

8: BIRNAM WOOD COMES TO DUNSINANE

Adapted by Neil Richards

SCENE 20: A ROOM IN DUNSINANE

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|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NARRATOR | <i>In the castle Macbeth is put into his armour...</i> |
| FX | <u>Clink of armour.</u> |
| MACBETH | You - tell my lady I am about to leave for battle. |
| BODYGUARD | Yes, my lord. |
| MACBETH | Are the flags flying? |
| BODYGUARD 2 | On every wall, my lord. |
| MACBETH | They cannot beat us. |
| BODYGUARD 2 | No, my lord. |
| FX | <u>Macbeth carries on buckling up his armour.</u> |
| BODYGUARD | The queen, my lord... |
| MACBETH | What? |
| BODYGUARD | ...is dead. |
| MACBETH | Dead? She should have lived until the battle ends. There is no time now - give me my sword! |
| SOLDIER | My lord, I have news from the castle walls! I...I don't know how to tell you. |
| MACBETH | Just say it! |
| SOLDIER 1 | As I stood watch - I looked towards Birnam. And the wood was moving. |
| MACBETH | Liar! |
| SOLDIER | No. It is true, my lord. See, through the window there... |
| NARRATOR | <i>Macbeth steps to the window and looks out across the heath to the far hills...</i> |





MACBETH

So Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane. Just like the Weird Sisters said. There is no running away now. The prophesy comes true...

SCENE 21: THE HEATH OUTSIDE DUNSINANE

NARRATOR

Outside Malcolm and his army are advancing...

FX

Drums and marching.

MALCOLM

We are at the castle walls! Throw down your branches!

MACDUFF

Sound the trumpets!

MALCOLM

Let's to war!

FX

The soldiers beat their shields with their swords.

ALL

To battle!

SCENE 22: ANOTHER PART OF THE FIELD

FX

The midst of the hand to hand fighting.

NARRATOR

As the battle rages it seems Macbeth is unbeatable. He cuts through the enemy forces, his sword flying...

MACBETH

I am invincible! No-one can touch me.

SOLDIER

Aaggh!

MACBETH

I shall fight forever!

FX

Swords clash.

SIWARD

Macbeth – worse than the devil!

MACBETH

Prepare to die -

SIWARD

Tyrant!

FX

Swords clash.

SIWARD

Aaggh...

MACBETH

You were born of woman. I cannot die!

MACDUFF

Turn, hell-hound, turn!





MACBETH Macduff! Get back. I don't want to fight you.

MACDUFF Murderer!

MACBETH You're wasting your time! There is a spell on me! You cannot kill me - you were born of a woman!

MACDUFF No, Macbeth, I wasn't. I was cut from my mother's womb before her time...

MACBETH What? Curses on you for telling me!

MACDUFF Surrender then!

MACBETH Never! Lay on Macduff! And damned be him that first cries 'Hold, enough!'

FX **Fade out as the fight continues.**

SCENE 23: THE GREAT HALL AT DUNSINANE

NARRATOR *As the battle draws to a close, prince Malcolm waits for news in the hall of Dunsinane Castle...*

ROSS Where is my lord Malcolm?

MALCOLM Ross - I am here. Is it over?

ROSS The day is yours, my lord. Every part of the castle is taken.

ALL Hurrah!

MALCOLM You have fought bravely, Ross. But what of the tyrant? Does Macbeth live still?

MACDUFF Hail, King Malcolm! I bring you news of Macbeth. He is here - what's left of him! His head - on a pole! See!

ROSS We are free again!

MACDUFF My loyal thanes! Join with me! Hail, Malcolm! Rightful King of Scotland!

ALL Hail Malcolm, King of Scotland! God save the king! God save the king!

NARRATOR *So everything the witches said came true. And whatever the reason – whether it was the witches who caused these things to happen, or whether Macbeth was master of his own fate – Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are both dead now. And Scotland – for now - is free again.*

THE END

