

Better Macbeth

Michiko Feehan
and
Lane Lawley

Original Author
Some British Dude

2019

Rochester League for
Understandable Classics

Act I

Scene I: A desert place.

Original

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.

Better

The weather is horrible in Scotland. Three Witches, enter the scene. They huddle and chant around a huge pot of boiling water.

First Witch

When is the next time you guys wanted to meet? Can we get together during a downpour because I prefer to commute in bad weather.

Second Witch

Lets meet up again when the war is over.

Third Witch

The war ends at 7:45pm. Its so cool that we can see into the future.

First Witch

Where are we meeting?

Second Witch

Lets meet on the large meadow. Thats my favorite spot.

Third Witch

We can bring the Scottish general Macbeth.

First Witch

Sorry guys. I have to go. Its my cat, Graymalkins bath time.

Third Witch

Anon.

ALL

Fair is foul, and foul is fair: Hover through the fog and filthy air.

Exeunt

Second Witch

That reminds me, my pet toad Paddock needs to be fed.

Third Witch

Yeah, well if you are both leaving, then I'm going to go home also.

ALL

Yin and Yang. Good luck flying through the fog and filthy air.

The Witches Exit.

Scene II: A camp near Forres.

Original

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 the knowledge of the broil As thou didst leave it.

SERGEANT

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 villanies of nature Do swarm upon him--from the western isles Of kerns and gallowglasses is supplied; And fortune, 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 smok'd with bloody execution, Like valour's minion carved out his passage Till he faced the slave; Which ne'er

Better

Trumpet sounds. But like, a war trumpet. Shit's going down. Some SERGEANTS all bloody and King DUNCAN shows up with his kids, MALCOLM, Donalbain, and LENNOX. Donalbain doesn't have any lines, so I left him in lower case. Anyway, the king also can show up with a bunch of guys who work for him, if you have a lot of extras. The king, DUNCAN, starts talking to the SERGEANT.

DUNCAN

Who the hell is this dude? This bloody dude? Is this dude a soldier? Jesus Christ. I hope he's got something important to tell us.

MALCOLM

Yeah, Sarge saved my life! They almost had me! Sarge, tell them all about it!

SERGEANT

Yeah, so, it was super tough and go there for a little bit. You ever seen, like, two kids who can't swim holding onto each other? And they're basically just dragging each other down? It was a lot like that. So we're fighting this Macdonwald guy, right, and all his guys. He had normal soldiers but also some island-type dudes on horses.

shook hands, nor bade farewell to him, Till he unseam'd him from the nave to the chaps, And fix'd his head upon our battlements.

DUNCAN

O valiant cousin! worthy gentleman!

SERGEANT

As whence the sun 'gins his reflection Shipwrecking storms and direful thunders break, So from that spring whence comfort seem'd to come Discomfort swells. Mark, king of Scotland, mark: No sooner justice had with valour arm'd Compell'd these skipping kerns to trust their heels, But the Norwegian lord surveying vantage, 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. If I say sooth, I must report they were As cannons overcharged with double cracks, so they Doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe: Except they meant to bathe in reeking wounds, Or memorise another Golgotha, I cannot tell. But I am faint, my gashes cry for help.

DUNCAN

Exit SERGEANT, attended

Who comes here?

Enter ROSS

MALCOLM

The worthy thane of Ross.

LENNOX

What a haste looks through his eyes! So should he look That seems to speak things strange.

ROSS

God save the king!

This dude was just fucking cruising. Real rich, lucky son of a bitch. But so we were like, let's wipe that lucky grin off your fucking mug, you know? So, you know Macbeth, right, ain't scared of nothing, just charges right up to Macdonwald. And Macbeth just fucking **S H R E D D E D** this dude. Macbeth stabbed the fucking guy's stomach and just cut him in half all the way up to his head. And the crazy son of a bitch decapitated him and put the head up on the walls. I'm like, is he even allowed to do that? But obviously I didn't say anything. Like, I was shaking. That dude is something else, honestly.

DUNCAN

Haha, hell yeah! Nice! Nice. Macbeth is great.

SERGEANT

Well, hang on, so it gets worse, listen. So obviously Macdonwald's dudes are fleeing, right? But then the goddamn Norwegians came crawling out of the goddamn floorboards. And we'd just, like, totally forgotten about the Norway situation.

DUNCAN

Oh my God, right, the Norwegians! I honestly forgot about them, too. So even the sergeants have got to be shitting themselves at this point, right? Macbeth and Banquo are shitting themselves at this point, right?

SERGEANT

No, dude. Have you been listening? Macbeth literally decapitated Macdonwald on a battlefield. Do you know how long it takes to decapitate someone? A while. It takes a while. And these soldiers are all just, like, standing around, watching him do it. No, he wasn't scared of the Norwegians. He basically just kept going ham. He fucked them up. Anyway, so I'm literally dying. I gotta go.

DUNCAN

Oh, yeah, my bad, haha. Thanks for the info! Someone get this guy a doctor.

The SERGEANT leaves. Some of the extras help him, or

DUNCAN

Whence camest thou, worthy thane?

ROSS

From Fife, great king; Where the Norwegian banners
flout the sky And fan our people cold. Norway himself,
With terrible numbers, Assisted by that most disloyal
traitor The thane of Caithness, 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. Curbing his lavish spirit: and, to conclude,
The victory fell on us.

DUNCAN

Great happiness!

ROSS

That now Sweno, the Norways' king, craves composition:
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 Caithness shall deceive Our bosom
interest: go pronounce his present death, And with his
former title greet Macbeth.

ROSS

I'll see it done.

DUNCAN

Exeunt

Donalbain or whoever.

ROSS and Angus enter. Angus also doesn't actually need
to be here, though. It's another Donalbain-type situation.

DUNCAN

Jesus Christ, who is it now?

MALCOLM

It's Ross, dad.

LENNOX

EDITOR'S NOTE: this is literally Lennox's only line in
this scene lol

ROSS

'Sup Dunc?

DUNCAN

'Sup Ross? Where've you been?

ROSS

DUNCAN nods and gestures as if to say "I know, right?"

So anyway, that sneaky thane of Caithness was with them,
the one who grassed you, remember?

And he just snuck up on us with all these Norwegians.
But so this guy Macbeth, have you heard of Macbeth?
This guy Macbeth literally killed like a whole platoon
or whatever himself.

The Norwegians just booked it, man.

This Macbeth dude is crazy.

Watch out for this Macbeth dude.

DUNCAN

Haha, nah, dude, he's the best! God, that sounds so cool.

ROSS

Well so Sweno, the King of Norway, he wants to call it
even stevens. We were like, no, dude, fuck off my property,
you know? Fuck out of here, and give us ten thousand
dollars!

DUNCAN

Yeah, goes to show that oily Canodor motherfucker who's boss around here. Have someone just kill him. I'm sick of him. Macbeth's the new thane, I don't give a fuck.

ROSS

Uh, sure. I'm on it.

DUNCAN

God damn Macbeth is so cool.

Everyone leaves