Macbeth

by William Shakespeare
Edited by Nathan Criman

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Story of the Play

Edited for time and archaic expressions this version of "The Scottish Play" moves quickly and tensely. The dagger speech is cut down, but could be re-inserted in its entirety. Full evening.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

MACBETH: A general of the Scottish army.
LADY MACBETH
BANQUO: A general of the Scottish army.
MACDUFF: Scottish nobleman.
LENNOX: Scottish nobleman.
ROSS: Scottish nobleman.
ANGUS: Scottish nobleman.
DUNCAN: King of Scotland.
MALCOLM: Son of Duncan.
DONALBAIN: Son of Duncan.
THREE WITCHES
HECATE
LADY MACDUFF
SON OF MACDUFF
FLEANCE: Son of Banquo.
GENTLEWOMAN: Attendant to Lady Macbeth.
A SCOTTISH DOCTOR
A SERGEANT
A PORTER
AN OLD MAN / WOMAN
SIWARD: Earl of Northumberland; general of the English forces.
YOUNG SIWARD: Son of Siward.
SEYTON: An officer attending on Macbeth.
MENTEITH: Scottish nobleman.
CAITHNESS: Scottish nobleman.
AN ENGLISH DOCTOR
APPARITIONS
LORDS, GENTLEMEN, OFFICERS, SOLDIERS,
MURDERERS, ATTENDANTS, MESSENGERS

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I
Scene 1: *An open place.*
Scene 2: *A camp near Forres.*
Scene 3: *A heath. Thunder.*
Scene 4: *Forres. A room in the palace.*
Scene 5: *Inverness. A room in Macbeth's castle.*
Scene 6: *Inverness. Before Macbeth's castle.*
Scene 7: *Inverness. A lobby in Macbeth's castle.*

ACT II
Scene 1: *Inverness. Court of Macbeth's castle.*
Scene 2: *Inverness. Court of Macbeth's castle.*
Scene 3: *Inverness. Court of Macbeth's castle.*
Scene 4: *Without Macbeth's castle.*

ACT III
Scene 1: *Forres. The palace.*
Scene 2: *Forres. The palace.*
Scene 3: *A park, with a gate leading to the palace.*
Scene 4: *A room of state in the palace. Banquet prepared.*
Scene 5: *A heath. Thunder.*
Scene 6: *Forres. A room in the palace.*

ACT IV
Scene 1: *A cavern. In the middle, a caldron boiling. Thunder.*
Scene 2: *A room in Macduff's castle.*
Scene 3: *England. Before the King's palace.*

ACT V
Scene 1: *Dunsinane. A room in the castle.*
Scene 2: *The country near Dunsinane.*
Scene 3: *Dunsinane. A room in the castle.*
Scene 4: *Country near Dunsinane: a wood in view.*
Scene 5: *Dunsinane. Within the castle.*
Scene 6: *Dunsinane. A plain before the castle.*
Scene 7: *Dunsinane. Another part of the plain.*
Scene 8: *Dunsinane. Another part of the plain.*

ACT I
Scene 1

(An open place. Thunder and lightning. Enter three WITCHES.)

FIRST WITCH: When shall we three meet again
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?
SECOND WITCH: When the hurlyburly'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 Macbeth.
FIRST WITCH: I come, Graymalkin!
SECOND WITCH: Paddock calls:- anon!
ALL: Fair is foul, and foul is fair:
Hover through the fog and filthy air.

(Exeunt.)

Scene 2

(A camp near Forres. Alarum within. Enter DUNCAN, MALCOLM, DONALBAIN, LENNOX, with ATTENDANTS, meeting a bleeding SERGEANT.)

DUNCAN: What bloody man is that? He can report,
As seemeth by his plight, of the revolt
The newest state.
MALCOLM: This is the sergeant,
Who, like a good and hardy soldier, fought
'Gainst my captivity.- Hail, brave friend!
Say to the king thy knowledge of the broil
As thou didst leave it.
SERGEANT: Doubtful it stood;
As two spent swimmers, that do cling together.
The merciless Macdonwald-
on his damned quarrel smiling,
Show'd like a rebel's whore: but all's too weak;

For brave Macbeth,- well he deserves that name,-
Disdaining fortune, with his brandish'd steel,
Which smoked with bloody execution,
Carved out his passage till he faced the slave;
And fix'd his head upon our battlements.
DUNCAN: O valiant cousin! worthy gentleman!
SERGEANT: Mark, king of Scotland, mark:
No sooner justice had, with valour arm'd,
But the Norweyan lord,With furbish'd arms
and new supplies of men,
Began a fresh assault.
DUNCAN: Dismay'd not this
Our captains, Macbeth and Banquo?
SERGEANT: Yes;
As sparrows eagles, or the hare the lion.
So they
Doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe:
Or memorize another Golgotha,
But I am faint, my gashes cry for help.
DUNCAN: So well thy words become thee as thy wounds;
They smack of honour both.- Go get him surgeons.

(Exit SERGEANT, attended.)

DUNCAN: *(Cont'd.)* Who comes here?

(Enter ROSS.)

MALCOLM: The worthy thane of Ross.
LENNOX: What haste looks through his eyes!
ROSS: God save the king!
DUNCAN: Whence camest thou, worthy thane?
ROSS: From Fife, great king;
Where that most disloyal traitor
The thane of Cawdor, began a dismal conflict;
Till that Bellona's bridegroom, brave Macbeth,
Confronted him with self-comparisons,
Point against point rebellious, arm 'gainst arm,
Curbing his lavish spirit:
The victory fell on us.
DUNCAN: Great happiness!

LENNOX: No more that thane of Cawdor shall deceive
Our bosom interest:- go pronounce his present death,
And with his former title greet Macbeth.
ROSS: I'll see it done.
DUNCAN: What he hath lost noble Macbeth hath won.

(Exeunt.)

Scene 3

(A heath. Thunder. Enter the three WITCHES.)

FIRST WITCH: Where hast thou been, sister?
SECOND WITCH: Killing swine
THIRD WITCH: Sister, where thou?
FIRST WITCH: A sailor's wife had chestnuts in her lap,
And munch'd, and munch'd, and munch'd:- "Give me," quoth I:
"Aroint thee, witch!" the rump-fed ronyon cries.
Her husband's to Aleppo gone, master o' th'Tiger:
But in a sieve I'll thither sail,
And, like a rat without a tail,
I'll do, I'll do, and I'll do.
SECOND WITCH: I'll give thee a wind
FIRST WITCH: Th'art kind.
THIRD WITCH: And I another.
FIRST WITCH: I myself have all the other;
And the very ports they blow,
All the quarters that they know
I' th'shipman's card.
I will drain him dry as hay:
Sleep shall neither night nor day
Hang upon his pent-house lid;
He shall live a man forbid:
Weary se'nnights nine times nine
Shall he dwindle, peak, and pine:
Though his bark cannot be lost,
Yet it shall be tempest-toss'd.-
Look what I have

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