

## Play: William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

*Guide to an abridged performance of 'Macbeth' created by my colleague, Katherine Elder at Bacchus Marsh Grammar in 2016.*

The play is set in Mediaeval Scotland. We learn that a battle is being fought. **Rebels** are challenging the Scottish King's rule. **Macbeth** and **Banquo** are two brave noble men defending the Scottish King's rule. **Macbeth and Banquo lead the King's soldiers in a bloody sword fight against the rebels.**

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### Act 1 Scene 1

The play opens in an isolated and wild place. Amid thunder and lightning, three witches enter. They reveal characteristics traditionally associated with witchcraft: they know in advance the outcome of a civil war that is being fought in Scotland, and they know when and where they will come across Macbeth, one of the generals. The witches are called away by their companion spirits, **Greymalkin and...** but before they go, they all say: **'Fair is foul and foul is fair' (1.1.11)**. Then the witches fly away, off into the **'fog and filthy air' (1.1.)**.

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### Act 2 Scene 2

The next scene takes place some distance from the actual fighting. Enter **King Duncan** and a **wounded soldier**. The wounded soldier gives King Duncan the latest report from the battlefield. He praises the bravery of the two generals Banquo and Macbeth: **'For Brave Macbeth – well he deserves that name –' (2.2.18)**

Duncan is so impressed he decides that he will give Macbeth a new title – Thane of Cawdor. He can give Macbeth this title because the former Thane of Cawdor was one of the rebels and therefore the original Thane of Cawdor loses that title and Macbeth gains it. As King Duncan says, **'What he hath lost, noble Macbeth hath won.'** (2.2.77)

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### Act 2 Scene 3

The three witches gather at a bleak place, somewhere between the battlefield and Duncan's palace. Banquo and Macbeth are on their way to King Duncan's palace and come across three witches, who tell Macbeth as well as being Thane of Glamis, he will be Thane of Cawdor and King of Scotland.

**'All hail , Macbeth! Hail to thee, thane of Glamis!' (1.3.50)**

**'All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, thane of Cawdor!' (1.3.51)**

**'All hail, Macbeth, that shalt be king hereafter!' (1.3.54)**

The witches speak to Banquo in paradoxes, telling him he will not be as happy as Macbeth, but happier, and that he will not become a King, but that his descendants will be kings. Banquo dismisses what the witches have to say, but Macbeth is very curious. The witches disappear. Then Ross arrives to congratulate Macbeth and Banquo. He tells Macbeth he has a new title: Thane of Cawdor and that King Duncan is going to visit Macbeth's home to honour him. This makes Macbeth

think that witches' prophecy may have been true. It occurs to him that if he killed King Duncan then he could become King, but is immediately horrified by the idea.

### Act 1 Scene 5

At the Macbeth's castle in Inverness, Lady Macbeth is reading a letter her husband has sent her to tell her about the prophecies and their partial fulfilment, and also that King Duncan is going to visit them.

Lady Macbeth is determined for Macbeth to become king but worries Macbeth is not capable of murdering the current king. Lady Macbeth then calls on the spirits of darkness and evil to replace all her nurturing, feminine qualities with remorseless cruelty so that she is able to direct Macbeth to commit the murder:

..... Come you spirits  
that tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here,  
and fill me, from the crown to the toe, top-full  
of direst cruelty! Make thick my blood,  
stop up the access and passage to remorse (1.5.43-46)

When Macbeth arrives she tells him that he must appear innocent but also kill the king: **'look like the innocent flower, but be the serpent under it' (1.5.72-73)**. Macbeth wants to talk further about this plan, but as far as Lady Macbeth is concerned, the murder of the King is not up for discussion, so she tells him –

.....You shall put  
this night's great business into my dispatch; (1.5.74-75)  
.....Leave all the rest to me' (1.5.81)

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### Act 1 Scene 7

However once the King arrives Macbeth gets really jumpy. He's scared their plan will get found out and that they'll get in trouble. He tells Lady Macbeth: **'We will proceed no further in this business' (1.7.33)**.

Lady Macbeth attacks Macbeth's masculinity and tells him he's not a man. She tells him: **'But screw your courage to the sticking place, and we'll not fail' (1.7.67)**. Then she tells him how he can murder the king. She is going to give wine to King Duncan's body guards so they fall asleep, then after Macbeth has killed the King they will frame the guards by smearing blood on their faces.

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### Act 2 Scene 1 and Scene 2

So Macbeth agrees to kill the king, but moments before he kills the king, he's worrying about how unnatural it is to kill a king. He's thinking about witchcraft and he's seeing things. He imagines he sees a dagger in front of him: **'Is this a dagger which I see before me?' (2.1.40)**

After Macbeth kills the king he is so panicked by what he has done he forgets to leave the knives with the body guards, so Lady Macbeth has to take the knives off Macbeth and put them on the guards in order to frame them.

Then there's a knock at the castle gates. It's Macduff and he wants to visit the King. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth both worry someone could burst in on them before they've washed the blood off themselves. Macbeth is still panicking and he decides to kill the body guard so that the body guards cannot be questioned and declare their innocence. Use the Neptune's quote from Macbeth.

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### Act 2 Scene 3

Macduff, who had been knocking on the castle gates, is finally let inside where he discovers the king is dead. Macbeth explains that the guards must have killed the king, and that he has killed the body guards. Macduff thinks this was a really strange thing to do because now there can't be a trial and the guards' guilt cannot be proven. But Macduff is distracted from further questioning Macbeth because Lady Macbeth conveniently faints.

While Macduff is busy with Lady Macbeth, King Duncan's two sons: Donalbain and Malcolm, decide the circumstances are really suspicious and they think they probably are not safe either. The eldest son Malcolm decides to flee to England, and the younger son, Donalbain, flees to Ireland.

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### Act 3 Scene 1

With Duncan and his sons, Donalbain and Malcolm out of the way, Macbeth becomes king.

However Macbeth worries that the witches prophesised that Banquo's descendants will become Kings and he worries that he has only Killed King Duncan to make way for Banquo's descendants to prosper: **'For Banquo's issue have I filed my mind' (3.1.69).**

So Macbeth meets secretly with two murderers and tells them to murder Banquo and Banquo's young son Fleance.

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### Act 3 Scene 3

Just before the murders are carried out a third murderer shows up. Macbeth has requested a third murderer because he is paranoid and he doesn't trust the other two murderers to get the job done.

The murderers work together and murder Banquo. However the young boy, Fleance, runs away.

### Act 3 Scene 4

Meanwhile Macbeth is hosting a dinner party with his lords. He's a bit annoyed because Macduff was invited but hasn't shown up so now Macbeth thinks Macduff's against him and is suspicious of Macduff. He decides he will go visit the three witches to see if they know what Macduff's up to.

Aside from that the dinner party is going well until a murderer shows up and informs Macbeth they killed Banquo but were unable to kill Banquo's son.

Then the dinner party gets worse when Macbeth thinks he can see Banquo's ghost and he starts yelling at the ghost: **'Hence horrible shadow! Unreal mockery, hence!' (3.4.128-129)**

Everyone can hear Macbeth raving like a lunatic about how blood has been spilt so Lady Macbeth tells everyone they need to leave because Macbeth is unwell.

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### Act 3 Scene 6

Macbeth is no longer trusted. In a room in a palace, a couple of noblemen of Scotland talk about how it is believed that Macbeth killed King Duncan, the guards and Banquo and report that Scotland is suffering under Macbeth's rule. They report that Macduff has left Scotland to join Malcolm in England, in order to seek England's military assistance to attack Macbeth.

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### Act 4 Scene 1

Macbeth goes to visit the witches. Even the witches think that Macbeth is evil now: **'By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes' (4.1.43-44)**

They give Macbeth a piece of news that worries him, and two pieces of news that comforts him:

- **'Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! Beware Macduff' (4.1.77)**
  - **'none of woman born shall harm Macbeth' (4.1.86-87)**
  - **'Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be until  
Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill  
Shall come against him' (4.1.100-102)**
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### Act 4 Scene 2

More murderers are sent to Macduff's castle. Macduff is not there so his child is killed and then his wife.

- **Murderer: Where is your husband? (4.2.89)**
  - **Lady Macduff: I hope, in no place so unsanctified  
Where such as thou mayst find him. (4.2.90-91)**
  - **Son: He has kill'd me, mother.(4.2.96)**
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### Act 4 Scene 3

Over in England Macduff reaches Malcolm and he tells Malcolm they have to go back to Scotland and fight Macbeth. Malcolm doesn't trust anyone and he suspects Macduff of trying to capture him and bring him back to Macbeth. Malcolm decides to test Macduff's loyalty to Scotland by telling Macduff he doesn't want to become king because he thinks he would be an even worse king than Macbeth.

..... **'had I power,  
I should pour the sweet milk of concord into hell,  
uproar the universal peace, confound  
all unity on earth.'** (4.3.109-112)

When Macduff hears how terrible a king Malcolm would be he despairs for Scotland and says he no longer wants to return to Scotland.

**'These evils thou repeat'st upon thyself  
Have banished me from Scotland.'** (4.3.126-127)

This proves to Malcolm that Macduff really does have Scotland's best interests at heart, so Malcolm reveals that he was lying. He says he actually will be a really good king. He also says that the English Lord Siward has given him a massive army they can lead in a fight against Macbeth.

Then Ross arrives. He tells Macduff that his wife and children have been killed and Macduff vows that he will kill Macbeth.

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### Act 5 Scene 1

The next scene reveals Lady Macbeth is no longer able to sleep restfully. A doctor and her lady in waiting observe Lady Macbeth sleepwalking and sleep talking as she now does every night.

In her sleep she washes her hands, trying to wash Duncan's blood off them: **'Out damned spot!'** (5.1.32).

She combines her memory of the night Duncan was killed with her knowledge of other murders committed by Macbeth.

**'Wash your hands, put on your nightgown;  
Look not so pale: I tell you yet again, Banquo's buried;  
He cannot come out on's grave.'** (5.1.57-59)

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### Act 5 Scene 2 – Scene 6

These scenes alternate between scenes showing Macduff, Malcolm and the English soldiers getting ready for war, with scenes showing Macbeth preparing for the battle.

The English soldiers disguise themselves as the forest by carrying branches of wood.

**Malcolm: Let every soldier hew him down a bough  
And bear't before him; thereby shall we shadow  
the numbers of our host, and make discovery  
Err in report of us.** (5.4.6-9)

While Macbeth is preparing for the battle he is informed that Lady Macbeth has committed suicide. Macbeth reflects that life is pointless.

**Macbeth: Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player  
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage  
and then is heard no more** (5.5.26-28).

Although Macbeth thinks that life is pointless, he is confident he will continue to live, because the witches told him he will not die until the Birnam forest moves and he thinks it's not possible for a forest to move.

But then a messenger arrives and tells Macbeth: **'I looked toward Birnam, and, anon, methought the wood began to move.'** (5.5.37-38)

Macbeth is threatened but resolves to fight to the death, showing the audience a glimpse of the war hero he once was, declaring: **'At least we'll die with harness on our back'** (5.5.57)

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### **Act 5 Scene 7 and Scene 8**

The battle begins and Macbeth fights really well. He kills a soldier and begins to feel more confident, thinking about how the witch's told him that no man born of a woman can kill him.

Then Macbeth confronts Macduff and he tells Macduff he's invincible:

**Macbeth: I bear a charmed life, which must not yield  
To one of woman born. (5.8.15-16)**

**Macduff: Macduff was from his mother's womb untimely ripp'd. (5.8.19-20)**

Macbeth realises how the witches have tricked him into feeling invincible. As Macduff was born by caesarean he is able to kill Macbeth. Although Macbeth is given the option of being taken prisoner, he chooses to fight to the death instead.

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### **Act 5 Scene 9**

Malcolm becomes the rightful king. Order is restored. Scotland is rid, in King Malcolm's words, '**of this dead butcher, and his fiend-like queen**' (5.9.41).

# Novella: The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by R.L. Stevenson

*Adapted by my colleague Emily Clarke and I at Bacchus Marsh Grammar.*

## CHAPTER 1: STORY OF THE DOOR

One Sunday evening **Mr. Utterson**, a lawyer, and his friend **Mr. Richard Enfield** are taking their weekly stroll when they chance to walk down a side street in a busy part of London. On recognizing the neighborhood and seeing a particularly shabby door, with neither a bell nor knocker, Enfield remembers an event that he had witnessed there one early winter morning. He tells Utterson “a very odd story.” He was just passing by when he saw **a man** run into and knock down **a young girl** when their paths crossed at the corner. The horrible thing is that the man just kept on walking, right over the screaming girl.

**Enfield** was so upset that he ran after the man, a **Mr. Hyde**, and brought him back to the spot where the girl was lying on the pavement. Although the girl was not hurt, **her family** and the **people** who had gathered took such a dislike to the man’s appearance that they began to threaten him. In order to appease them, Hyde agreed to pay a fine of 100 pounds. He went through one particular door to get some cash and a cheque, signed by another man, an upstanding citizen. Utterson asks if Enfield has been exactly precise in the details of the story because he has heard of this Mr. Hyde. He knows that this door is connected to the home of his friend and client **Dr. Jekyll**.

## CHAPTER 2: SEARCH FOR MR. HYDE

Upon returning to his home and after dinner, **Mr. Utterson** retrieves the will of Dr. Jekyll from his safe. It stipulates that all of his estate is to “pass into the hands of his ‘friend and benefactor Edward Hyde’”, upon his death or disappearance for a period of three months. Mr. Utterson does not like the terms of the will and begins to fear that Jekyll is being blackmailed. He visits **Dr. Lanyon**, another mutual friend, to inquire if he has met Hyde. That night he cannot sleep as he imagines the worst about Hyde. He decides he has to meet Hyde in order to clear up the mystery.

From that day **Utterson** takes a post in the street to catch **Mr. Hyde** coming or going from the house. One evening his patience is rewarded, and he accosts Mr. Hyde. After this encounter, Utterson tries to understand why Hyde creates such an effect of fear, loathing, and disgust. He fears for his friend and decides to check on him. Utterson questions the **butler** about the comings and goings of Hyde. He’s told that Hyde is never on this side of the house; he only uses the laboratory. Utterson leaves for home with a heavy heart. He wonders what Jekyll has done that would account for his relationship with Hyde.

## CHAPTER 3: DR. JEKYLL WAS QUITE AT EASE

A few weeks later **Dr. Jekyll** hosts a dinner party for several friends, including **Utterson**. After the other guests leave, Utterson questions Jekyll about the terms of his will. Utterson never “approved” of this will, and informs Jekyll that he has been “learning something” about Hyde, whom he describes as “abominable.” Jekyll protests that Utterson does not understand his strange situation and assures him that he can get rid of Hyde whenever he chooses. Jekyll also requests that if anything should happen to him, Utterson will take care of Hyde, make sure his rights are protected. Utterson agrees even though he avows that he will never like the man.

#### CHAPTER 4: THE CAREW MURDER CASE

Nearly a year later London is shocked by the vicious murder of **Sir Danvers Carew**. A **maidservant** who chanced to be gazing at the full moon and the lane below her window witnessed the attack. She saw an aged man inquire directions from another **smaller gentleman** whom she recognized as a **Mr. Hyde** who had once visited her master. Suddenly she saw Mr. Hyde blaze out “in a great flame of anger,” raise his cane, and begin to beat the older man. He clubbed him to the ground and continued to trample him ‘with ape-like fury’ as he lay in the street.

**The police** ask **Utterson** to identify the body because the victim was carrying a letter addressed to him. Utterson recognizes the stick used in the murder as one he had given to **Jekyll** years ago. He tells the police he can lead them to the home of the murderer. When they arrive there, **the maid** tells them **Hyde** had already left earlier that morning. Utterson and **Inspector Newcomen** of Scotland Yard inspect Hyde’s room, which has been ransacked for a hasty departure. The inspector thinks that it will be an easy matter to capture Hyde since he is sure to go to the bank for money. He can also distribute handbills with his description. However, the few **persons** who have seen him cannot agree on the particulars. The only thing they can agree on is that Hyde left them with a “haunting sense of unexpressed deformity.”

#### CHAPTER 5: INCIDENT OF THE LETTER

Later that afternoon **Utterson** visits **Dr. Jekyll** and is admitted into his private study. He finds Jekyll looking deathly pale and sick. When Utterson asks Jekyll if he is concealing **Hyde**, Jekyll promises that Hyde has gone into hiding and will not be seen again in this world. The lawyer hopes that Jekyll is right since a trial for murder could bring scandal to his client’s name. Ostensibly seeking Utterson’s professional advice, Jekyll shows him a letter he has received from Hyde saying he has a means of escape. Jekyll allows Utterson to think that it was Hyde who dictated the terms of Jekyll’s will that were so favorable to Hyde.

**Utterson** agrees to safeguard the letter for his client. However, as Utterson is leaving, he learns that no letters have been delivered that morning. He suspects that **Hyde** wrote the letter in **Jekyll’s** study and finds it difficult to decide what to do with it. He seeks the advice of his clerk **Mr. Guest**, who had often visited Jekyll and is an expert on handwriting. Guest compares the letter to an invitation Utterson receives from Jekyll as they are talking. He concludes that the two hands are remarkably similar, having only a different slant. Utterson suspects that Jekyll forgot the letter for Hyde.

#### CHAPTER 6: REMARKABLE INCIDENT OF DR. LANYON

Although a sizeable reward is offered for the apprehension of **Mr. Hyde**, he has disappeared as if he never existed. **Dr. Jekyll** comes out of seclusion and for almost two months socializes with his friends as in the old days. But one day, and every day thereafter, his door is shut to **Mr. Utterson**. Lacking companionship, Utterson visits **Dr. Lanyon**, only to find him totally changed physically. He seems to have suffered some shock, “some deep-seated terror of the mind.” Lanyon confides that he will never recover and is resigned to death. When Utterson mentions Jekyll’s name, the doctor becomes angry. He tells Utterson that one day he may learn the truth.

Upon reaching home that evening **Utterson** writes to **Jekyll** asking why he has cut himself off from his friends. Jekyll’s reply is that he intends to live in seclusion and that he must suffer for the danger he has brought upon himself. Within a few weeks **Lanyon** dies and Utterson receives an envelope from his friend with instructions not to open it until the death or disappearance of Jekyll. Resisting



the impulse to get to the bottom of the mystery, Utterson files the letter away. He finds that his desire to see Jekyll waning following these sad events.

#### CHAPTER 7: INCIDENT AT THE WINDOW

Shortly afterwards, **Utterson** and **Enfield** are again going for a Sunday stroll and chance to pass by the same door associated with the story of Mr. Hyde. They decide to step into the courtyard to look for their friend. **Jekyll** is sitting at a window, looking like a prisoner. When they call to him to join them, he says he cannot but will visit with them from his window. Suddenly Jekyll utters a cry of terror and slams the window shut. The two friends leave instantly but they have seen something that makes them fear for Dr. Jekyll.

#### CHAPTER 8: THE LAST NIGHT

One evening **Poole** arrives at **Mr. Utterson's** home, saying that he fears there has been foul play. He begs Utterson to accompany him to check on **Dr. Jekyll**. Arriving at the house, Utterson finds **the frightened servants** huddled together in the entry hall. Poole and Utterson go to the door of Jekyll's study where Poole announces that Utterson has come to visit. The person within answers that he cannot see anyone. Then Poole confers with Utterson saying the voice they have heard isn't the voice of his master. Poole believes his master was killed over eight days ago when they heard him cry out. All week long whoever is in the study has been sending out orders to find a particular drug. Although the handwriting appears to be that of Dr. Jekyll, Poole says it doesn't matter because he has seen the person and it isn't his master.

Acting on **Poole's** conviction that murder has been done, **Utterson** decides they must break down the door and investigate. They both confess they suspect that **Mr. Hyde** is within the study. When Utterson demands to see Jekyll at the door, the person within cries out for mercy. But Utterson and Poole break down the door with an ax. Within they find the body of Hyde, twitching in convulsions from the poison he has taken. They realize that they are too late and all they can do now is look for the body of **Jekyll**. However, the search is fruitless. When they reexamine the study, they find an envelope addressed to Utterson with a note from Jekyll directing him to read the narrative left by Lanyon. Utterson departs for his study to read through all the documents.

#### CHAPTER 9: DR. LANYON'S NARRATIVE

**Lanyon** describes a letter he received from **Dr. Jekyll**. Dr Jekyll tells him to go to his study, break the locks, and to secure a particular drawer and its contents. **A man** will come to his consulting room at midnight. Lanyon carries out all the details of the letter and admits a small and muscular man who creates a sensation of "disgusted curiosity." Immediately the man begins to prepare a compound from the contents of the drawer. When it is ready, the man asks Lanyon if he wishes to let him go or to learn what will happen when he drinks the compound.

**Lanyon** declares that he has gone too far not to see what will happen. Thereupon **the man** drinks the potion and begins to change and assume the form of **Henry Jekyll**. From that moment Lanyon feels his reason shaken and a deadly terror invades his thoughts. He knows he will not recover from this shock. He has seen the creature change from Hyde to Jekyll.

#### CHAPTER 10: HENRY JEKYLL'S FULL STATEMENT OF THE CASE

This last chapter is a full testament written by Jekyll concerning his history and his character. Utterson realises, upon reading Dr. Jekyll's letter that "Jekyll and Hyde had been one and the same!". **Jekyll** describes himself as a proud man who wanted a reputation as a serious person. Early

on he hid his natural high spirits and developed a double character. His scientific studies focused on the mystical and transcendental as he searched out these aspects of man, especially in the moral dimension. He wanted to learn how these two sides could be disconnected. At the same time he was studying drugs and discovered a potion that could transform his flesh and turn him into a creature that represented his baser nature. When he tries the drug on himself, he feels himself to be extremely wicked but at the time he was exhilarated by this sensation. He begins to live this dual life, one as the respectable gentleman and the other as a person who gives into every impulse.

**Jekyll** continues to metamorphose back and forth between his two halves until one day the reversal occurs spontaneously. He realizes that the evil side of his nature is growing and is in danger of taking control of his life. He tries to resist the temptation but once again he gives in. This time he kills **Sir Carew**. He is penitent and tries to maintain a good and sober life until he forgets his terror. Now his evil side begins to take over even without the drug. He must use stronger and stronger doses of the potion to return to his original self. When he runs out of the salt he uses in the compound, he finds that the fresh supply he orders does not have the power to transform him. As he writes this testament he knows he has limited time before his evil nature takes over. He wonders if **Hyde** will die on the scaffold (hang) or commit suicide. This is the end of the unhappy life of Henry Jekyll.

We end our story with the beginning quote from the silent-film version of Stevenson's 1886 tale:

***In each of us, two natures are at war—the good and the evil. All our lives the fight goes on between them, and one of them must conquer. But in our own hands lies the power to choose—what we want most to be, we are.***