

TEN MINUTE MACBETH

By Kristen Doherty

With apologies to Shakespeare.

CHARACTERS

NARRATOR 1	MESSENGER	MURDERER 2
NARRATOR 2	LADY MACBETH	FLEANCE
WIITCH 1	KING DUNCAN	APPARTITION 1
WITCH 2	MALCOM	APPARTITION 2
WITCH 3	MACDUFF	APPARTITION 3
MACBETH	ENSEMBLE/ARMY	MACDUFF JR
BANQUO	MURDERER 1	LADY MACDUFF

Staging suggestions - Make it fast and funny. Bad Scottish accents and lots of physical comedy is a must.

NARRATOR 1 Ladies and gentlemen presenting for your viewing entertainment 'Ten Minute Macbeth'. Ready timekeeper? And go!

NARRATORS Act 1.

NARRATOR 2 (*dramatically*) A desert place. Thunder and lightning. Enter three Witches.

Witches enter.

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

SFX – A Drum

WITCHES A drum, a drum! Macbeth doth come.

NARRATOR 1 Macbeth and Banquo enter weary from a bloody but victorious battle.

Enter Macbeth and Banquo.

MACBETH So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

BANQUO (*sees the witches*) What are these?

MACBETH Speak, if you can: what are you?

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

WITCH 2 All hail, Macbeth, hail to thee, Thane of Cawdor!

WITCH 3 All hail, Macbeth, thou shalt be King hereafter!

Macbeth and Banquo gasp.

WITCH 1 All hail Banquo. Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.

LADY MACBETH Great Glamis! worthy Cawdor!
Greater than both, by the all-hail hereafter!

MACBETH My dearest love, Duncan comes here to-night.

LADY MACBETH And when goes hence?

MACBETH To-morrow, as he purposes.

LADY MACBETH O' never shall sun that morrow see!
(she slaps him) Snap out of it!
Your face, my thane, is as a book where men
May read strange matters.

NARRATOR 2 The Macbeth's welcome King Duncan, his son Malcom and
Lord Macduff into their home.

Duncan, Malcom and Macduff enter.

LADY MAC/MACBETH Welcome.

DUNCAN Thanks for having me... I might have a nap.

Exit Duncan, Malcom and Macduff.

MACBETH Awhh... He's such a nice guy... I don't think I want to kill him
anymore.

LADY MACBETH *(slaps him)* Snap out of it! You call yourself a man?

MACBETH But what if we fail?

LADY MACBETH Screw your courage to the sticking place and we'll not fail.
We'll blame the guards, get them drunk and smear their faces
with blood.

MACBETH *(big sigh)* Ok.

NARRATORS Act 2.

NARRATOR 1 On his way into Duncan's bedroom Macbeth sees a floating
dagger.

MACBETH Is this a dagger which I see before me?

SFX – Bell tolls - Dong, Dong, Dong

MACBETH I go, and it is done; the bell invites me. That summons me to
heaven or to hell.

NARRATOR 2 Then Macbeth kills the king dead in his bed.

Macbeth sneaks up to a sleeping King Duncan and yells stab. Duncan dies.

MACBETH Stab!

DUNCAN Eekk

NARRATOR 1 Meanwhile back at their bedroom, Lady Macbeth is starting to get twitchy

She twitches.

Narrator squirts blood (tomato sauce) on his hands with a big red ketchup bottle.

NARRATOR 2 Macbeth re-enters the chamber blood from Duncan's murder on his hands.

MACBETH This is a sorry sight.

LADY MACBETH (*she slaps him*) Snap out of it! Go get some water and wash this filthy witness from your hand. Why did you bring these daggers from the place? They must lie there: go carry them; and smear the sleepy grooms with blood.

MACBETH Nup. Can't do it. Won't do it.

LADY MACBETH You're useless.... (*sigh*) If you want something done...

She goes to exit, met by Narrator who squeezes blood tomato sauce into her hands. She turns back to Macbeth.

LADY MACBETH My hands of your colour but I shame to wear a heart so white.

NARRATOR 2 Macduff finds Duncan's body.

Enter Macduff and Malcom followed by ensemble.

MACDUFF O horror, horror, horror! The King is dead.

MALCOM Oh no, my Dad.

Ensemble panic.

NARRATOR 1 There is panic, chaos, blame is thrown around, Lady Macbeth faints and the King Duncan's son Malcolm knowing he is in danger, flees taking Macduff with him.

MALCOM I'm outie.

Exit Malcom and Macduff.

NARRATOR 2 So Macbeth is crowned King

MACBETH Nice!

Macbeth and Lady Macbeth high 5. All exit except Macbeth.

NARRATORS Act 3

NARRATOR 1 Drunk on power; Macbeth decides that Banquo is a threat.

MACBETH You know those witches did say that Banquo's kids would be king... and how can they be king if I'm the king... Unless they plan to kill the king...*(realisation)* Which is me. So, I must kill Banquo and his son Fleance, so Fleance will never be king. O, full of scorpions is my mind.

NARRATOR 2 So he orders his murderers to kill them.

Murderers enter. Macbeth whispers in one's ear.

Banquo and Fleance enter skipping.

FLEANCE *(carefree, innocent)* La, la, la.

MURDERER 2 Oi. Banquo, Fleance. You're dead.

Fleance squeals. Banquo is stabbed by the Murderers.

BANQUO O, treachery! Fly, good Fleance, fly, fly, fly!

NARRATOR 1 And Fleance flees. The Murderers approach Macbeth to tell him that Fleance flew.

Fleance runs dramatically off stage. His murderers approach Macbeth.

MACBETH Do you mind... I'm just about to go into a dinner party to celebrate me being king and all.

MUDERER 1 But my liege, it didn't go exactly to plan.

MACBETH Drat.

Macbeth enters a dinner party, guests sit at the table, Banquo's ghost sits in Macbeths chair.

NARRATOR 2 So Macbeth enters the dinner party and to his horror sees the ghost of the freshly dead Banquo sitting in his chair

MACBETH *(points at Banquo's ghost)* Never shake thy gory locks at me.

Banquo moans and shakes his locks horribly. Macbeth squeals in fear.

MACBETH Eeek.

LADY MACBETH *(embarrassed, trying to cover up)* His highness is not well.
(takes him aside and slaps him) Snap out of it! You look but on
a stool.

NARRATORS Act 4

Enter Witches.

NARRATOR 1 Looking for reassurance Macbeth visits the three witches.

WITCHES Double, double toil and trouble; Fire burn, and cauldron
bubble. By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this
way comes.

They all look simultaneously to the side where Macbeth enters.

MACBETH How now you secret, midnight hags. What is it you do?

NARRATOR 2 Macbeth demands the witches summon apparitions to show
him the prophecy.

WITCH 1 Show!

WITCH 2 Show!

WITCH 3 Show!

NARRATOR 1 Then suddenly from the cauldron horrific images appear.

Enter Apparitions.

APPARITION 1 Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! Beware Macduff; Beware the
thane of Fife.

MACBETH Macduff's a threat, huh?

APPARITION 2 Macbeth! Macbeth! Be bloody, bold, and resolute for none of
woman born shall harm Macbeth

MACBETH All men are born of women, ha. Sucked in Macduff you'll
never get me.

APPARITION 3 Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be until great Birnam wood to
high Dunsinane hill shall come against him.

NARRATOR 1 Their good mood is broken by a messenger who comes to tell Macduff that his whole family has been murdered.

MESSENGER Yeah, soz. Your castle is surprised; your wife and babes savagely slaughtered:

MALCOM That's way harsh dude.

MACDUFF I know right.

NARRATOR 2 Macduff decides that revenge is the best medicine to cure his grief.

MACDUFF Bring it Macbeth.

All exit. Enter Lady Macbeth.

NARRATORS Act 5.

NARRATOR 1 Lady Macbeth is haunted by her dreams and starts sleep walking. The guilt has sent her crazy and she believes that she still has blood on her hands from the murders.

Lady Macbeth tries to rub the blood from her hands.

LADY MACBETH Here's a spot. Out, damned spot! out, I say! (*twitchy*) What's done cannot be undone. To bed, to bed, to bed!

NARRATOR 2 Meanwhile, Malcom's Army prepare to fight Macbeth.

Enter Malcom's and Army/Ensemble with bushes.

MALCOM Right men, Ready with your disguises?

ARMY Yes sir!

They hold their bushes up. All exit behind bushes. Enter Macbeth and Messenger.

NARRATOR 1 Meanwhile, back at the castle Macbeth is told that his wife has died.

MESSENGER The Queen has died.

MACBETH Nooo!!! Out, out, brief candle! Life's but a walking shadow, a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. Never mind, nothing can harm me until Birnam Wood is on the move... and that's never gonna happen is it?

MESSENGER Oh... and by the way, Birnam Wood is on the move.

MACBETH Drat!

Exit Messenger.

NARRATOR 2 But Macbeth believes he is still invincible and goes to the battlefield to fight.

MACBETH Doesn't matter! I can only be killed by someone who was not of woman born... and duh... that's impossible, everyone was born of a woman. That's how babies are made.

Army enters. Macbeth enters with a sword and has an epic sword fight with the army, killing all.

MACBETH Did you have a mum? Yup. You're dead then. Stab. You? Mum? Yup? Stab! Dead! (*etc until all are dead*)

NARRATOR 1 But now, the moment we were all waiting for. Enter Macduff.

Macduff enters.

MACDUFF Turn hellhound, turn.

MACBETH Let fall thy blade on vulnerable crests; I bear a charmed life, which must not yield, to one of woman born.

MACDUFF I tell thee, Macbeth that I Macduff was from his mother's womb untimely rrrripped.

Macbeth gasps.

MACBETH Noooooo!!

They exit fighting.

NARRATOR 2 Yes. The witch's prophecy was true! In the biggest plot twist since The Sixth Sense; Macduff was in fact born of caesarean section, so he was the one destined to defeat Macbeth. Tricky Shakespeare, tricky.

Re-enter Macduff with Macbeth's head. He dropkicks it into the audience.

MACDUFF See you Jimmy!

NARRATOR 1 Macduff proclaims Malcolm the King of Scotland and they all lived happily ever after.... Except everyone who died.

NARRATORS The end!