

Exploring Macbeth Through Art



A brief introduction to the play Macbeth:

Macbeth is an atmospheric horror story that takes place in a wild and lonely part of Scotland. Written around 1606, it opens with three witches meeting on wild Scottish moorland. We learn that they plan to meet Macbeth, a Scottish General. Macbeth returns from battle a celebrated hero. Along with his friend and fellow soldier Banquo, Macbeth stumbles upon the witches on the moors and the witches tell of their prophecy that Macbeth will soon be the new Thane of Cawdor and later,

King.

Igniting Macbeth's ambition to become royalty, and encouraged by his wife, Macbeth murders the King (Duncan) and later, Banquo.

Macbeth begins to feel he is indestructible and that his power is growing – but Lady Macbeth, despite her early encouragement, starts going mad with paranoia over what they have done. Then the loyal Thane of Fife, Macduff, begins to suspect Macbeth and flees to gather an army against him. While he is away Macbeth murders Macduff's family.

Macbeth's murderous deeds are eventually discovered and the play ends with Lady Macbeth committing suicide and a final battle where Macbeth is decapitated by Macduff.

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