

2: ALL HAIL, MACBETH! THANE OF CAWDOR!

Adapted by Neil Richards

SCENE 4: THE KING'S CAMP

FX	<u>Marching soldiers, horses. The single drumbeat of Macbeth approaches.</u>
NARRATOR	<i>Macbeth and Banquo finally arrive at King Duncan's camp. Standing outside the King's tent are three of his noblemen: Angus, Ross and Lennox.</i>
LENNOX	Aha! The good generals, Macbeth and Banquo!
MACBETH	Greetings, Lennox! We come fresh from the battle and have news for the King!
ROSS	He has already heard of your battle, Macbeth.
ANGUS	And how bravely you fought!
ROSS	And he has told us to call you Thane of Cawdor!
MACBETH	Thane of Cawdor, Ross? But that's not possible. Cawdor lives. How can I be Thane of Cawdor?
ANGUS	Cawdor joined the rebels and is under sentence of death!
MACBETH	The witches. What they said has come true. Banquo - could the next step be the throne itself? Could I become King?
BANQUO	Be careful. Sometimes the devil tempts us with small truths - to make us believe the bigger lie to come.
LENNOX	Look! Here comes King Duncan himself!
ALL	The King! The King!
DUNCAN	My generals Macbeth and Banquo.
BANQUO/MACBETH	Your majesty.
DUNCAN	It is true. The battle is won. The rebels and the Norwegians have fled.
ALL	Victory! The King!





- DUNCAN So, my cousin, Macbeth! How can I pay the debt I owe you after today?
- MACBETH Serving you is its own reward, your majesty.
- DUNCAN And noble Banquo too!
- BANQUO I am your servant, King Duncan.
- DUNCAN Today's joy overwhelms me! But I have one last announcement. I have chosen my eldest son, Malcolm, as my successor! He is now to be known as Prince of Cumberland.
- ALL Malcolm, Prince of Cumberland!
- MACBETH Malcolm now Duncan's heir! Prince Malcolm? If I am going to be king - this could cause problems.
- DUNCAN We shall go now to your castle, Macbeth, to celebrate.
- MACBETH Your majesty, I shall go ahead to Dunsinane. *(GOING)* My Lady Macbeth will be delighted at the good news of your coming.
- DUNCAN We shall follow! *(TO ALL)* Macbeth is valiant and worthy. We are lucky to have him as our kinsman. Now, let us prepare for the journey to Dunsinane.

SCENE 5: LADY MACBETH'S CHAMBER AT DUNSINANE

- NARRATOR** *At Dunsinane, Macbeth's castle, his wife Lady Macbeth is waiting in her bedroom for him to return from the battle. In her hands she holds a letter from him...*
- LADY MACBETH 'My beloved wife. I believe these weird sisters do have special powers. They told me I'd be Thane of Cawdor - and it came true! They even said - I would be King! King! 'Keep this secret. I shall be with you soon...'
- Macbeth - you want greatness. But are you ruthless enough to get it? You are ambitious. But I fear you will be too scared to do what is needed. Come home soon. So I can inspire you to take the crown. Without me - you will never do it.
- FX** **A clattering of footsteps on the stairs, doors bang, the bedroom door opens.**
- MACBETH My lady. Have you heard..?
- LADY MACBETH Great Thane of Cawdor! Macbeth - your future starts now.
- MACBETH King Duncan comes here tonight.





LADY MACBETH

And when does he leave?

MACBETH

Tomorrow.

LADY MACBETH

That must not happen. He must not live to see the morning sun.

MACBETH

What are you saying?

LADY MACBETH

He must be taken care of tonight!

MACBETH

'Taken care of...?'

LADY MACBETH

Yes. Oh, Macbeth - your face is so easy to read. But at the banquet tonight - you must hide your feelings. Be friendly to our king...and leave the plan to me.

