

Macbeth abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 5

Introspection

Situation: Learning that King Duncan plans to visit them at their castle at Inverness that night, an ambitious Lady Macbeth forms a plan, a plan designed to position her husband to quickly become king. She doesn't want to miss this opportunity.

MESSENGER: The king comes here tonight.

LADY MACBETH: Thou 'rt mad, to say it. Is not thy master with him, who, were 't so, would have informed for preparation?

MESSENGER: So please you, it is true. Our thane is coming.

He exits. Lady Macbeth talks to herself.

Lady Macbeth to herself, No. 1

Thou shalt be what thou are promised, yet do
I fear thy lack of cruelty; that thou art too
Full o' th' milk of human kindness to
Take this dire need. Glamis, thou wouldst be
Great, art not without ambition, but do
Lack the illness should attend it. What thee
Fear more to do than wishest should be
Undone. Bear fair welcome; let him not see
What's inside your book. Let not your face call
Your mind. Look the flower of innocence
But be the serpent under't. Leave all
The rest to me. With the fatal entrance
Of Duncan, here 'neath my battlements be,
Never shall he the sun that morrow see.

Macbeth enters.

LADY MACBETH: Great Glamis, worthy Cawdor, greater than both by the all-hail hereafter. The letters have transported me beyond this ignorant present, and I feel now the future in the instant.

MACBETH: My dearest love, Duncan comes here tonight.

LADY MACBETH: And when goes hence?

MACBETH: Tomorrow. We will speak further.

LADY MACBETH: To alter favor ever is to fear. Leave all the rest to me.