Primary Company Script

MACBETH

By William Shakespeare
Abridged by Martin Lamb



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List of Roles

Narration	Can be split between several actors
Duncan	King of Scotland
Malcolm	Duncan's son
Donalbain	Duncan's son
Macbeth	A general in the King's army, later King
Lady Macbeth	
Banquo	A general
Macduff	Nobleman of Scotland
Lennox	Nobleman of Scotland
Ross	Nobleman of Scotland
Angus	Nobleman of Scotland
Mentieth	Nobleman of Scotland
Fleance	Banquo's son
Siward	Earl of Northumberland, an Englishman
Young Siward	His son
A Porter	
A Doctor	
1st Murderer	
2nd Murderer	

1st Witch

2nd Witch

3rd Witch

1st Apparition

2st Apparition

3rd Apparition

Lords, Gentlemen, Officers, Soldiers, Attendants and Messengers

Scene 1 A deserted place

Enter THREE WITCHES.

1ST WITCH When shall we three meet again
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?

2ND WITCH When the hurlyburly's done,
When the battle's lost and won.

3RD WITCH That will be ere the set of sun.

1ST WITCH Where the place?

2ND WITCH Upon the heath.

3RD WITCH There to meet with Macbeth.

NARRATION Scotland. About 1,000 years ago. King Duncan is at war.

He and his two sons Malcolm and Donalbain are fighting invaders and some Scottish rebels.

Enter MACBETH and BANQUO.

The King's best soldiers are Macbeth and Banquo. Macbeth is Lord of the Manor of Glamis.[1] The Scottish word for Lord is Thane, so he is Thane of Glamis.

As the battle comes to a successful end Macbeth and Banquo find themselves on an isolated part of the battlefield.

A drum sounds.

3RD WITCH A drum, a drum!
Macbeth doth come.

ALL 3 WITCHES The Weird Sisters, hand in hand,
Posters[2] of the sea and land,

[1] Pronounced Glarms.

Thus do go about, about:
Thrice to thine, and thrice to mine,
And thrice again, to make up nine[3]
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,
That look not like th'inhabitants o'the earth,
And yet are on't?

MACBETH Speak, if you can: what are you?

1ST WITCH All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, Thane of Glamis!

2ND WITCH All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, Thane of Cawdor![4]

3RD WITCH All hail, Macbeth! That shalt be King hereafter.[5]

BANQUO Good sir, why do you start and seem to fear
Things that do sound so fair?

The WITCHES interrupt and speak to BANQUO.

1ST WITCH Hail!

2ND WITCH Hail!

3RD WITCH Hail!

1ST WITCH Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.

2ND WITCH Not so happy yet much happier.

3RD WITCH Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none:[6]

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[2] People who travel swiftly.
[3] Three and its multiples are all numbers associated with witches.
[4] This is the new title the king has given him though Macbeth doesn't know this yet.
[5] Macbeth has no direct line to the throne.
[6] Banquo's descendants will be king, but not him.

So all hail Macbeth and Banquo!

MACBETH Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more...

The WITCHES vanish.

BANQUO Whither are they vanished?

MACBETH Into the air.

BANQUO Were such things here?

MACBETH Your children shall be kings.

BANQUO You shall be king.

MACBETH And thane of Cawdor too...

BANQUO Who's here?

Enter ROSS and ANGUS.

ROSS The king hath happily received, Macbeth,
The news of thy success[7].
He bade me, from him, call thee Thane of Cawdor.

BANQUO *[aside]* What, can the devil speak true?

MACBETH The thane of Cawdor lives: why do you dress me
In borrowed robes?

ANGUS Treason has overthrown the Thane of Cawdor.[8]

MACBETH *[aside]* Glamis, and Thane of Cawdor:
The greatest is behind.[9]
[To ROSS and ANGUS] I thank you, gentlemen
BANQUO moves to one side with ROSS and ANGUS.

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[7] King Duncan has heard of Macbeth's victory in battle.
[8] The Thane of Cawdor still lives but his lands and title have been removed as punishment for fighting against the king.
[9] The greatest is following on behind – ie next to come.

MACBETH *[aside]* This supernatural soliciting cannot be ill, cannot be good.

BANQUO Look how our partner's rapt.

MACBETH *[aside]* If chance will have me king, why, chance may crown me, without my stir.[10]

BANQUO Worthy Macbeth, we stay upon your leisure.

MACBETH Let us toward the king. Come, friends.

Exeunt.

Scene 2 Duncan's castle

NARRATION The witches have made a prediction that Macbeth would be thane of Cawdor and, almost immediately, it has come true.

Not surprisingly Macbeth begins to believe their prediction that he might be King.

Enter MACBETH, BANQUO, ROSS, and ANGUS returning from war.

Enter DUNCAN, MALCOLM and DONALBAIN greeting them.

DUNCAN *[greeting MACBETH]* O worthiest cousin!
[Greeting BANQUO] Noble Banquo!

[Indicating MALCOLM] We will establish our estate upon our eldest, Malcolm, whom we name hereafter the prince of Cumberland.

DUNCAN and everyone leave. MACBETH is left alone.

MACBETH *[aside]*

[10] If fate wants me to be King, perhaps it'll just happen without me having to do anything.

Malcolm, The Prince of Cumberland![11] That is a step
On which I must fall down, or else o'er-leap,
For in my way it lies. Stars, hide your fires!
Let not light see my black and deep desires.

Exeunt.

Scene 3 Macbeth's castle

Enter LADY MACBETH.

NARRATION Macbeth is very close to his wife; he calls her "my partner in greatness." He writes to her about meeting the three weird sisters and about their predictions.

She is more ambitious for Macbeth to become King than he is. She decides to make it happen.

Enter MACBETH.

LADY MACBETH Great Glamis, worthy Cawdor!
Greater than both, by the all-hail hereafter![12]

MACBETH My dearest love, King Duncan comes here to-night.

LADY MACBETH And when goes hence?

MACBETH To-morrow, as he purposes.[13]

LADY MACBETH O, never
Shall sun that morrow see![14]

MACBETH We will speak further.

LADY MACBETH Look like th'innocent flower,

[11] Macbeth has begun to believe he might succeed Duncan as King when Duncan dies, but realises he can't wait for the young son Malcolm to die as well.
[12] You'll soon be greater than both titles, once you become king.
[13] He plans to leave tomorrow.
[14] The king won't survive the night.

But be the serpent under't.
Leave all the rest to me.

Exeunt.

Enter KING DUNCAN, MALCOLM, DONALBAIN, BANQUO, LENNOX, MACDUFF, ROSS, ANGUS, and ATTENDANTS.

DUNCAN

This castle hath a pleasant seat; the air
Nimbly and sweetly recommends itself
Unto our gentle senses.

LADY MACBETH greets them and escorts them off stage to dinner.

Exeunt.

NARRATION

Lady Macbeth greets her royal guests and sees that everyone is entertained with food and drink.

Halfway through the meal Macbeth slips away.
He is having second thoughts about what he needs to do to make the witches' prediction come true.

Enter MACBETH.

MACBETH

If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well
It were done quickly.[15]
He's here in double trust:
First, as I am his kinsman, then, as his host,
Who should against his murderer shut the door,
Not bear the knife myself.

Enter LADY MACBETH.

How now! What news?

LADY MACBETH

He has almost supped: why have you left the chamber?

[15] It'll be better to get Duncan's murder over and done with.

MACBETH We will proceed no further in this business.

LADY MACBETH Art thou afeard?

MACBETH Prithee, peace!
I dare do all that may become a man;
Who dares do more, is none.

LADY MACBETH When you durst do it, then you were a man.

MACBETH If we should fail?

LADY MACBETH We fail.
But screw your courage to the sticking place,
And we'll not fail. When Duncan is asleep,
His two chamberlains
Will I with wine and wassail overpower.

MACBETH I am settled.[16]
Away, and mock the time with fairest show:
False face must hide what the false heart doth know.

Exeunt.

Scene 4 Macbeth's castle

NARRATION In the after-midnight darkness, no castle offers comfort.

The slightest sound scares, the lightest footstep echoes, shadows shift and solidify.

Macbeth prowls his murky halls waiting for a signal from his wife.

Enter MACBETH.

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

[16] He confirms that she's changed his mind.

Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going,
And such an instrument I was to use!

A bell rings.

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

He exits and as he does LADY MACBETH enters from another direction.

LADY MACBETH That which hath made them drunk hath made me bold[17]
Hark! Peace! It was the owl that shrieked. He is about it.[18]

MACBETH *[off stage]* Who's there?

LADY MACBETH Alack! I am afraid they have awaked,
And 'tis not done.
I laid their daggers ready:
He could not miss 'em.

Enter MACBETH with two bloody daggers.

My husband!

MACBETH I have done the deed. Methought I heard a voice cry,
"Sleep no more! Macbeth does murder sleep."

LADY MACBETH Go, get some water
And wash this filthy witness from your hand. –

She finds that he still holds the daggers

Why did you bring these daggers from the place?
They must lie there:[19] Go…

MACBETH I'll go no more:
I am afraid to think what I have done;

[17] She got the guards drunk and drunk some of the wine herself to boost her courage.
[18] She refers to Macbeth committing the murder.
[19] In the bedchamber.

LADY MACBETH Infirm of purpose![20]
Give me the daggers. If he do bleed,
I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal,
For it must seem their guilt.

She exits.

NARRATION To make sure the guards are blamed for the murder she needs to leave the daggers on them.

She will wipe the king's blood on their faces.

There is loud knocking from off-stage.

MACBETH *[startled]* Whence is that knocking?
How is't with me, when every noise appals me?
Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood
Clean from my hand?

LADY MACBETH returns.

LADY MACBETH My hands are of your colour[21]; but I shame
To wear a heart so white.
[Knocking]
Retire we to our chamber,
A little water clears us of this deed.

More knocking.

MACBETH Hark! More knocking.
Wake Duncan with thy knocking! I would thou couldst!

Exeunt.

[20] Coward!
[21] Her hands are covered in blood.

Scene 5 Macbeth's castle

More knocking from off stage. Enter a PORTER.[22]

PORTER *[addressing the audience*] Here's a knocking indeed! If a man were porter of hell-gate he should have old turning the key.[23]
[Knocking]
Knock, knock, knock! Who's there 'th' name of Beelzebub[24]?
[Knocking]
Knock, knock! Never at quiet! What are you?
But this place is too cold for hell. I'll devil-porter it no further.
[Knocking]
Anon, anon!
I pray you, remember the porter.

Enter MACDUFF and LENNOX.

MACDUFF Is thy master stirring?

Enter MACBETH. Exit PORTER.

Our knocking has awaked him; here he comes.

LENNOX Good-morrow, noble sir!

MACBETH Good-morrow, both!

MACDUFF Is the king stirring, worthy thane?

MACBETH Not yet. This is the door.

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[22] In the original this scene functions, as it still does, as a time-filler to allow the Macbeths to wash their hands and change into their nightgowns. Hand-washing time, at least, is still required. Shakespeare's original porter (who doubled as first witch) was the company clown and the audience would expect some diversion from him.
[23] The porter at the gate to hell would grow old just turning the key because there would be so many bad people to let in.
[24] Pronounced Be-el-ze-bub.

MACDUFF exits to the king's chamber.

LENNOX The night has been unruly. Some say the Earth
Was feverous and did shake.

MACBETH 'Twas a rough night.

MACDUFF *[from offstage]* O horror! Horror! Horror!

MACBETH, LENNOX What's the matter?

Enter MACDUFF.

MACDUFF Do not bid me speak
See and then speak yourselves.

MACBETH and LENNOX enter the chamber.

Awake! Awake!
Ring the alarum bell! Murder and treason!

Enter LADY MACBETH.

LADY MACBETH What's the business? Speak, Speak!

MACDUFF O, gentle lady,
Tis not for you to hear what I can speak.

Enter BANQUO and ROSS.

LENNOX returns.

O Banquo! Banquo!
Our royal master's murdered!

LADY MACBETH What, in our house?

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

Enter MALCOLM and DONALBAIN.

DONALBAIN What is amiss?

MACDUFF Your royal father's murdered.

MALCOLM By whom?

Re-enter MACBETH.

MACBETH Renown and grace are dead.

LENNOX Those of his chamber, as it seemed, had done't.
Their hands and faces all were badged with blood.
So were their daggers.

MACBETH O, yet I do repent me of my fury,[25]
That I did kill them.

MACDUFF Wherefore did you so?

LADY MACBETH *[seeming to faint]* [26] Help me hence, ho![27]

MACDUFF Look to the lady.

Exeunt all but MALCOLM and DONALBAIN.

NARRATION Malcolm and Donalbain, the dead King's sons, think that whoever has killed their father will kill them next.

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

DONALBAIN To Ireland, I.
Our separated fortune
Shall keep us both the safer.

Exeunt.

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[25] When Macbeth was left in Duncan's chamber he killed the drugged grooms so that they couldn't say that they were innocent.
[26] Lady Macbeth conveniently distracts attention from Macbeth's actions.
[27] Help me out of here, quickly.

Scene 6 Macbeth's castle

NARRATION The country needs a new king and Macbeth, the hero of the recent battle, is quickly chosen and crowned.

What the witches predicted for Macbeth has come true.

But the witches also said that Banquo's children would become kings. So Macbeth calls for Banquo and his son Fleance.

Enter BANQUO and FLEANCE.

Enter MACBETH, as King, and LADY MACBETH as Queen, together with attendant LORDS and LADIES.

BANQUO and FLEANCE bow as MACBETH approaches.

MACBETH Banquo! Fleance!
To-night we hold a solemn supper, sir,
And I'll request your presence.

BANQUO Let your highness command upon me.

MACBETH Ride you this afternoon?

BANQUO As far, my lord, as will fill up the time
'Twixt this and supper.

MACBETH Goes Fleance with you?

BANQUO Ay, my good lord.

MACBETH I wish your horses swift and sure of foot. Farewell.

Exit BANQUO and FLEANCE.

[To LORDS and LADIES] Let every man be master of his time
Till seven at night; God be with you!

Exeunt all but Macbeth.

NARRATION Banquo, who heard the witches' prediction, makes Macbeth feel guilty for King Duncan's murder whenever he looks at him.

Enter TWO MURDERERS.

He convinces two desperate men that Banquo was the source of all their woes, and that he, and his son, must be killed.

Exit MURDERERS.

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

Exit MACBETH.

Scene 7 Some way from the castle

Enter TWO MURDERERS.

Enter BANQUO and FLEANCE

BANQUO It will be rain tonight.

1ST MURDERER Let it come down.

MURDERERS set upon BANQUO.

BANQUO O, treachery! Fly, good Fleance, fly, fly, fly!

He dies; FLEANCE escapes.

Exeunt.

Scene 8 Banqueting hall in Macbeth's castle

A banquet. Enter ROSS, LENNOX, and other LORDS and LADIES.

Enter MACBETH and LADY MACBETH.

MACBETH You know your own degrees, sit down.[28] At first
And last the hearty welcome.

Enter 1ST MURDERER.

Anon we'll drink a measure
The table round.
[Aside] There's blood upon thy face.

1ST MURDERER 'Tis Banquo's then.

MACBETH 'Tis better thee without than he within.[29]
Is he dispatched[30]?

1ST MURDERER My lord, his throat is cut, but Fleance is 'scaped.

MACBETH But Banquo's safe?

1ST MURDERER Safe in a ditch he bides.

MACBETH Thanks for that. Get thee gone.

Exit MURDERER.

LENNOX May't please your highness sit?

The ghost of BANQUO enters and sits in MACBETH's place.

ROSS Please 't your highness

[28] You know where to sit according to your rank and status.
[29] Better on the outside of you than inside of him.
[30] Dispatched = killed.

To grace us with your royal company?

MACBETH The table's full.

LENNOX *[indicating the seat with BANQUO's ghost in it]* Here is a place reserved, sir.

MACBETH Where?

LENNOX Here my good lord. What is't that moves your highness?

MACBETH Which of you have done this?

LORDS What, my good lord?

MACBETH *[to GHOST]* Thou canst not say I did it: never shake thy gory locks at me

ROSS Gentlemen, rise, his highness is not well.

LADY MACBETH Sit, worthy friends. Pray you keep seat.
[Aside to MACBETH] Are you a man?

MACBETH Ay, and a bold one, that dare look on that
Which might appal the devil.

LADY MACBETH *[to MACBETH]* O proper stuff!
Why do you make such faces?

MACBETH *[to GHOST]* Avaunt! and quit my sight!

LADY MACBETH *[to GUESTS]* Think of this, good peers,
But as a thing of custom. 'Tis no other.

MACBETH Hence, horrible shadow! Unreal mockery, hence!

LADY MACBETH At once, good night.
Stand not upon the order of your going,
But go at once.

Exit GUESTS.

MACBETH I will tomorrow to the weird sisters. More shall they speak; for now I am bent to know. I am in blood stepp'd in so far that, should I wade no more, returning were as tedious as go o'er.

Exit MACBETH and LADY MACBETH.

NARRATION Banquo is dead, on Macbeth's orders, but has come back to haunt him. Worse still, Macbeth's spies tell him that Macduff is beginning to suspect him.

He decides that he will go and see the three witches. They will have answers for him.

Scene 9 A deserted place

Enter the THREE WITCHES.

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

1ST WITCH Round about the cauldron go:
In the poisoned entrails throw.

2ND WITCH Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,

3RD WITCH 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.

2ND WITCH By the pricking of my thumbs,
Something wicked this way comes.

Enter MACBETH.

MACBETH How now, you secret, black, and midnight hags!

What is't you do?

1ST WITCH A deed without a name.

MACBETH I conjure you by that which you profess –
Howe'er you come to know it – answer me.

1ST WITCH Speak.

2ND WITCH Demand.

3RD WITCH We'll answer.

1ST WITCH Say if thou'dst rather hear it from our mouths,
Or from our masters.

MACBETH Call 'em, let me see 'em![31]

1ST APPARITION: an armed head.[32]

1ST APPARITION Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! Beware
Macduff, Beware the Thane of Fife. Dismiss me. Enough.

2ND APPARITION: a bloody child.[33]

2ND APPARITION Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth!
Be bloody, bold, and resolute: laugh to scorn
The power of man; for none of woman born
Shall harm Macbeth.

MACBETH Then live, Macduff: what need I fear of thee?
But yet, thou shalt not live.

3RD APPARITION: a child crowned, with a tree in his hand.[34]

What is this?

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[31] Macbeth is prepared to make direct contact with the powers of darkness.
[32] Symbolically Macbeth's head cut off and brought to Malcolm by Macduff.
[33] Macduff, untimely "torn" from his mother's body rather than "born".
[34] Royal Malcolm and the boughs of trees that march on Dunsinane.

ALL 3 WITCHES Listen, but speak not to't.

3RD APPARITION Macbeth shall never vanquished be until
Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill
Shall come against him.

MACBETH That will never be. Tell me, if your art
Can tell so much: shall Banquo's issue[35] ever
Reign in this kingdom?

ALL Seek to know no more.

MACBETH I will be satisfied.[36] Deny me this,
And an eternal curse fall on you! Let me know.

1ST WITCH Show.

2ND WITCH Show.

3RD WITCH Show.

A procession of eight kings, followed by the ghost of BANQUO.

MACBETH Filthy hags! Why do you show me this?
Horrible sight! Now I see 'tis true;
For the blood-boltered Banquo smiles upon me
And points at them for his. What, is this so?

1ST WITCH Ay, sir, all this is so.

The WITCHES vanish.

MACBETH Where are they? Gone?

Enter LENNOX.

MACBETH Did you see the weird sisters?

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[35] Issue = children.
[36] I.e. I am determined to know.

LENNOX *[not understanding]* No, my lord.

MACBETH I did hear the galloping of horse. Who was't came by?

LENNOX 'Tis two or three, my lord, that bring you word
Macduff is fled to England.

MACBETH Fled to England!

LENNOX Ay, my good lord.

NARRATION The weird sisters tell him to beware Macduff.

But they also tell him that he cannot be harmed by anyone of "woman born."

He planned to have Macduff killed, just to be safe, but now Macduff has fled to England.

He will take his revenge on Macduff's wife and children left in Scotland. At least he knows where they are. Not like Banquo's son, who has vanished.

MACBETH Time, thou anticipat'st my dread exploits.
The castle of Macduff I will surprise,
Seize upon Fife, give to the edge o'th'sword
His wife, his babes, and all unfortunate souls
That trace him in his line.
This deed I'll do before this purpose cool.

Exeunt.

Scene 10 England

Enter MALCOLM and MACDUFF in mimed conversation.

NARRATION In England, Macduff is trying to persuade King Duncan's son, Malcolm, to fight back against Macbeth.

Enter ROSS.

NARRATION And then the news arrives that Macbeth has had Macduff's wife and children murdered.

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

MALCOLM Merciful heaven!

MACDUFF My children too?

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

MACDUFF My wife killed too?

ROSS I have said.

NARRATION Macduff determines that he will find Macbeth and kill him.

Exit ALL.

NARRATION Malcolm and ten thousand English soldiers from King Edward will march with him.

Scene 11 Macbeth's castle

NARRATION Shut up in Macbeth's castle in Dunsinane, Lady Macbeth's guilty conscience is causing her to behave strangely.

Enter a DOCTOR and a waiting GENTLEWOMAN.

Enter LADY MACBETH, sleepwalking.

GENTLEWOMAN Lo you, here she comes. Observe her, stand close.

DOCTOR How came she by that light?

GENTLEWOMAN She has light by her continually.

DOCTOR You see her eyes are open.

GENTLEWOMAN Ay, but their sense is shut.

DOCTOR Look how she rubs her hands.

LADY MACBETH Out, damned spot! Out I say! – One, two. Why, then, 'tis time to do it. Who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him.

DOCTOR Do you mark that?

LADY MACBETH What, will these hands ne'er be clean?

DOCTOR This disease is beyond my practice.

LADY MACBETH Wash your hands. Put on your nightgown. Look not so pale. – I tell you yet again, Banquo's buried; he cannot come out on 's grave.

DOCTOR Even so?

LADY MACBETH 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!

Exeunt.

Scene 12 Macbeth's castle

NARRATION Macbeth's thanes, sickened by the murder of Macduff's family, desert to the other side.

But because of what the witches have told him, Macbeth still feels invincible.

Enter MACBETH, and ATTENDANTS.

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 a SERVANT.

SERVANT There is ten thousand –

MACBETH What?

SERVANT Soldiers, sir.

MACBETH What soldiers?

SERVANT The English force, so please you.

MACBETH Take thy face hence.

Exit SERVANT.

I will not be afraid of death and bane,
Till Birnam Forest come to Dunsinane.

Exit MACBETH.

Scene 13 Near Birnam Wood

Enter MALCOLM, SIWARD, YOUNG SIWARD, MACDUFF, MENTIETH, ANGUS, CAITHNESS, LENNOX, ROSS, and SOLDIERS.

NARRATION The approaching English army is almost within the range of Macbeth's archers.

Malcolm advises camouflage.

SIWARD What wood is this before us?

MENTIETH The wood of Birnam.

MALCOLM Let every soldier hew him down a bough,
And bear't before him.

Exeunt.

Scene 14 Macbeth's castle

Enter MACBETH and SOLDIERS.

MACBETH Hang out our banners on the outward walls!
The cry is still "They come!"

A cry of women within.

What is that noise?

Enter MESSENGER.

Wherefore[37] was that cry?

MESSENGER The queen, my lord, is dead.

MACBETH She should have died hereafter.
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.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Well, say, sir.

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

MACBETH Liar and slave!

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

MACBETH If thou speak'st false,
Upon the next tree shall thou hang alive
Till famine cling thee. "Fear not, till Birnam wood
Do come to Dunsinane"; and now a wood

[37] I.e. why, what caused it?

Comes toward Dunsinane. – Arm, arm, and out!
Ring the alarum bell! – Blow, wind! Come, wrack!
At least we'll die with harness on our back.

Scene 15 Near the castle

Enter MALCOLM, SIWARD, MACDUFF, and their army, with boughs.

MALCOLM Now near enough. Your leafy screens throw down,
And show like those you are.

MACDUFF Make all our trumpets speak; give them all breath,
Those clamorous harbingers of blood and death.

Exeunt.

Scene 16 Macbeth's castle

Enter MACBETH.

MACBETH What's he that was not born of woman? Such a one
Am I to fear, or none.

Enter YOUNG SIWARD.

YOUNG SIWARD What is thy name?

MACBETH My name's Macbeth.

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

MACBETH No, nor more fearful.

YOUNG SIWARD Thou liest, abhorred tyrant.

They fight and YOUNG SIWARD is slain.

MACBETH Thou wast born of woman.

Alarums. Enter MACDUFF.

MACDUFF Turn hell-hound, turn!

MACBETH Of all men else I have avoided thee

MACDUFF I have no words. My voice is in my sword.

They fight and MACBETH appears to be winning.

MACBETH Thou losest labour.
I bear a charméd life, which must not yield
To one of woman born.

MACDUFF Despair thy charm,
And let the angel whom thou still hast served
Tell thee, Macduff was from his mother's womb
Untimely ripped.

MACBETH Accurséd be that tongue that tells me so.

MACDUFF Then yield thee, coward.

MACBETH I will not yield,
To kiss the ground before young Malcolm's feet,
Lay on.[38] Macduff,
And damned be him that first cries 'Hold, enough'.

Exeunt, fighting.

Enter MALCOLM, SIWARD, ROSS, THANES and soldiers.

ROSS Your son, my lord, has paid a soldier's debt.

SIWARD God be with him! Here comes newer comfort.

Re-enter MACDUFF with MACBETH's head.

[38] Fight on.

MACDUFF *[addressing MALCOLM]*
Hail, king! for so thou art. Behold where stands
Th'usurper's curséd head. The time is free.
Hail, king of Scotland!

ALL Hail, king of Scotland!