

## MACDEATH

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**Reader: Shirley Henderson**

One time our teacher said she would tell us ANY STORY WE WANTED. So I asked for the story of 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare.

But Toby Morris said that Shakespeare was BORING and that he wanted a story that was NOT boring and also SCARY.

So I said that 'Macbeth' WASN'T boring, actually. And that it was probably the SCARIEST story EVER because it had WITCHES and BLOOD and people getting their HEADS CHOPPED OFF.

And that's when everyone BEGGED Miss Lock to tell us the story of 'Macbeth'.

But Miss Lock said, "How about something with less blood?"

But we said no.

Miss Lock said that she didn't know 'Macbeth' well enough to tell it. But we all KNEW that she was LYING. So I put my hand up and said I could tell the story for her because I knew it ALL.

Miss Lock looked a bit annoyed but she said yes because EVERYONE was looking at me and I'd already told Hamza to shut the curtains and put the lights off.

So that's when I told everyone that Macbeth was a STRONG soldier who ate four bowls of porridge and twenty pieces of toast for his breakfast and that he could chop FOUR HEADS OFF with just ONE swing of his sword. In fact, I said, he should probably be called MACDEATH rather than Macbeth, he was so tough.



And I told them that on the morning Macbeth heard that the Norwegian army was coming to Scotland to fight them, he had a DOUBLE breakfast and then went and got his best friend, Banquo, and they snuck up on the Norwegians and chopped ALL their heads off because Macbeth was very good at BATTLES and had been playing SWORDS since primary school.

But then on their way home three weird witches appeared out of the mist.

One was as tall as a tree, one had a weird eye that looked a bit like a tadpole and the other one had a beard.

“HAIL MACBETH. HE WILL BE KING!” they chanted.

Macbeth was SHOCKED and excited when he heard that because he knew witches can see the FUTURE.

But then the witches turned to Banquo and said, “You will have a son and he will be king after Macbeth.”

Macbeth didn't like that as much, because he didn't like hearing about people becoming king that weren't him.

When King Duncan heard that Macbeth had won the battle he was SO PLEASED that he said he was going to come and stay over at Macbeth's house and have a party (which is a bit cheeky because no-one had invited him, but he was the KING so he could do what he liked, I suppose).

Lady Macbeth was raging because she had to go shopping for decorations and do a buffet and she only had an hour to do it because they didn't have phones in Olden Times so she only found out about the king coming when Macbeth came home, covered in guts, and told her.

That night, the king announced that he was SO PROUD of someone that they were to be the next king.

EVERYONE thought the king was going to say Macbeth's name and they kept looking at Macbeth and winking at him.



But the king said that his son, MALCOLM, would be the next king.

That REALLY upset Macbeth because HE wanted to be king and also because the king said it in front of EVERYONE so it was a bit embarrassing (especially when Macbeth started crying).

Lady Macbeth gave him a tissue made of cloth and told him to stop being a baby and that she had a plan but that she wouldn't tell him if he didn't stop crying. So he stopped.

Lady Macbeth said that Macbeth should MURDER King Duncan that night when he was sleeping on their sofa bed and blame it on Malcolm.

But Macbeth said, "You've gone MAD, Bethy!" (Because that's what Macbeth called his wife because it takes quite a long time to say "Lady Macbeth" all the time, and also because he thought it was cute.)

But Lady Macbeth said she HADN'T gone mad and that if Macbeth killed King Duncan and blamed it on Malcolm that Malcolm would run away and hide and Macbeth would be KING.

Macbeth got butterflies in his tummy when Lady Macbeth said that because he DREAMED about being king. And sometimes when Lady Macbeth went to the shops he'd make himself a crown out of kitchen roll and prance about the house saying stuff like, "I am the king. Make me a toasty or I'll chop your head off!"

But Macbeth said that he wasn't sure. So Lady Macbeth started saying loads of stuff like, "You're not a SCARDEY-CAT, are you?"

Lady Macbeth had ALWAYS been sneaky like that and usually managed to convince people to do stuff for her and give her their crisps.

So that's when Macbeth said, "Fine. I'll do it," because he didn't want Lady Macbeth to call him names anymore.

That night Lady Macbeth gave King Duncan's guards hot chocolate that had a SLEEPING POTION in it and the guards fell into a DEEP SLEEP.



But then Macbeth started PANICKING and said that he couldn't do it.

So Lady Macbeth did her WIDE EYES at him and that scared him, so he went.

But when Macbeth was creeping down the corridor he saw a FLOATING GHOST DAGGER and when he reached out for it, it began SPINNING and Macbeth got such a fright he started crying because he didn't like ghost stuff.

When Macbeth eventually opened his eyes he saw that the ghost dagger was pointing towards the king's room. So he knew it was a SIGN.

So Macbeth did the murder and then ran back to Lady Macbeth.

Lady Macbeth almost had KITTENS when she saw that Macbeth had brought the MURDER WEAPONS back with him because she had SPECIFICALLY TOLD HIM to leave the daggers in the guards' hands so it looked like THEY'D done it.

But that's when Macbeth completely LOST IT and started shaking and crying and saying that he didn't want to be a murderer anymore, even though it was a bit late for that.

So Lady Macbeth locked him in the bathroom and put the daggers in the sleeping guards' hands herself. She even smeared some of the knife-blood on their faces so it looked like they'd done the murder because she was very crafty and evil.

The next morning the king's friend, Macduff, screamed, "MURDER! My king has been murdered!" Lady Macbeth RAN out of her bedroom in her jammies and said, "MALCOLM made the guards do it!" And then she nudged Macbeth, really hard in the ribs, and Macbeth nodded.

So Malcolm RAN out of Macbeth's house as FAST as he could because he knew no-one would believe him because it was two against one.

Then everyone shouted, "HAIL KING MACBETH!"



But as soon as Macbeth got to the palace and put the crown on he started having DARK THOUGHTS about what the witches had said about Banquo's son becoming king. He was worried Banquo would have a son and that his son would try to STEAL his crown.

So Macbeth sent murderers to kill Banquo which is TERRIBLE because Banquo had been his best friend since primary school and Banquo ALWAYS stuck up for Macbeth and swapped sweets with him when Macbeth didn't like the ones he had.

Macbeth started to become SERIOUSLY WEIRD after that. He began having HALLUCINATIONS because he felt MEGA GUILTY about being a king-murderer AND a best-friend-murderer. And that night when Lady Macbeth was slumbering he just lay there WIDE AWAKE.

And it wasn't because of Lady Macbeth snoring like a gorilla, it was because Macbeth's brain was HAUNTED by all the terrible things he had done to become king.

But Lady Macbeth wasn't really bothered about what she'd done. And as soon as she'd got to the palace she'd tried on ALL the royal dresses and made the servants peel her ONE HUNDRED grapes, even though she didn't like grapes, and then she threw every single one in the bin while they watched, because that's just what she was like.

Macbeth had a big party to celebrate becoming king. There was wine and pizza and everyone was up dancing and having a great laugh. But not Macbeth.

He just sat there, miserable, while Lady Macbeth sang on the karaoke.

Then when Macbeth was cutting his King Cake, he thought he saw BANQUO and shouted, "GET HIM OFF MY THRONE!"

But no-one else could see Banquo, so it was all a bit embarrassing.

Macbeth started saying LOADS of weird stuff and crying a bit, too, so Lady Macbeth had to send everyone home early without any cake.



Once everyone had gone Lady Macbeth said, “What’s **WRONG** with you? Is your crown too tight?!”

But Macbeth wasn’t listening. He was too busy shouting at a piece of cake he thought was Banquo.

Later that night, Macbeth went wandering in the hills in his nightie and woke up the three weird witches with all his wailing.

The witches could see that Macbeth was in a bit of a state, and they were keen to get back to their witchy beds, so they got the cauldron out.

“Look deep into the potion!” said the one with the beard.

The face of King Duncan came floating out and said, “**BEWARE** Macduff!”

Then Banquo’s head floated **RIGHT UP** to Macbeth’s face and hissed, “No-one born of a woman can kill you.”

Both of the heads got bigger and bigger and **BIGGER** until they popped and **SPLATTERED** Macbeth.

But Macbeth just **LAUGHED** since he knew that **MEN CAN’T HAVE BABIES**, so **EVERYONE** is born of a woman, which meant that **NO-ONE** could kill him.

But then he heard a whisper coming from the witch with the tadpole eye.

Macbeth **STARED** at the witch. Her lips were shut tight yet somehow she was still able to speak.

And she said, “You will be king until Birnam Forest walks to your castle.”

Macbeth laughed. “Then I’ll be king **FOREVER** because forests can’t walk!”

Macbeth **RAN** back to the castle to lock Macduff in the dungeon. But Macduff had already **FLED** and was probably **MILES** away by then because he’d taken a **HUGE** packed lunch.





And THAT'S when Macbeth COMPLETELY FREAKED-OUT. He should have just sat down for a minute and did a Sudoku or something to calm down. But he didn't. He ordered that Macduff's house be burned to the ground and that his whole family be murdered.

Which was obviously a MEGA over-reaction, but that was just what Macbeth was like now. He had completely changed since he heard he couldn't be killed. He wasn't scared OR nervous. He'd become a TYRANT.

Lady Macbeth was SHOCKED when she found out what Macbeth had been getting up to without telling her.

She began to feel GUILTY about the murders and she kept seeing the ghosts of Macduff's children when she was eating her cereal, and she kept trying to wash blood off her hands, every five minutes, even though there wasn't any.

Lady Macbeth got really sick after that and eventually died of guilt.

When Macbeth heard about his 'Bethy' he was sad, but he didn't cry because he wasn't the type of king who cried anymore.

Then one of the guards came rushing up to the castle and shouted, "Macduff is on his way to kill you! He's brought the ENGLISH ARMY!"

But Macbeth just LAUGHED and said, "I'll believe it when I see Birnam Forest WALK!"

But when Macbeth looked out the window the next morning he saw that the trees WERE moving and he realised that the army were using BRANCHES to hide behind!

So Macbeth put his slippers on and RAN towards them because he knew he couldn't be killed.

Macbeth started chopping EVERYONE'S heads off until there were no more heads.

But then MACDUFF appeared and said, "You killed my family. Now I will kill YOU!"



“HA!” said Macbeth, “NO-ONE born of a woman can kill ME!”

And that’s when Macduff pulled out his sword and said, “I am not born of a woman, Macbeth. My mum died before I was born. The doctors cut me from her body to save me.” And then Macduff raised his sword and sliced Macbeth’s head clean off and watched it roll down the hill into a cow pat.

“Ok, that’s enough,” said Miss Lock. “You’re scaring Toby!”

So I asked if I could say ONE last thing. And before Miss Lock could answer I used my hair for a beard and chanted:

“Double, double toil and trouble; Fire burn and cauldron bubble...”

And Toby started screaming.