

Macbeth abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 1

Despair

Situation: In her sleep-walking episodes, Lady Macbeth discloses recent secret events and reveals her fears, distraught as she must be over the murders of Duncan, Banquo, Macduff's family and the guards.

Lady Macbeth enters with a taper.

GENTLEWOMAN: Lo you, here she comes. This is her very guise and, upon my life, fast asleep.

DOCTOR: You see her eyes are open.

GENTLEWOMAN: Ay, but their sense are shut. It is an accustomed action with her to seem thus washing her hands.

LADY MACBETH: Yet here a spot.

DOCTOR: Hark, she speaks.

Lady Macbeth to herself, No 2

**Out, damned spot, out I say! A soldier, yet
Frightened? My lord, you startled all who met
With your sudden fits. No more of that, for
What need we fear who knows it when none can
Call us to account? Neither Banquo nor
Macduff's wife can leave their graves, yet blood ran
Fierce from the old man; the smell of blood still.
All the perfume of Arabia will
Not sweeten this hand that cannot undo
What has been done. Wash your hands. Change your thought.
Look not so pale. Hold my hand. I tell you
Yet again, Banquo's buried; he cannot
Come out on 's grave. Ignore what's been said.
What's been done cannot be undone. To bed.**

GENTLEWOMAN: She has spoke what she should not, I am sure of that. Heaven knows what she has known.

DOCTOR: This disease is beyond my practice.