MACBETH
(in 10 Minutes)

Abridged by
Joachim Emilio B. Antonio

SETTING: Scotland, Medieval Times

CHARACTERS: (7-21 actors)
MACBETH
LADY MACBETH can double as Captain, 1st Witch, and Apparition
MACDUFF, can double as King, 2nd Witch, Murderer, and Apparition
BANQUO, can double as Seyton, Lady Macduff
FLEANCE, can double as Malcolm, 3rd Witch, and Apparition
KING, can double as Macduff, Witch, Murderer, and Apparition
MALCOLM can double as Fleance, Witch, and Apparition
ROSS, can double as Messenger, Son, Murderer, and Apparition
CAPTAIN, can double as Lady Macbeth, Witch, and Apparition
SEYTON, can double as Banquo, Lady Macduff
LADY MACDUFF, can double as Banquo, Seyton
SON, can double as Messenger, Ross, Murderer, and Apparition
MESSENGER, can double as Ross, Murderer, and Apparition
THREE WITCHES, can double as Three Murderers, and Three Apparitions
THREE MURDERERS, can double as Three Witches, and Three Apparitions
THREE APPARITIONS, can double as Three Witches, and Three Murderers
THE PLAY:

*Alarum within.*  *KING, MALCOLM, meet a CAPTAIN.*

**CAPTAIN** The merciless Macdonwald of kerns and gallowglasses is supplied; but brave Macbeth unseamed him and fixed his head upon our battlements.

*Exit CAPTAIN. Enter ROSS.*

**ROSS** God save the King! The Thane of Cawdor began a dismal conflict till that Bellona’s bridegroom confronted him and victory fell on us.

**KING** No more that Thane of Cawdor shall deceive our bosom interest. Go pronounce his present death and with his former title greet Macbeth.

*Exeunt.*

*Thunder. Enter Three WITCHES. Enter MACBETH and BANQUO.*

**BANQUO** What are these that look not like the inhabitants o’ the earth?

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

**WITCH 2** Thane of Cawdor!

**WITCH 3** …that shalt be King hereafter!

**BANQUO** Speak then to me.

**WITCH 3** Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none. All hail, Macbeth and Banquo!
MACBETH Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more!  

WITCHES vanish.

Enter ROSS.

ROSS The King hath happily received, Macbeth, the news of thy success; he bade me, from him, call thee Thane of Cawdor; for it is thine.

MACBETH [Aside.] Glamis, and Thane of Cawdor! The greatest is behind. If chance will have me King, why, chance may crown me without my stir.

Enter KING, MALCOLM.

KING Sons, kinsmen, thanes, know we will establish our estate upon our eldest, Malcolm, whom we name hereafter the Prince of Cumberland. From hence to Inverness, and bind us further to you.

MACBETH I'll myself be the harbinger; [Aside.] The Prince of Cumberland! That is a step on which I must fall down, or else o'erleap, for in my way it lies.  

Exit.

KING Let's after him,  

Flourish. Exeunt.

Enter MACBETH'S WIFE

LADY Glamis thou art, and Cawdor, and shalt be what thou art promised. Yet I do fear thy nature. It is too full o' the milk of human kindness to catch the nearest way. Come you spirits that tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here, and fill me top-full of direst cruelty.
Enter MACBETH.

MACBETH My dearest love, Duncan comes here tonight.

LADY Leave all the rest to me.

MACBETH I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent but only vaulting ambition—We will proceed no further in this business.

LADY Wouldst thou have that which thou esteem’st the ornament of life and live a coward in thine own esteem?

MACBETH If we should fail?

LADY But screw your courage to the sticking place, and we’ll not fail. Exeunt.

Enter BANQUO and FLEANCE. Enter MACBETH.

BANQUO What, not yet at rest? The King’s abed. Exeunt BANQUO [and FLEANCE].

MACBETH Is this a dagger I see before me,

Bell rings.

I go, and it is done. The bell invites me. Exit.

Enter LADY [MACBETH].

LADY That which hath made them drunk hath made me bold; Hark! Peace!

Enter MACBETH [with bloody daggers].
MACBETH I have done the deed.

LADY Why did you bring the daggers from the place? Go carry them and smear the sleeping grooms with blood.

MACBETH Look on’t again I dare not.

LADY Infirm of purpose! Give me the daggers.

MACBETH Will all great Neptune’s ocean wash this blood clean from my hand?

Enter LADY [MACBETH].

LADY Retire we to our chamber. A little water clears us of this deed.

MACBETH I'll bring you to him. This is the door.

MACDUFF I'll make so bold to call.

Exit.

Enter MACDUFF.

MACDUFF O horror, horror, horror! See, and then speak yourselves.

Exeunt MACBETH.

Ring the alarum bell. Murder and Treason!

Enter BANQUO. Enter MACBETH. Enter MALCOLM.
MACDUFF    Your royal father’s murdered.

MALCOLM    O, by whom?

BANQUO     Let us meet and question this most bloody piece of work,

            Exeunt [all but MALCOLM].

MALCOLM    I’ll to England. This murderous shaft that’s shot hath not yet lighted, and
our safest way is to avoid the aim.

            Exeunt.

Enter ROSS. Enter MACDUFF.

MACDUFF    Malcolm are stolen away and fled, which puts upon suspicion of the deed.

ROSS      Then ’tis most like the sovereignty will fall upon Macbeth.

MACDUFF    He is already named, and gone to Scone to be invested.

ROSS      Will you to Scone?

MACDUFF    I’ll to Fife.

            Exeunt omnes.

Enter MACBETH [as KING].

MACBETH    Our fears in Banquo stick deep. He chid the Sisters then prophet-like,
they hailed him father to a line of kings. Upon my head they placed a fruitless
crown for them the gracious Duncan have I murdered.

            Enter MURDERERS.
MACBETH  Know that Banquo was your enemy. To leave no rubs nor botches in the work, Fleance his son, must embrace the fate of that dark hour.

MURDERERS  We are resolved, my lord.

[Exeunt Murderers.]  

Enter LADY [MACBETH].

LADY  How now, my lord? Why do you keep alone?

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

Exeunt.

Enter THREE MURDERERS. Enter BANQUO and FLEANCE.

[They set upon BANQUO.]

BANQUO  O, treachery! Fly good Fleance--O slave!

[Dies. FLEANCE escapes.]

MURDERER 3  There is but one down; the son is fled.

MURDERER 1  Well, let’s away, and say how much is done.

Exeunt.

Enter MACBETH. Enter MURDERER 1.

MACBETH  Is he dispatched?

MURDERER 1  My lord, his throat is cut. Fleance is escaped.

MACBETH  [Aside.] Then comes my fit again. Thanks for that!

Exit MURDERER.

Enter the GHOST of BANQUO.

MACBETH  Never shake thy gory locks at me. Avaunt and quit my sight!

Exit GHOST.
Why, so! Being gone I am a man again. I will tomorrow to the Weird Sisters. More shall they speak; for now I am bent to know by the worst means the worst. I am in blood stepped in so far that returning were as tedious as go o’er.

Exeunt.

Thunder. Enter THREE WITCHES.

ALL Double, double, toil and trouble, fire burn, and cauldron bubble.

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

Enter MACBETH.

MACBETH Answer to what I ask you.

WITCH 1 Say, if th’ hadst rather hear it from our mouths or from our masters.

MACBETH Call them! Let me see them!

Thunder. First Apparition. An Armed Head.

APPARITION 1 Macbeth! Beware Macduff; He descends.

MACBETH Whate’er thou art, for thy good caution, thanks!


APPARITION 2 … none woman born shall harm Macbeth. Descends.

MACBETH Then live, Macduff. What need I fear of thee? But yet I’ll make assurance double sure thou shalt not live!
Thunder. Third Apparition, a Child Crowned, with a tree in his hand.

APPARITION 3  Macbeth shall never vanquished be until Great Birnham Wood to high
Dunsinane Hill shall come against him.  
Descends.

MACBETH  Sweet bodements, good! Shall Banquo's issue ever reign in this kingdom?

WITCH 3  Show!

Hautboys.

A show of eight KINGS, and BANQUO last.

MACBETH  I'll see no more.

APPARITIONS descend.

WITCH 1  But why stands Macbeth thus amazedly? Come, sisters.

The WITCHES vanish.

MACBETH  The castle of Macduff I will surprise, seize upon Fife, give edge o' the
sword his wife, his babes that trace him in his line.

Exeunt.

Enter MACDUFF’S WIFE, her SON. Enter MURDERERS.

MURDERER  What, you egg? [Stabbing him.] Young fry of treachery!

LADY MACDUFF exits, crying “Murder,”

followed by MURDERERS bearing the SON’s body.

Enter MALCOLM and MACDUFF.

MACDUFF  Let us hold fast the mortal sword and, like good men, bestride our
downfall’n birthdom.
MALCOLM      Macduff, this noble passion, reconciled my thoughts to thy good truth and honor. Now we’ll together.

Enter ROSS.

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

MACDUFF     But gentle heavens, front to front bring thou the fiend of Scotland and myself. Within my sword’s length set him.

MALCOLM     This tune goes manly. Macbeth is ripe for shaking.

Exeunt.

Enter LADY MACBETH.

LADY      Out, damned spot, out, I say! What need we fear who knows it, when none can call our power to account? Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him? The Thane of Fife had a wife. Where is she now? What, will these hands ne’er be clean? Banquo’s buried; he cannot come out on’s grave. Wash your hands. What’s done cannot be undone. To bed, to bed.

Lady Macbeth exits.

Enter MACBETH, SEYTON.

A cry within of women.

SEYTON      The Queen, my lord, is dead.

MACBETH      She should have died hereafter; tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow

Enter a MESSENGER.

MESSENGER     Gracious, my lord, I should report that which I say I saw. I looked toward Birnham, and anon methought the wood began to move.
MACBETH  I begin to doubt the equivocation of the fiend, that lies like truth. “Fear not, till Birnham Wood do come to Dunsinane!” Ring the alarum bell!

Enter MACDUFF

MACDUFF  Turn, hellhound, turn!

MACBETH  Of all men else I have avoided thee.

MACDUFF  My voice is in my sword, thou bloodier villain

Fight. Alarum.

MACBETH  I bear a charmed life, which must not yield to one woman born.

MACDUFF  Macduff was from his mother’s womb untimely ripped.

MACBETH  Though Birnam Wood come to Dunsinane and thou opposed, being of no woman born, I will try to the last. Lay on, Macduff; and damned be him who first cries, “hold, enough!”

Exeunt fighting. Alarums.

Enter MALCOLM, ROSS, LENNOX. Enter MACDUFF, with MACBETH’S HEAD.

MACDUFF  Hail King! For so thou art. Behold where stands the usurper’s cursed head.

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

ALL  Hail, King of Scotland!

Flourish. Exeunt omnes.
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