow leaf;

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

How does your patient, doctor?

SEYTON, MACBETH'S ADJUTANT, ARRIVES. THE DOCTOR HAS ALSO BEEN SUMMONED.

and that which should accompany old age – as honour, love, obedience, troops of friends – I must not look⁴ to have.

Not so sick, my lord, as she is troubled with thick-coming fancies⁶ that keep her from her rest.



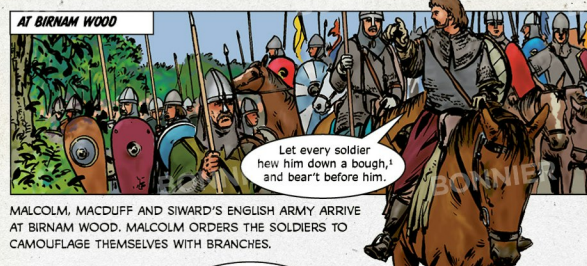
Cure her of that. Canst thou not minister⁷ to a mind diseased, pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow?

Therein⁸ the patient must minister to himself.

Throw physic⁹ to the dogs; I'll none of it!¹⁰

Come, put mine armour on.

I will not be afraid of death and bane,¹¹ till Birnam forest come to Dunsinane.



AT BIRNAM WOOD

Let every soldier hew him down a bough,¹ and bear't before him.

MALCOLM, MACDUFF AND SIWARD'S ENGLISH ARMY ARRIVE AT BIRNAM WOOD. MALCOLM ORDERS THE SOLDIERS TO CAMOUFLAGE THEMSELVES WITH BRANCHES.



BACK AT DUNSINANE

The queen, my lord, is dead.

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

Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow creeps in this petty pace² 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 player³ that struts and frets⁴ his hour upon the stage and then is heard no more.

MACBETH IS GETTING THE CASTLE READY TO WITHSTAND A SIEGE, WHEN HE SUDDENLY HEARS THE WAILING OF WOMEN.



It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.

Liar and slave!

As I did stand my watch upon the hill, I looked toward Birnam and anon,⁵ methought, the wood began to move.

A MESSENGER ARRIVES WITH NEWS THAT IS SO BIZARRE, HE HARDLY KNOWS WHERE TO START.

Ring the alarm-bell! Blow wind, come wrack;⁶ at least we'll die with harness⁷ on our back.

1. let them fly all: I don't care if everyone deserts me. 2. taint with: be weakened by. 3. sere: withered. 4. look: expect. 5. Seyton: Some experts believe that this name was pronounced like 'Satan' in Shakespeare's time. 6. Not ... fancies: She is not physically ill, but disturbed by wild imaginings which come one after the other. 7. minister: give medical treatment. 8. therein: in this kind of illness. 9. physic: medicine. 10. I'll none of it: I'll have nothing to do with it. 11. bane: destruction.

1. how ... bough: cut down a branch for himself. 2. in this petty pace: slowly, step by step. He is saying that the future will trickle away as uselessly as the past. 3. player: actor. 4. wrack: worries, fusties. 5. anon: presently, after a while. 6. wrack: destruction. 7. harness: armour.



THE ARMY APPROACHES DUNSINANE.

Now near enough; your leafy screens throw down.

Make all our trumpets speak; give them all breath, these clamorous harbingers¹ of blood and death.



What is thy name?

Thou'lt be afraid to hear it.

YOUNG SIWARD, THE EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND'S SON, IS THE FIRST TO CONFRONT MACBETH.



My name's Macbeth.

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



Thou wast born of woman.

Tyrant, show thy face!

If thou best slain, and with no stroke of mine;² my wife and children's ghosts will haunt me still.³

MACBETH EASILY KILLS THE INEXPERIENCED YOUNG WARRIOR.

MACDUFF IS DETERMINED TO KILL MACBETH HIMSELF. HE WILL NOT FIGHT ANYONE ELSE.



Of all men else I have avoided thee.

Turn, hell-hound, turn!

But get thee back - my soul is too much charged⁴ with blood of thine already.

AT LAST, HE FINDS THE MAN HE HAS BEEN SEEKING.



I have no words. My voice is in my sword, thou bloodier villain than terms can give thee out.⁵

Thou loost⁶ labour;⁷ I bear a charmed⁸ life, which must not yield⁹ to one of woman born.

1. clamorous harbingers: noisy messengers. 2. If... mine: If you are killed by anyone other than me. 3. still: always, for ever. 4. charged: burdened. 5. bloodier... than terms can give thee out: more bloodthirsty than words can say. 6. Thou loost labour: You're wasting your time. 7. charmed: protected by magic. 8. yield: give way.



I'll not fight with thee.

Then yield thee, coward, and live to be the show and gaze o'th'time.¹

Despair thy charm - Macduff was from his mother's womb untimely² ripped.



We'll have thee, for our rarer monsters are, painted on a pole, and underwrit,³ 'Here may you see the tyrant.'



I will try the last.

Lay on, Macduff, and damned be him that first cries, 'Hold, enough!'



THE COURTYARD OF THE CASTLE

Had he his hurts before?⁴

Ay, on the front.

Had I as many sons as I have hairs, I would not wish them to a fairer death.

THE BATTLE IS OVER. THE CASTLE HAS SURRENDERED WITHOUT A FIGHT. ONLY NOW DOES SIWARD LEARN THAT HIS SON IS DEAD.



Hail, king - for so thou art.

Behold where stands 'th'usurper's⁵ cursed head. The time is free.⁷

MACDUFF PRESENTS MALCOLM WITH A GRISLY TROPHY.



HAIL, KING OF SCOTLAND!

So, thanks to all at once and to each one, whom we invite to see us crowned at Scone.

SO THE BUTCHER MACBETH IS SLAIN, AND HIS FIENDISH QUEEN IS ALSO DEAD - RUMOUR HAS IT THAT SHE KILLED HERSELF. MALCOLM PROMISES TO ROOT OUT MACBETH'S HENCHMEN AND BRING PEACE TO SCOTLAND AT LAST.

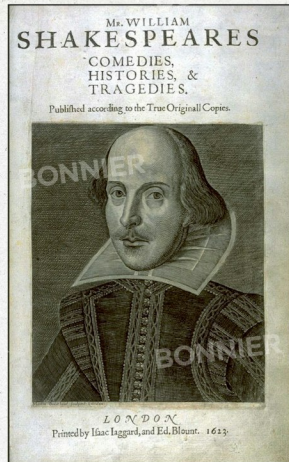
1. untimely: early, prematurely. Macduff was delivered by caesarean section, not born in the ordinary way. 2. the show... times: a sideshow for people to come and look at. 3. underwrit: with a notice underneath. 4. 'Hold, enough!': 'I give up'. 5. 'Hail... before': 'Wish you wounded on the front (like a brave man)?'. 6. usurper: one who wrongly seizes the crown. 7. The time is free: This is a time of freedom.

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England, in 1564, possibly on 23 April, which is St George's Day – the feast-day of England's patron saint. His father was a respected businessman who became mayor of Stratford, though it seems he never learned to write. We know nothing of William's childhood and education, except that he did not go to university. He probably learned Latin at the King's New School in Stratford.

In 1582 he married Anne Hathaway. He was only 18; she was 26, and pregnant. Their daughter Susanna was born 6 months later, and in 1585 they had twins, Hamnet and Judith. Anne and the children seem to have stayed in Stratford all their lives, even while William was living and working in London.

LONDON AND THE THEATRE

Shakespeare was acting and writing plays in London by about 1590. We do not know how he made his living before that, or how he got started as a playwright. London in the 1590s was an exciting place for anyone interested in the stage. Theatres – or 'playhouses' – were not allowed in the City of London itself; they were built on the north side of London, outside the city walls, and in Southwark, on the south bank of the Thames. Many playwrights were active in London at this time. Christopher Marlowe wrote several blockbuster tragedies before being killed in a brawl



Portrait of Shakespeare by Martin Droeshout, on the title-page of the First Folio edition of Shakespeare's plays (London, 1623)

at the age of 29. Other well-known writers included Thomas Dekker, Thomas Kyd, John Webster, Thomas Middleton, and the partnership of Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher. In the 1600s, Ben Jonson wrote a series of clever and witty comedies; Shakespeare acted in some of them.

Writing plays was not an especially well-paid job – the author's fee might be less than the value of an actor's costume. But Shakespeare was a keen businessman. In 1594 he became a shareholder in a new acting company, the Lord Chamberlain's Men.

This meant that he invested money in the company, and in return he was paid a share of the profits made by the company. With the money he made, he was able to buy land in Stratford for his family, and a magnificent house known as New Place. He also became a shareholder in the new Globe theatre, which opened in 1599.

SHAKESPEARE AND JAMES I

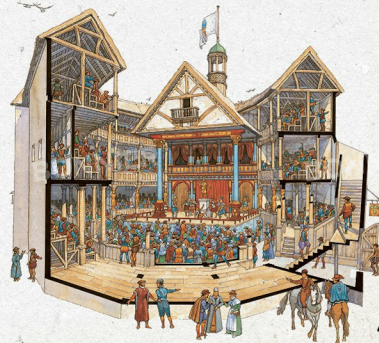
In 1603 Queen Elizabeth I died and James VI of Scotland soon became James I of England. James was keen on the theatre, and he changed the name of the Lord Chamberlain's Men to the King's Men. Some time after this (perhaps in 1606) Shakespeare wrote *Macbeth*, his only play on a Scottish subject. The play must have been especially interesting to the new king. James was an expert on witchcraft, and believed in the 'divine right of kings' – in other words, he thought that kings were chosen by God and that killing a king was a particularly evil crime. James also believed that his family, the Stuarts, were descended from the real-life Banquo, Thane of Lochaber, a Scottish nobleman killed by real-life King Macbeth MacFinlay, in the 11th century.

A cutaway view of the Globe theatre in Southwark, London, where many of Shakespeare's plays were first performed. A copy of the Globe was completed in 1997, close to the original site, and Shakespeare's plays (amongst others) are regularly performed there.

SHAKESPEARE'S WORKS

Shakespeare wrote about 39 plays (experts disagree about the exact number), 4 long poems and 154 sonnets (short poems of 14 lines). After 1614 he seems to have retired from the theatre and spent most of his time in Stratford. He died there on St George's Day, 1616.

Only about half of his plays were published in his lifetime, but in 1623 two of his theatrical friends published a deluxe edition of 36 plays. This very valuable book is known today as the *First Folio*. Since then, he has come to be regarded as the greatest playwright in the English language – perhaps in any language.



There really was a King Macbeth in 11th-century Scotland, but his true story is very different from Shakespeare's version of it. Shakespeare's Macbeth is Thane of Glamis, but the real Macbeth was Mormaer of Moray – a much more important title. He ruled a large area of northern Scotland, much bigger than present-day Moray.

The King of Scots from 1034 was Duncan I, a young and unsuccessful ruler. In 1040, after trying to attack the English city of Durham, Duncan invaded Macbeth's territory of Moray. He was defeated by Macbeth at the battle of Pitgaverty near Elgin, and died from his wounds. Macbeth was then proclaimed King of Scots, while Duncan's sons went into exile. In Scotland at this time, it was usual for the new king to be chosen from the cousins or nephews of the old king. Macbeth was a member of the royal family and had a good claim to the throne.

THE STUART DYNASTY

In the play, Macbeth has Banquo murdered, but Banquo's son Fleance escapes. King James believed he was descended from Fleance. When Macbeth visits the witches for the last time, they conjure up the eight Stuart kings of Scotland:

Robert II	reigned 1371–1390
Robert III	1390–1406
James I	1406–1437
James II	1437–1460
James III	1460–1488
James IV	1488–1513
James V	1513–1542
James VI	1567–1625

Macbeth ruled Scotland for 17 years, from 1040–57, and his reign was mainly peaceful. He and his wife, Gruoch, donated money to the Church, and in 1050 Macbeth even went on pilgrimage to Rome, where he gave generously to the poor.

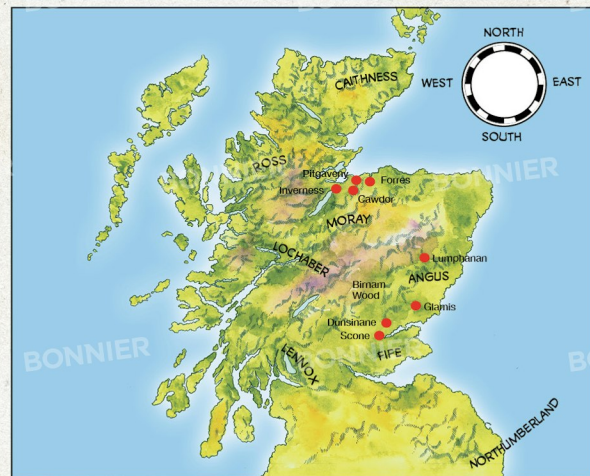
In 1054 an English army under Earl Siward of Northumbria invaded Scotland and Macbeth's power was broken. He was finally defeated at the battle of Lumphanan in 1057 by Duncan's son, Malcolm Canmore, and died of his wounds a few days later. His stepson Lulach became king, but lasted less than a year. Malcolm Canmore (his surname means 'Great Chief') then ruled Scotland as Malcolm III from 1058–93.

James VI carries a 'glass' which shows all the other Stuart kings into the distant future. At the time, everyone expected that the next king would be James's son, Henry. He was handsome and popular. There was great sadness when he died of typhoid fever, aged 18. There were five Stuart rulers after James:

Charles I	1625–1649
Charles II	1660–1685*
James II	1685–1688
Mary II	1689–1694**
Anne	1702–1714

*There was no king during the Civil War and Commonwealth period, 1649–60.

**Joint with William III, 1689–1702.



SCOTLAND AND ENGLAND

Until the 18th century, England and Scotland were two separate kingdoms, and they were not always friendly.

In 1587 Queen Elizabeth I of England executed the ex-Queen of Scots, Mary Stuart. Elizabeth was a Protestant, Mary a Roman Catholic, and Elizabeth was convinced that Mary was plotting against her.

But Elizabeth had no children, so when she died in 1603 there was no English prince or princess to take her place. Instead, the English crown was offered to Elizabeth's cousin, King James VI of Scotland – the son of her old enemy, Mary, Queen of Scots.

In fact, he is often referred to as 'James the First and Sixth', because he was James I of England and James VI of Scotland.

James wanted to join England and Scotland together to make one country called Great Britain, but the English and Scottish parliaments would not allow this. So, even though they shared the same king, Scotland and England remained separate kingdoms for another hundred years. They were finally united in 1707, and Queen Anne (the last ruler of the Stuart dynasty) became the first Queen of Great Britain.

In Shakespeare's time, even educated people could believe in witchcraft. James I and VI even wrote a book on the subject, *Demonology*, in 1597. Here are some of the things that people at the time believed about witches:

- They could be male or female, but most of them were women.
- They had meetings with the devil.
- They kept pets which were really evil spirits in disguise.
- They could foretell the future; in particular, they knew when a person was going to die.
- They could kill people and animals from a distance.
- They could hurt people by sticking pins into a dummy.
- They could fly.
- They could sail the sea in a sieve.
- They could control the weather.

Even people who tried to do good might be accused of witchcraft – including those who treated the sick with herbal medicines and Christian prayers. Midwives – nurses who help women in childbirth – were often accused.

THE NORTH BERWICK WITCHES

In 1589 James married Princess Anne, the sister of King Christian IV of Denmark. The plan was that Anne would sail from Denmark to Scotland for the wedding – but her ship was battered by storms and forced to land in Norway. Eventually, James sailed to Norway himself and married her there. But the voyage home was rough and the ship nearly sank.



King James attending the North Berwick witch trials; a hand-coloured woodcut from the 1591 edition of the pamphlet News from Scotland

James was convinced that these storms were caused by witches. There was a witch-hunt in Denmark, and two Danish women were burnt at the stake. Then a number of people were accused in Scotland, at North Berwick near Edinburgh. James himself helped to interrogate some of them. They were tortured and confessed to amazing crimes such as kissing the devil's backside! They were sentenced to death by burning or strangling. Historians think that as many as 4,000 people were executed for witchcraft in Scotland between 1560 and 1707.

We don't know whether Shakespeare believed in witches or not. But during its time, the witches in *Macbeth* were certainly the most popular part of the performance. After Shakespeare's death, Thomas Middleton wrote extra scenes for the witches, with singing and dancing. Modern editions of the play still include some lines which are probably by Middleton rather than Shakespeare.

1564
William Shakespeare born in Stratford-upon-Avon.

1565
Mary, Queen of Scots marries Lord Darnley.

1566
Mary gives birth to the future King James VI of Scotland (who will also become James I of England).

1567
Lord Darnley is murdered. Mary is abducted by the Earl of Bothwell and marries him. She is imprisoned and forced to abdicate the Scottish throne; at age one, James VI becomes King of Scots.

1568
Mary escapes to England where she is again imprisoned, accused of the murder of Darnley.

1577
First edition of Raphael Holinshed's *Chronicles of England, Scotland and Ireland*, Shakespeare's main source for the story of *Macbeth*.

1582
James VI is imprisoned in Ruthven Castle (freed 1583). Shakespeare marries Anne Hathaway.

1583
Shakespeare's daughter, Susanna, born.

1585
Shakespeare has two more children, a boy named Hamnet and a girl called Judith.

1587
Mary, Queen of Scots, convicted of plotting against Elizabeth I, is executed.

1589
James VI marries Anne (Anna) of Denmark.

1590
James attends the trials of the North Berwick witches.

1592
Earliest known reference to Shakespeare as a playwright.

1594
Prince Henry Frederick, eldest son of James VI, born. Shakespeare is now a leader of the theatre company, the Lord Chamberlain's Men.

1597
Shakespeare buys and restores New Place in Stratford. James VI publishes *Demonology*.

1599
James VI publishes *Basilicon Doron*, on the duties of kings. Globe theatre opens.

1600
James VI survives an assassination attempt, the Gowrie conspiracy. James's second son, the future King Charles I of England, born.

1603
Elizabeth I dies, aged 69. James VI of Scotland becomes James I of England. The Lord Chamberlain's Men become the King's Men.

1605
The Gunpowder Plot, a conspiracy to assassinate James I and his Parliament, is foiled on 5 November.

1606
Possible date of the first performance of *Macbeth*. Christian IV of Denmark, James I's brother-in-law, makes a state visit to England.

1610
Prince Henry Frederick becomes Prince of Wales.

1612
Henry, Prince of Wales dies, aged 18.

1613
The Globe burns down during a performance of Shakespeare's play *All Is True* (later called *Henry VIII*). It is quickly rebuilt.

1616
William Shakespeare dies in Stratford on 23 April.

Note: We do not know the exact dates of most of Shakespeare's plays, or even the exact order in which they were written. The dates shown here are only approximate.

1590: *Henry VI, Part I*
 1591: *Henry VI, Part II*
 Henry VI, Part III
 1593: *Richard III*
 1594: *Edward III**
 Titus Andronicus
 The Comedy of Errors
 The Taming of the Shrew
 The Two Gentlemen of Verona
 1595: *Love's Labour's Lost*
 Richard II
 1596: *King John*
 Romeo and Juliet
 A Midsummer Night's Dream
 1597: *The Merchant of Venice*
 The Merry Wives of Windsor
 Henry IV, Part I
 1598: *Henry IV, Part II*
 1599: *Much Ado About Nothing*
 As You Like It
 Julius Caesar
 Henry V
 Hamlet

'THE SCOTTISH PLAY'

Many say they believe that *Macbeth* is an unlucky play. Some will not even mention the name – they call it 'the Scottish play' instead. Here are some of the stories that are told about the supposed curse of *Macbeth*:

- It is unlucky to say the name 'Macbeth' inside a theatre. If you do, you have to go outside and spin round three times.
- The play is dangerous because the witches use real spells.

1602: *Twelfth Night*
 1603: *All's Well That Ends Well*
 1604: *Othello*
 Measure for Measure
 1605: *King Lear*
 1606: *Macbeth*
 1608: *Pericles*
 Coriolanus
 Timon of Athens
 Troilus and Cressida
 Antony and Cleopatra
 1610: *Cymbeline*
 1611: *The Winter's Tale*
 The Tempest
 1613: *Henry VIII***
 1614: *The Two Noble Kinsmen***

*May not be by Shakespeare

**By Shakespeare and John Fletcher

Shakespeare probably wrote two other plays, *Love's Labour's Won* and *Cardenio*, which have not survived.

- It is unlucky to recite lines from the play outside a theatre. If you do, you can avoid the curse by quoting the same number of lines from Shakespeare's comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, or the speech from *Hamlet* when Hamlet first sees the ghost.
- Mysterious deaths have occurred during performances of the play.

There have been many film versions of *Macbeth* – some straightforward performances of the play, others freely adapted from it. The earliest version dates back to 1916. Here are just a few of the better-known ones:

1948: *Macbeth* (USA)
 A low-budget film directed by and starring Orson Welles.

1955: *Joe Macbeth* (USA)
 The first of several adaptations set in present-day gangland.

1957: *Throne of Blood* (Japan)
 Directed by Akira Kurosawa, starring Toshiro Mifune. A retelling of the *Macbeth* story set in feudal Japan. There are many departures from Shakespeare's plot, but it is considered to be a cinematic masterpiece.

1971: *Macbeth* (USA)
 Directed by Roman Polanski, starring Jon Finch and Francesca Annis. Audiences were shocked by the film's violence and nudity, but many regard it as an intelligent and thought-provoking interpretation of the play.

1991: *Men of Respect* (USA)
 A retelling of the story set in New York's gangland.

MACBETH TO MUSIC

There are two *Macbeth* operas: the famous one by Giuseppe Verdi (1847, revised 1865), and another by Ernest Bloch (1910). Dmitri Shostakovich's opera *Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk*

2003: *Maqbool* (India)
 Set in present-day Mumbai, with the witches portrayed as corrupt policemen.

2006: *Macbeth* (Australia)
 A violent film set in the Melbourne underworld, but using Shakespeare's original dialogue.



Jon Finch as Macbeth in the 1971 Polanski film

District (1934) is based on a Russian short story by Nikolai Leskov, not on Shakespeare. Richard Strauss composed an orchestral tone poem called *Macbeth* in 1890.

