

Macbeth abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 2

Fear

Situation: King Duncan and his guards have been murdered and Duncan's sons have fled Scotland. Macbeth finds himself stressed-out with guilt. Lady Macbeth encourages him to be bold and confident during that evening's dinner party.

LADY MACBETH: Naught's had, all's spent, where our desire is got without content. 'Tis safer to be that which we destroy than by destruction dwell in doubtful joy.

Macbeth enters.

LADY MACBETH: How now, my lord, why do you keep alone? Things without all remedy should be without regard. What's done is done.

Macbeth to Lady Macbeth

**We have scorched the snake, not killed it. I fear
She'll heal whilst our poor malice remains here
In danger. We eat our meal in fear; sleep
In the affliction of dreams that shake us
Nightly; better we be with the dead. Weep
We for those at peace, while we in restless
Agony seek to gain peace. Help me, my
Love, be jovial and bright for guests by
Tonight, and I'll aid you. Duncan sleeps so
After life's fitful fever; nothing more
Can touch him. Extend the plan to Banquo
With great honors with our eye and tongue, for
We must make our altered faces look far
Distant from our hearts, cloaking what we are.**

LADY MACBETH: You must leave this.

MACBETH: O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife! Thou know'st that Banquo and Fleance lives. Soon there shall be done a deed of dreadful note.

LADY MACBETH: What's to be done?

MACBETH: Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest one, till thou applaud the deed. Things bad begun make strong themselves by ill. So prithee go with me.