




Well, Banquo,
another day finished.
We didn't do badly,
did we?



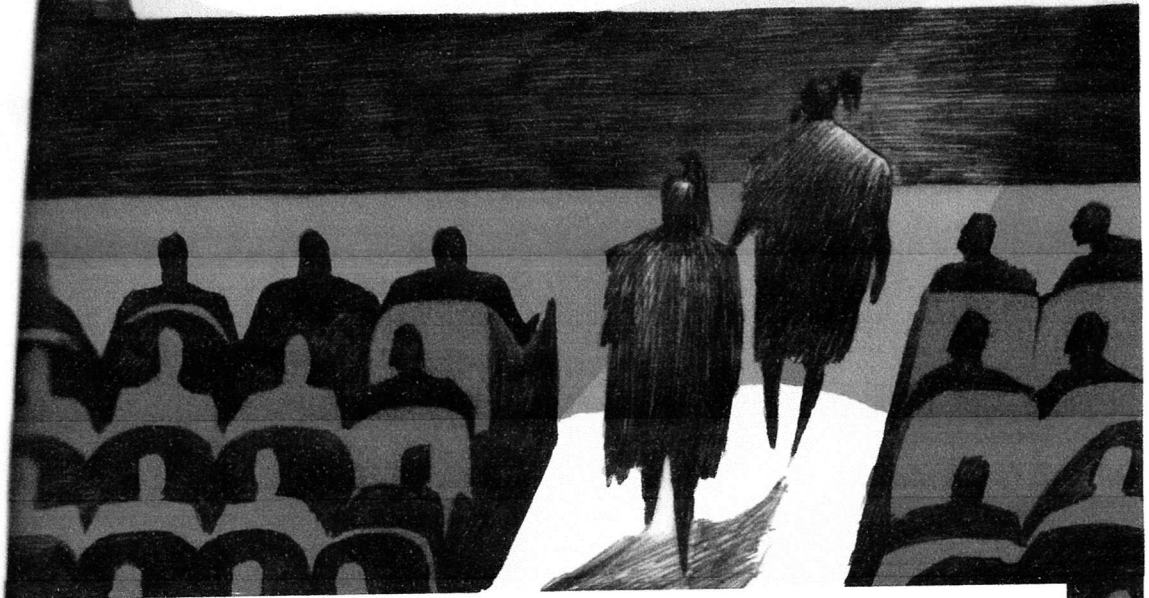
Not at all,
but I'll be happy to
get home. What
about you?

 **Scene iii – A wild heath near the
battlefield**

Macbeth and another captain, his friend Banquo, are returning from the battle. Suddenly they see three strange women dancing around a cauldron: the three witches. When they see Macbeth and Banquo, the witches stop dancing and greet them. Their greeting is very strange and the two captains are confused by what they hear.



Wait a minute,
Banquo, look over there.
Who are those three
horrendous
old women?



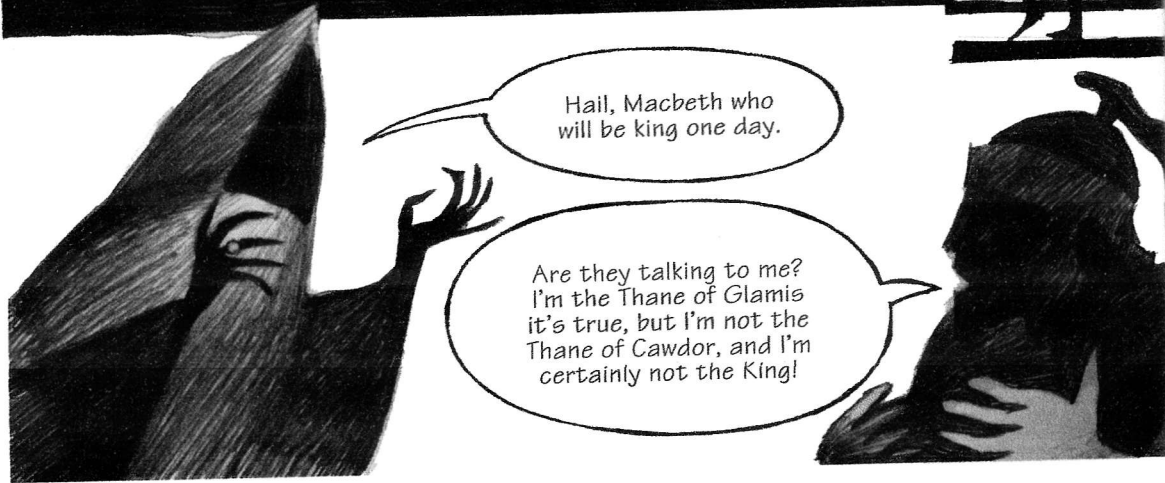
[The witches are dancing around their cauldron, but stop when they hear Macbeth and Banquo. There is the sound of a drum.¹]





Hail, ² Macbeth,
Thane ³ of Glamis.

Hail, Macbeth,
Thane of Cawdor.



Hail, Macbeth who
will be king one day.

Are they talking to me?
I'm the Thane of Glamis
it's true, but I'm not the
Thane of Cawdor, and I'm
certainly not the King!



It's strange, they
seem to know you.





Who were they?

How did they know our names?



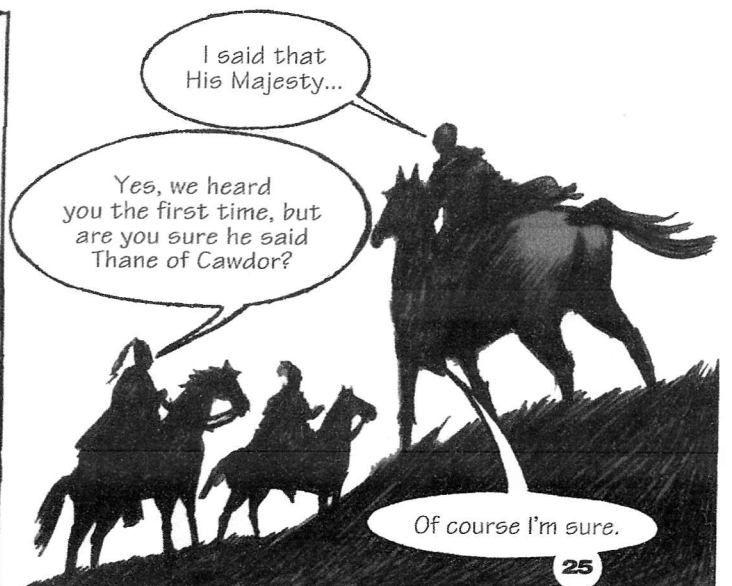
They said your sons will be kings.

They said you will be king.

They called me by three names. I am the Thane of Glamis, not Cawdor and not king.



The messenger arrives. He tells Macbeth about the King's decision to make him Thane of Cawdor. Macbeth is now very surprised as the witches told him the same thing... and more. He decides to write a letter to his wife, Lady Macbeth, and tell her of the strange witches and their prophecy. ³





That's incredible.
The witches
were right.

And if they were right
once perhaps they will be right
a second time. I must write to
tell my wife what happened.

The text and **beyond**

1 Comprehension check

Read the sentences below and for each one choose the correct answer – A, B or C.


- 1 The messenger tells the king that
 - A the Vikings are winning.
 - B the Scottish army is winning.
 - C Macbeth is winning.
- 2 The good news for Macbeth is that
 - A the battle will soon be finished.
 - B he is a very brave captain.
 - C he will get a new title.
- 3 Macbeth and Banquo
 - A are surprised to see the three old women.
 - B know the three old women.
 - C ignore the three old women.
- 4 The witches
 - A greet Macbeth with three new titles.
 - B say that Macbeth will be king.
 - C say that Banquo's sons will be happy.
- 5 The messenger's good news
 - A doesn't surprise Macbeth and Banquo.
 - B confirms all the witches' prophecies.
 - C makes Macbeth believe the witches.

2 Characters

Find two words from the box below to associate with each of the people in the table.

new title cauldron bravery throne prophecy majesty

The three witches		
King Duncan		
Macbeth		



So you are the
Thane of Glamis and
now you are the
Thane of Cawdor,
oo...

... exactly like the three
strange sisters promised...
but it's impossible, Scotland
has a king... we can't wait for him
to die... we must do something...
The witches were right, you will
be king, Macbeth... and you
will be King soon.

Scene iv

Macbeth's castle (the same day)

Lady Macbeth waits for her husband to return. She is very ambitious and impatient.

She reads Macbeth's letter, believes the witches' prophecy and wants her husband to be king immediately. She starts to form a plan.

[Lady Macbeth is alone.
She has Macbeth's letter in
her hand.]

When Macbeth gets home she tells him her plan: to kill King Duncan and get the throne quicker. Macbeth is not convinced, but his wife continues to persuade him. He tells her that the King and his two sons, Donalbain and Malcolm, will be guests¹ in their castle that night.

[Macbeth arrives home. His wife is waiting for him.]



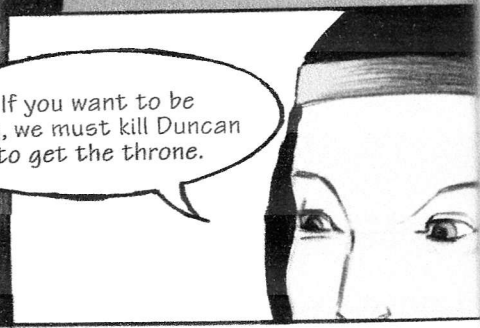
Did you read my letter?
Do you know what happened?



Yes, I read your letter. We must move quickly.



What do you mean 'move quickly'?



If you want to be king, we must kill Duncan to get the throne.



You are mad, woman! We can't kill the King.

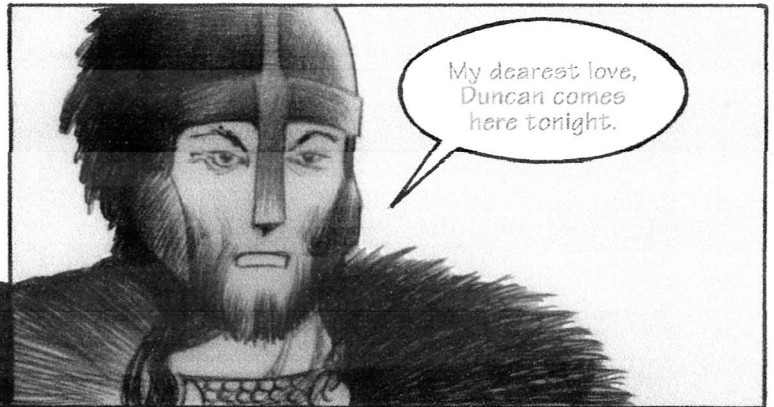
It's the only way. If not, you must wait for ten or perhaps twenty years for the King to die.



Well! What's the problem? Are you afraid? My husband, are you a man or a mouse?

If you want to be King, we must kill Duncan to get the throne.

[Macbeth is silent. He's thinking, but finally speaks. His voice is cold and serious.]



My dearest love, Duncan comes here tonight.



And when will he go?

Tomorrow.

He will never see tomorrow's sun. Leave all the rest to me.



The text and **beyond**

Comprehension check

Who...? Answer the following questions.

- 1 Who wants to meet Macbeth?
- 2 Who arrives from the battle?
- 3 Who is fighting against Scotland?
- 4 Who is Banquo?
- 5 Who is the Thane of Glamis?
- 6 Who is the Thane of Cawdor?
- 7 Who is king?
- 8 Who will be king?
- 9 And who will be King in the future?
- 10 Who will be happiest — Macbeth or Banquo?

2 Macbeth's letter

Complete Macbeth's letter to his wife. Choose the best word in brackets. Then complete the spaces with an appropriate verb in the past simple. Finally unscramble the words in capital letters.

My dear wife,

- 1 I have some interesting news for you. I (must/want/not) tell you of something strange which today.
- 2 After a day of battle, I (to/on/in) the heath with Banquo and we suddenly three strange women.
- 3 They to me first and called me by three different MENAS. The first woman used my real name, Thane of Glamis.
- 4 The CENDOS woman called me Thane of Cawdor and we this was very strange because I'm not Thane of Cawdor.
- 5 (Because/By/But) then the third woman 'Hail Macbeth who will be king one day.'
- 6 Then these women spoke to Banquo. They said his LENDRICH will be kings.
- 7 They said (he/I/you) will be happier than me but not so happy. It was very confusing and we
- 8 The women but then a SEMEGRENS from King Duncan
- 9 He told me the King wants to IVEG me the title Thane of Cawdor, exactly like the three old women
- 10 I'm sure the women were SHWETIC who (want/know/do) the future. Do you understand, my love?
- 11 This means that one day I will be GINK of Scotland.