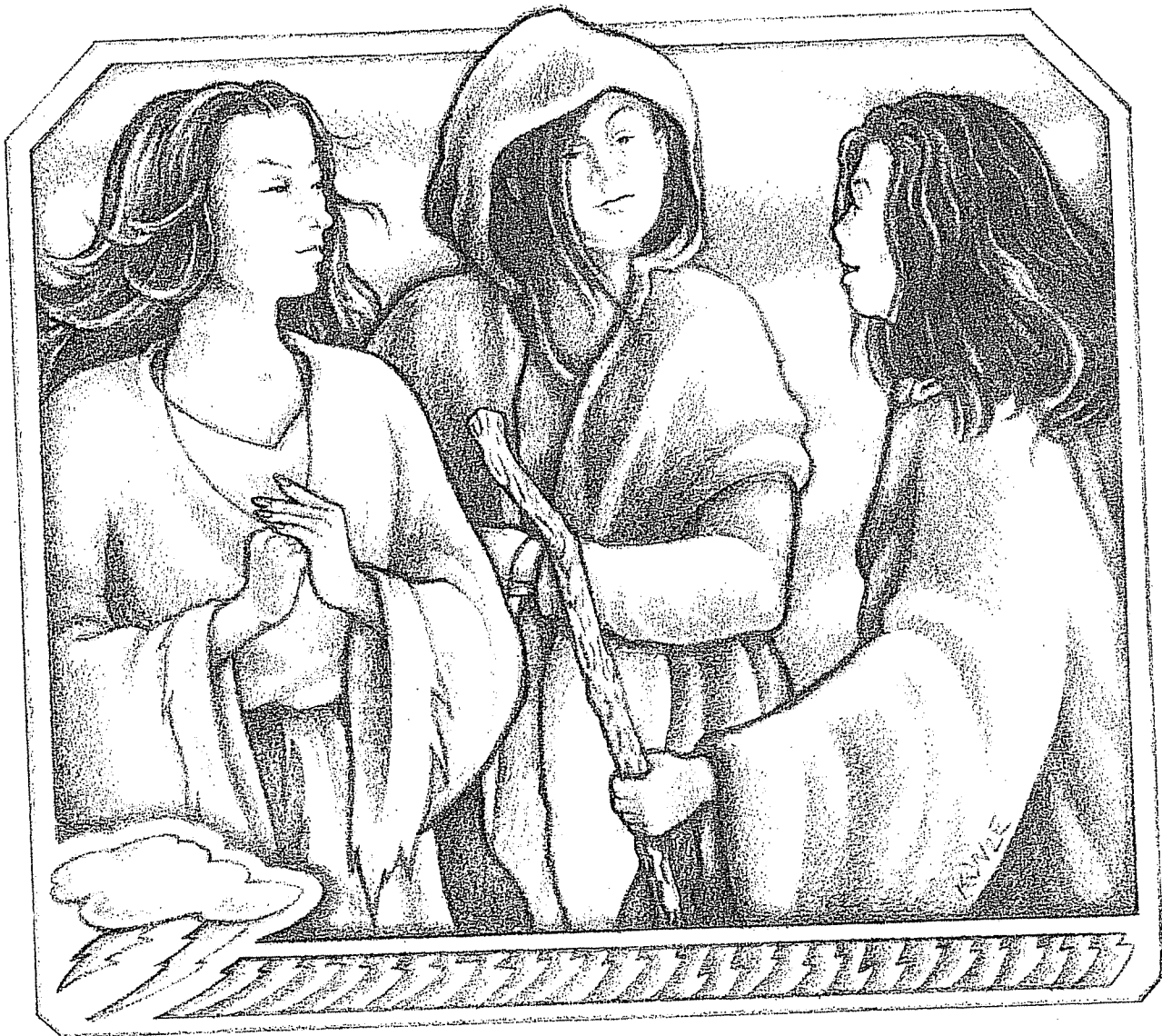
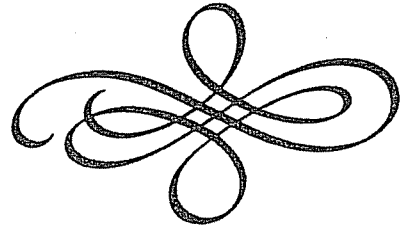
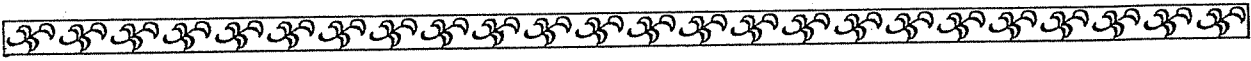


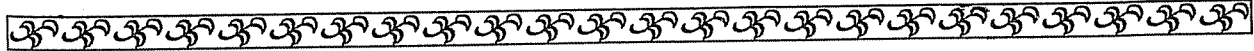
Macbeth





Characters

- Duncan, King of Scotland
- Malcolm, Duncan's older son
- Donalbain, Duncan's younger son
- > Macbeth, Duncan's general
- > Banquo, Duncan's general
- Fleance, Banquo's son
- > MacDuff, Scottish nobleman
- Ross, Scottish nobleman
- Lennox, Scottish nobleman
- > Lady Macbeth, Macbeth's wife
- { First Witch
- { Second Witch
- { Third Witch
- Porter
- Messenger
- Servants
- { First Revenger
- { Second Revenger
- { Third Revenger
- First Apparition
- Second Apparition
- { Doctor
- { Gentlewoman
- Guests at the Banquet



Macbeth

Scene 1: A Heath in Scotland

(Three witches enter.)

First Witch: When shall we three meet again, in thunder, lightning, or in rain?

Second Witch: When the hurly-burly's done, when the battle's lost and won.

Third Witch: That will be ere the set of sun.

First Witch: Where has thou been, sister?

Second Witch: Killing swine.

Third Witch: Sister, where thou?

First Witch: A sailor's wife had chestnuts in her lap, and munched, and munched, and munched. "Give me some," said I. "Away with thee," she cried. Her husband is away at sea, and look what I have!

Second Witch: Show me! Show me!

First Witch: I have her husband's thumb, wrecked as homeward he did come.

(A drum is heard off stage.)

Third Witch: A drum! A drum! Macbeth doth come!

All the Witches: The weird sisters, hand in hand, posters of the sea and land. Thus do go about thrice to thine, and thrice to mine, and thrice again to make up nine. Peace! The charm's wound up!

(Enter Macbeth and Banquo.)

Macbeth: So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

(Banquo sees the half-hidden witches.)

Banquo: What are these so withered and so wild in their attire that look not like the inhabitants of the earth and yet are

on it? Are you alive? You seem to understand me. You should be women, and yet you have beards!

Macbeth: Speak if you can. What are you?

First Witch: All hail, Macbeth! hail to thee, Thane of Glamis!

Second Witch: All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, Thane of Cawdor!

Third Witch: All hail, Macbeth! Thou shalt be king hereafter!

Banquo: In the name of truth, are you fantastical? You greet Macbeth, to me you speak not. If you can look into the seeds of time, and ask which grain will grow and which will not, speak then to me, who neither beg nor fear your pleasures or your hate.

First Witch: Hail!

Second Witch: Hail!

Third Witch: Hail!

(The three witches vanish into the shadows.)

First Witch: Lesser than Macbeth, and greater!

Second Witch: Not so happy, yet much happier!

Third Witch: Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none. So all hail, Macbeth and Banquo!

All the Witches: Banquo and Macbeth, all hail!

Macbeth: Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more. By my father's death I know I am Thane of Glamis, but how am I Thane of Cawdor? The Thane of Cawdor lives, and to be king is impossible. To what do you owe this strange intelligence, and why upon this heath do you stand in our way? Speak, I charge you!

Banquo: Where have they vanished?

Macbeth: Into the air as the wind. I wish they had stayed.

(Enter Ross, who kneels before Macbeth.)

Ross: Hail, Thane of Cawdor!

Banquo: Can the devil speak true?

Macbeth: The Thane of Cawdor lives. Why do you address me so?

Ross: The Thane of Cawdor lives, yes. But it has been proven that he is a traitor to Scotland, and what he has lost, the noble Macbeth is enraptured! Macbeth, we wait for thee.

Macbeth: Forgive me, my dull brain was full of many thoughts. Enough . . . let us go meet the king.

Scene 2: Macbeth's Castle at Dunsinane

(Enter messenger.)

Lady Macbeth: What is your message?

Messenger: King Duncan comes here tonight.

Lady Macbeth: You are mad to say this. Is not Macbeth with the king?

Messenger: Macbeth is almost here, my lady.

(Messenger exits.)

Lady Macbeth: I know he brings great news. Come, you spirits, and fill me from top to toe with cruelty. Come, thick night, and cover me with the darkest smoke so my sharp knife see not the wound it makes, nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark to cry "Stop! Stop!" (Enter Macbeth.) Great Thane of Glamis! Worthy Thane of Cawdor! Greater than both you shall be hereafter!

Macbeth: King Duncan comes here tonight.

Lady Macbeth: And when does he leave?

Macbeth: Tomorrow.

Lady Macbeth: Never shall he see that tomorrow! Your face, Macbeth, is a book where people may read your thoughts. To fool the time, look like the time. Bear welcome in your eye, your hand, your tongue. Look like the innocent flower, but be the serpent under it. King Duncan is coming and must be taken care of . . .

Macbeth: We will speak further about this.

Lady Macbeth: Look up clear. Be confident, and leave all the rest to me.

(Macbeth and Lady Macbeth exit. A sound of trumpets as King Duncan and his group enter.)

King Duncan: This castle hath a pleasant air. It is delicate.

Banquo: I have noticed, your majesty, that the air is quite delicate.

(Enter Lady Macbeth.)

King Duncan: See our gracious hostess. Where is Macbeth? He rode ahead of us. Ah, how he can ride. Fair and noble hostess, we are your guests tonight.

Lady Macbeth: Your servant ever, your majesty.

King Duncan: Give me your hand. Lead me to Macbeth. We love him highly and shall continue to hold him in our esteem. By your leave, hostess.

(All exit into the banquet room off stage. There is much laughter and talking during the banquet as servants enter and exit with large trays of food. Soon Macbeth enters.)

Macbeth: If I am going to kill King Duncan, then it is best that I do it quickly. King Duncan is so good that his virtues will plead like angels. I have no reason to kill him, but only my ambition that drives me on. (Enter Lady Macbeth.) Well? What news?

Lady Macbeth: He has almost finished his supper. Why have you left the banquet room?

Macbeth: Has he asked for me?

Lady Macbeth: You knew he would!

Macbeth: We will go no further in this horrible business. The king has distinguished me of late. He thinks highly of me!

Lady Macbeth: Are you afraid?

Macbeth: Peace! I dare do all that any man would do. Who dares do more is none!

Lady Macbeth: Then what made you break this agreement with me?

Macbeth: Suppose we fail?

Lady Macbeth: We fail. Screw your courage to the sticking place and we will not fail. When King Duncan is asleep, his two servants will I make drunk with wine. When they are asleep, why cannot you and I attack the unguarded Duncan? We can make it look like the two servants are the ones with guilt. Who will dare question us? We will make our grief roar above his death. Come, Macbeth.

(Lady Macbeth exits.)

Macbeth: False face must hide what the false heart doth know!

(Macbeth exits. The King and his procession retire for the night.)

Scene 3: Macbeth's Castle Two Hours Later

(Banquo and Fleance enter with torches.)

Banquo: How goes the night, boy?

Fleance: The moon is down. I have not heard the clock.

Banquo: Here, take my sword. The heavens are thrifty tonight. Their candles are all out. (Enter Macbeth and a servant.) Give me my sword. Who's there?

Macbeth: A friend.

Banquo: What, sir, not yet at rest? The king's abed. He hath been in unusual pleasure, and sent forth this diamond for your wife. I dreamt last night of three weird sisters. To you they showed some truth.

Macbeth: When we can find the time, let's talk about business.

Banquo: At your kindest leisure.

Macbeth: Good night then, and sleep well.

Banquo: Thanks, sir, the same to you.

(Banquo exits with Fleance.)

Macbeth: (To servant.)

Go bid my mistress, when my drink is ready, she strike upon the bell. Get thee to bed. (Exit servant.) 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. Art thou but a dagger of the mind, a false creation of my brain? I see thee still, and on thy blade spots of blood which was not so before. There's no such thing! (A bell rings from within.) I go, and it is done. The bell invites me. Hear it not, Duncan, for it is a death knell that summons thee to heaven or to hell.

(Macbeth exits to kill King Duncan. Enter Lady Macbeth.)

Lady Macbeth: That which hath made them drunk hath made them bold. What hath quenched them hath given them fire. Hark! Listen! It was the owl that shrieked. He is about to do the deed. The doors are open, and the grooms are drunk and snoring. I have drugged their wine.

Macbeth: (Within.)
Who's there?

Lady Macbeth: Alas, I am afraid they have awakened! And 'tis not done! I laid their daggers ready . . . he could not miss them. Had their king not resembled my father as he slept. I'd have done it! (Enter Macbeth.) My husband.

Macbeth: I have done the deed! Did you not hear a noise?

Lady Macbeth: I heard the owl scream and the crickets cry. Did not you speak?

Macbeth: When?

Lady Macbeth: Now.

Macbeth: As I descended?

Lady Macbeth: Ay!

Macbeth: Hark! Who lies in the second chamber?

Lady Macbeth: Donalbain.

Macbeth: (Looking at his hands.)
This is a sorry sight!

Lady Macbeth: A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight!

Macbeth: There's one did laugh in his sleep, and one cried, "Murder," that they did wake each other. I stood and heard them. But they did say their prayers and again to sleep.