

Macbeth abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 7

Wife to Husband

Situation: Lady Macbeth lashes out at her husband after hearing him say “we will proceed no further in this business.” She’s concerned that he might try to back out of their deal.

Lady Macbeth to Macbeth

**Was the hope drunk when ambition did flow,
Waking now green and pale having dreamed so
Freely? Art thou afeard to be the same
In valor as thou art in desire? Would
Thou havest that ornament or in shame
Live a coward in thine own esteem? Could
You break this enterprise to me? When you
Durst do it, you were a man; and to do
More than what you planned, you’d be so much more
The man. Time and place have now made themselves;
Why their fitness unmake you when before
They not adhere? The prophecy foretells.
Never would I default had I doth rail
And swear to this as you. We shall not fail.**

LADY MACBETH: Screw your courage to the sticking place and we’ll not fail. When Duncan is asleep, his two chamberlains will I with wine and wassail so convince that memory shall be a fume. When in swinish sleep their drenched natures lie as in a death, what cannot you and I perform upon th’ unguarded Duncan? What not put upon his spongy officers, who shall bear the guilt of our great quell?

MACBETH: Will it not be received, when we have marked with blood those sleepy two of his own chamber and used their very daggers, that they have done ‘t?

LADY MACBETH: Who dares receive it other, as we shall make our griefs and clamor roar upon his death?

MACBETH: I am settled and bend up each corporal agent to this terrible feat. Away, and mock the time with fairest show. False face must hide what the false heart doth know.