

BLOOD WILL HAVE BLOOD

MACBETH

THE PLOT

On a battlefield a wounded soldier informs Duncan, King of Scotland, of Macbeth's great courage in battle. Ross arrives to inform the King of the traitorous actions of the Thane of Cawdor. The King immediately sentences the Thane of Cawdor to death and confers that title upon Macbeth.

Macbeth and Banquo encounter three witches on the heath who prophesy that Macbeth (still unaware of his newly acquired title) shall become the Thane of Cawdor and eventually King, while Banquo shall bear sons who become Kings. When Ross arrives and addresses Macbeth with the new title, the witches' prophecies already seem to be coming true, and Macbeth begins to wonder if kingship really could be possible.

At home, Lady Macbeth receives a letter from her husband detailing the witches' prophecies and their accuracy thus far. She sets her sights on becoming queen and plans to murder the King Duncan when he visits.

That evening, while Duncan is a guest at their home, Macbeth, with his wife's urging and assistance, murders the sleeping King in his bed. The King's sons, Malcolm and Donalbain, flee the country in terror, and Macbeth assumes the title King of Scotland. However, he's haunted by the prediction that Banquo's children are to inherit the throne and fearful that Macduff, a nobleman suspicious of Macbeth, will interfere in his business.

Macbeth arranges for the murder of Banquo and his son, Fleance. The double murder is botched and Fleance escapes. Later at a banquet, Macbeth is about to take his seat when the ghost of Banquo, invisible to the other guests, appears in front of him. Macbeth's frenzied and incriminating actions break up the feast and raise Macduff's suspicions even more.

Troubled, Macbeth goes back to consult the witches. They assure him that 'no man of woman born' can harm him and that he cannot be defeated until Birnam Wood, the nearby forest, comes to Dunsinane, the site of Macbeth's castle. When told that Macduff has fled to England, Macbeth, in increasing paranoia orders the murder of Lady Macduff and her children.

Macduff, gathering forces with the escaped Malcolm in England, leads an army against Macbeth, the soldiers covering their advance with branches cut from the trees of Birnam Wood.

Meanwhile, Lady Macbeth has been completely overcome by remorse and guilt and it is reported to her husband that she has died, presumably taking her life with her own hand.

During his fight with Macduff, Macbeth learns that his opponent was born by Caesarean section, prematurely ripped from his mother's womb. Macbeth, realising Macduff is 'no man of woman born', acknowledges he is doomed. Rather than being captured alive, he fights to his death. He is killed and Macduff announces Scotland's freedom from tyranny.