

MACBETH

By

William Shakespeare

Adapted and abridged by

Abigail Walton

This script is intended for a youth group of between 10 and 20 players (8 – 12 years). This is a flexible script with a mixture of modern English and original Shakespeare text, it is intended to be an ensemble piece of theatre. This script is approximately 25 - 30 minutes running time.

Characters

First Witch
Second Witch
Third Witch
Narrator
King Duncan
Malcolm
Sergeant
Lord Ross
Macbeth
Banquo
Lady Macbeth
Servant
Guard 1
Guard 2
Guard 3
Porter
Macduff
Lennox
Malcolm
Donalbain
Lennox
First Murderer
Second Murderer
First Apparition
Second Apparition
Third Apparition
Gentlewoman
Doctor
Caithness
Seyton
Narrators



SCENE ONE

Three Weird Sisters on the moor.

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

Second Witch: When the hurly burly's done, when the battle's
lost and won

Third Witch: That will be ere the set of sun

First Witch: Where the place?

Second Witch: Upon the heath

Third Witch: There to meet with...

All: Macbeth

Third Witch: Fair is foul, foul is fair: hover through the fog and
filthy air

Second Witch: Fair is foul, foul is fair: hover through the fog and
filthy air

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

The ensemble create a storm that turns into Military Camp.

Narrator: At a military camp near to King Duncan's palace; King
Duncan asks a wounded captain for news.

Duncan: What blood-soaked man is that?

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

Sergeant: Oh Stop! For brave Macbeth--well he deserves that
name--

Duncan: I see

Sergeant: Macbeth slew the traitor and rebel, Macdonwald, who
led the Irish.

Duncan: Thank you, Sergeant. Now tend to your wounds.

Malcolm: Lord Ross, come hither.

Duncan: I want Macbeth rewarded for this victory. Find him and
tell him that he is to be Thane of Cawdor, in recognition for his
loyal service.

Lord Ross: I will sir

All exit.

SCENE TWO

Return to the weird sisters on the moor.

First Witch: Where hast thou been, sister?

Second Witch: Killing swine.

Third Witch: A drum, a drum! Macbeth doth come.

Narrator: The weird sisters, hand in hand,

Narrator: Posters of the sea and land,

Narrator: Thus do go about, about:

Narrator: Thrice to thine and thrice to mine

Narrator: And thrice again, to make up nine.

The Witches: Peace! the charm's wound up.

Enter Macbeth and Banquo

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

Banquo: What are these, So wither'd and so wild in their attire,

That look not like the inhabitants o' the earth

The Witches: A drum, a drum! Macbeth doth come!

Macbeth: Speak, if you can: what are you?

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

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

Third Witch: All hail, Macbeth, thou shalt be king hereafter!

Ensemble: Hail Banquo!

Third Witch: Banquo, not a king, but a father of kings to come!

Macbeth: Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more:

Witches: All hail Macbeth and Banquo.

Banquo: That was mysterious! Come on Macbeth, Duncan's expecting us.

Lord Ross: Macbeth, my liege!

Both: Lord Ross!

Lord Ross: Or should I say... Thane of Cawdor! Your new title. The king's heard all about your fearless fighting and this is your reward; Cawdor castle is yours!

Macbeth: What, can the devil speak true?

Ross: Now the king wants you, let us go!

All exit.

SCENE THREE

Glamis.

Lady Macbeth: My husband writes to me from his travels. Glamis, Cawdor, King, you could have them all. But I know you too well, you want greatness but you shrink from what you must do to get it.

There is a knock at the door.

Servant: A message from lord Macbeth my lady,

Lady Macbeth: Go on

Servant: He bids you prepare for a royal banquet, for the king will stay at Glamis tomorrow night.

Lady Macbeth: Go tell the servants to make ready for the king. Fate leads Duncan to Glamis. Come to me powers of darkness, fill me with cruelty, so I may teach my husband how to be ruthless.

SCENE FOUR

A feast in Glamis.

King Duncan: What a fine feast.

Lady Macbeth: Your noble majesty! How delighted we are to have you as our guest

King Duncan: My dear lady, I'm sure we'll have a wonderful time.

Macbeth: Will everyone please excuse me?

Macbeth leaves

Macbeth: I can't do it- I can't kill him. Duncan is a good king and a good man. I should be protecting him, not carrying a knife.

Lady M: Excuse me, I will return with Lord Macbeth

King Duncan: Very well

Macbeth: I shall never commit murder and treason.

Lady Macbeth: This is your chance to be king

Ensemble: Macbeth who shall be king (*to be repeated three times*)

King Duncan: I will retire to my chamber now

The guests start leaving the fest, content and satisfied.

Guard 1: That was a great feast

Guard 2: great food

Guard 3: Great wine

The three guards settle down and are passing a bottle of wine between them and taking swigs from it.

Lady Macbeth and Macbeth are DSL

Macbeth: I can't kill him

Lady Macbeth: Can't? Only a coward says can't.

Macbeth: Coward? I'm not a coward. I risked my life for my country and my king! But murder? Murder isn't brave. It's evil.

Lady Macbeth: Oh for goodness sake! Do you want to be king, or don't you?

Macbeth: But what if it goes wrong?

Lady Macbeth: It won't go wrong. I'll distract his drunken chamber maids, you'll use their daggers to kill him, then put the daggers back in their hands.

Macbeth: I'll do it.

Macbeth and Lady Macbeth approach the guards.

Guard 3: His majesty is sleeping

Lady Macbeth We just wanted to bid you fine gentleman goodnight

Guards: Fine gentlemen? Us? Wow!

Lady Macbeth steals the dagger from one of their pockets.

Narrator: Creep Macbeth and don't make a sound.

Narrator: The Castle had fallen silent

Narrator: He crept along the corridor

Narrator: His hands trembled with what was to come

Narrator: This is the hour of the wolf and the witch, when evil spirits roam the night.

Macbeth kills King Duncan and returns to Lady Macbeth holding the bloody dagger.

Lady Macbeth: Give it to me, you should have left it behind. *(She returns the dagger to the sleeping guards)* Come, let us rest

All leave except Macbeth

Macbeth: What is this a dagger I see before me?

Exits through audience.

SCENE FIVE

An empty stage, there is knocking. Enter the Porter.

Porter: Knock, knock. Who's there in the name of Beelzebub?

The knocking continues

Porter: Knock, knock. Who's there?!

The knocking continues

Porter: Anon! Anon! I pray you, remember the porter!

Enter Macduff and Lennox

Macduff: Was it so late, friend, ere you went to bed,

Lennox: That you do lie so late?

Porter: I can hear my master stirring

Enter Macbeth

Macduff: Our knocking has awaked him;

Lennox: Here he comes.

Macbeth: Good morrow

Macduff: Is the king stirring, worthy thane?

Macbeth: Not yet.

Macduff: He did command me to call timely on him: I have almost slipp'd the hour.

Exit Macduff. Enter Lady Macbeth.

Lady Macbeth: Good morrow gentleman

Lennox: Our knocking has awaked you

Lady Macbeth: No bother gentlemen

Enter Macduff.

Macduff: O horror, horror, horror! Tongue nor heart, Cannot conceive nor name thee!

Lennox: What's the matter?

Macduff: The king is dead!

There are cries of grief and wailing from the ensemble which turn into a funeral procession.

Malcolm: Brother, Donalbain. We are not safe here. Whoever has killed our father, will want to kill us too.

Donalbain: You are right, Malcolm. I'll hasten to Ireland.

Malcolm: And I to England.

SCENE SIX

Macbeth and Banquo are sat together.

Banquo: Thou hast it now: king, Cawdor, Glamis. The weird sisters were right. Where were you the night the king died?

Macbeth: Why do you want to know Banquo?

Banquo: I fear thou played most foul for the crown

Banquo leaves

Macbeth: Banquo grows suspicious, I fear I must take his life too. This is my chance to kill Banquo. This is my destiny. All such

traitors shall be killed.

There is a knocking.

Macbeth: Enter

Enter two murderers.

Macbeth: Was it not yesterday we spoke together?

First Murderer: It was, so please your highness.

Macbeth: Have you consider'd of my speeches?

Second Murderer: Yes, your majesty. We accept.

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

Both Murderers: True, my lord.

SCENE SEVEN

A royal feast.

Servant: An evening to celebrate Macbeth's coronation!

Enter Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, their guests clap and congratulate them.

Enter Murderers, Macbeth leaves his chair to greet them away from the other guests.

Macbeth: Is it done?

First Murderer: It is done

Second Murderer: Banquo is dead.

Banquo has entered and is sat in Macbeth's seat.

Macbeth: Which one of you has done this?

Lady M: Sit down dear. Don't stare! Eat, drink!

Macbeth: Get off me. Blood will be shed if the guilty party does not own up

Lady M: His grace is not well, come let us retire.

Macbeth: I am the king and I want to know the future. It is not for the faint hearted. I have courage enough, I am king.

All exit.

SCENE EIGHT

The Weird Sisters are on the moor.

First Witch

Round about the cauldron go;
In the poison'd entrails throw.
Toad, that under cold stone
Days and nights has thirty-one
Swelter'd venom sleeping got,
Boil thou first i' the charmed pot.

ALL

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

Second Witch

Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the cauldron boil and bake;
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting,
Lizard's leg and owlet's wing,

ALL

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

Third Witch

Scale of dragon, tooth of wolf,
Witches' mummy, maw and gulf
Of the ravin'd salt-sea shark,
Root of hemlock digg'd i' the dark,
Liver of blaspheming Jew,
Gall of goat, and slips of yew

Enter Macbeth

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

ALL: A deed without a name.

First Witch: Speak.

Second Witch: Demand.

Third Witch: We'll answer.

Enter Apparitions

First Apparition: Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! beware Macduff;
Beware the thane of Fife. Dismiss me. Enough.

Second Apparition: Be bloody, bold, and resolute; laugh to

scorn

The power of man, for none of woman born shall harm Macbeth.

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

All exit, leaving Macbeth alone

Macbeth: What need I fear of thee?

Macbeth laughs and appears to be more relaxed.

SCENE NINE

The Castle.

Lennox: Macbeth, we have news my lord. Macduff has fled to England to join Malcolm, son of our late King Duncan. There is an up rise against you I fear.

Macbeth: Arrest Macduff and Burn his castle to the ground, do not stop until it is ash and make sure his family are inside.

Macbeth and Lennox exit, Lady Macbeth enters followed by the Doctor and Gentlewoman.

Gentlewoman: You see her eyes are open

Doctor: Ay, but there sense is shut

Gentlewoman: What is it she does now? Look how she rubs her hands.

Doctor: To seem thus washing her hands, I have known her continuing this a quarter of an hour.

Gentlewoman: Yet here is a spot

Doctor: Hark she speaks

Lady M: Out damned spot, out, I say. One two, why then tis' time I do it. Hell is murky. Fi my lord fi! What will these hands near be clean? Never, never, never shall they be clean.

Lady Macbeth chases everyone off.

SCENE TEN

Macbeth's army are stood to attention.

Lennox: Macbeth the enemy is coming. Glamis has been destroyed

Caithness: Macduff and Malcom are come

Lennox: There forces are strong Macbeth

Macbeth: I have nothing to fear until Birnam wood walks to
Dunsinane

*There is a blood curdling scream and Seyton rushes to
Macbeth.*

Seyton: The queen my lord, the queen is dead
There is the faint sound of a beat of a drum

Lennox: My lord I bring news the army has concealed
themselves behind them branches of the wood and have been
slowly approaching. It looks as though the forest is marching.
We must withdraw.

Macbeth: My curse upon you witches I shall die like a soldier
with a sword in hand.
*The beat of the drum gets louder and the soldiers start marching
and are met by Macduff's army.*

Macbeth: Macduff?

Macduff: I have come to avenge my wife and children

Macbeth: I bear a charmed life, which must not yield to one born
of a woman.

Macduff: I, Macduff was from his mother's womb untimely ripped

There is a bloody battle and Macbeth is decapitated. Enter

Malcolm.

All whisper: It's Malcolm, it's Malcolm, it's Malcolm.
Malcom stands CS.

All: All hail, King of Scotland.

END.