

# MACBETH



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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AMAZON CLASSICS

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# CONTENTS

## PERSONS REPRESENTED

### ACT 1.

SCENE 1. AN OPEN PLACE.

SCENE 2. A CAMP NEAR FORRES.

SCENE 3. A HEATH.

SCENE 4. FORRES. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

SCENE 5. INVERNESS. A ROOM IN MACBETH'S CASTLE.

SCENE 6. THE SAME. BEFORE MACBETH'S CASTLE.

SCENE 7. THE SAME. A LOBBY IN MACBETH'S CASTLE.

### ACT 2.

SCENE 1. INVERNESS. COURT OF MACBETH'S CASTLE.

SCENE 2. THE SAME. WITHOUT MACBETH'S CASTLE.

### ACT 3.

SCENE 1. FORRES. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

SCENE 2. THE SAME. ANOTHER ROOM IN THE PALACE.

SCENE 3. THE SAME. A PARK, WITH A GATE LEADING TO THE PALACE.

SCENE 4. THE SAME. A ROOM OF STATE IN THE PALACE.

SCENE 5. A HEATH.

SCENE 6. FORRES. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

### ACT 4.

SCENE 1. A CAVERN. IN THE MIDDLE, A CALDRON BOILING.

SCENE 2. FIFE. A ROOM IN MACDUFF'S CASTLE.

SCENE 3. ENGLAND. BEFORE THE KING'S PALACE.

### ACT 5.

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. THE SAME. A PLAIN BEFORE THE CASTLE.

SCENE 7. THE SAME. ANOTHER PART OF THE PLAIN.

SCENE 8. THE SAME. ANOTHER PART OF THE PLAIN.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



# PERSONS REPRESENTED

**DUNCAN**, king of Scotland.

**MALCOLM**, his son.

**DONALBAIN**, his son.

**MACBETH**, general in the King's army.

**BANQUO**, general in the King's army.

**MACDUFF**, nobleman of Scotland.

**LENNOX**, nobleman of Scotland.

**ROSS**, nobleman of Scotland.

**MENTEITH**, nobleman of Scotland.

**ANGUS**, nobleman of Scotland.

**CAITHNESS**, nobleman of Scotland.

**FLEANCE**, son to Banquo.

**SIWARD**, Earl of Northumberland, general of the English Forces.

**YOUNG SIWARD**, his son.

**SEYTON**, an officer attending on Macbeth.

**BOY**, son to Macduff.

An English Doctor.

A Scotch Doctor.

A Soldier.

A Porter.

An Old Man.

**LADY MACBETH.**

**LADY MACDUFF.**

Gentlewoman attending on Lady Macbeth.

Lords, Gentlemen, Officers, Soldiers, Murderers, Attendants, and Messengers.

Hecate.

Three Witches.

Apparitions.

SCENE—in the end of the fourth act, in England; through the rest of the play in Scotland.

# ACT 1.

## 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**

5 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**

10 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 SOLDIER.*]

**DUNCAN**

What bloody man is that? He can report,  
As seemeth by his plight, of the revolt  
The newest state.

**MALCOLM**

5 This is the sergeant  
Who, like a good and hardy soldier, fought  
'Gainst my captivity.—Hail, brave friend!  
Say to the king the knowledge of the broil  
As thou didst leave it.

**SOLDIER**

10 Doubtful it stood;  
As two spent swimmers, that do cling together  
And choke their art. The merciless Macdonwald—

Worthy to be a rebel, for, to that,  
The multiplying villainies of nature  
Do swarm upon him—from the western isles  
15 Of kerns and gallowglasses is supplied;  
And fortune, on his damnèd 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,  
20 Which smok'd with bloody execution,  
Like valour's minion,  
Carv'd out his passag till he fac'd the slave;  
And ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,  
Till he unseam'd him from the nave to the chaps,  
25 And fix'd his head upon our battlements.

**DUNCAN**

O valiant cousin! worthy gentleman!

**SOLDIER**

As whence the sun 'gins his reflection  
Shipwrecking storms and direful thunders break;  
So from that spring, whence comfort seem'd to  
come,  
30 Discomfort swells. Mark, king of Scotland, mark:  
No sooner justice had, with valor arm'd,  
Compell'd these skipping kerns to trust their heels,  
But the Norweyan lord, surveying vantage,  
With furbish'd arms and new supplies of men,  
35 Began a fresh assault.

**DUNCAN**

Dismay'd not this  
Our captains, Macbeth and Banquo?

**SOLDIER**

Yes;

As sparrows eagles, or the hare the lion.

40

If I say sooth, I must report they were

As cannons overcharg'd with double cracks;

So they

Doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe:

Except they meant to bathe in reeking wounds,

45

Or memorize another Golgotha,

I cannot tell:—

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 SOLDIER, attended.]*

50

Who comes here?

**MALCOLM**

The worthy thane of Ross.

**LENNOX**

What haste looks through his eyes! So should he  
look

That seems to speak things strange.

*[Enter ROSS.]*

**ROSS**

God save the king!

**DUNCAN**

55           Whence cam'st thou, worthy thane?

**ROSS**

From Fife, great king;  
Where the Norweyan banners flout the sky  
And fan our people cold. Norway himself,  
With terrible numbers,  
60           Assisted by that most disloyal traitor  
The thane of Cawdor, began a dismal conflict;  
Till that Bellona's bridegroom, lapp'd in proof,  
Confronted him with self-comparisons,  
Point against point rebellious, arm 'gainst arm,  
65           Curbing his lavish spirit: and, to conclude,  
The victory fell on us.

**DUNCAN**

Great happiness!

**ROSS**

That now  
Sweno, the Norways' king, craves composition;  
70           Nor would we deign him burial of his men  
Till he disbursed, at Saint Colme's-inch,  
Ten thousand dollars to our general use.

**DUNCAN**

No more that thane of Cawdor shall deceive  
Our bosom interest:—go pronounce his present  
death,  
75           And with his former title greet Macbeth.

**ROSS**