

# Macbeth

## 2.2

*Enter Lady Macbeth*

**LADY MACBETH**

That which hath made them drunk hath made me bold.  
What hath quenched them hath given me fire. Hark,  
peace!±±

It was the owl that shrieked, the fatal bellman  
Which gives the stern'st good-night. He is about it.  
The doors are open, and the surfeited grooms 5  
Do mock their charge with snores. I have drugged  
their possets  
That death and nature do contend about them  
Whether they live or die.

*Enter Macbeth [above]*

**MACBETH**

Who's there? What ho?

*Exit*

**LADY MACBETH**

Alack, I am afraid they have awaked,  
And 'tis not done. Th'attempt and not the deed 10  
Confounds us. Hark!±±I laid their daggers ready;  
He could not miss 'em. Had he not resembled  
My father as he slept, I had done't.

*[Enter Macbeth below]*

My husband!

**MACBETH**

I have done the deed. Didst thou not hear a noise?

**LADY MACBETH**

I heard the owl scream and the crickets cry. 15  
Did not you speak?

**MACBETH**

When?

**LADY MACBETH**

Now.

**MACBETH**

As I descended?

**LADY MACBETH**

Ay.

**MACBETH** Hark!±±Who lies i'th' second chamber?

**LADY MACBETH**

Donalbain.

**MACBETH** (*looking at his hands*) This is a sorry sight.

**LADY MACBETH**

A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.

**MACBETH**

There's one did laugh in's sleep, and one cried `Murder!' 20  
That they did wake each other. I stood and heard  
them.

But they did say their prayers and addressed them  
Again to sleep.

**LADY MACBETH** There are two lodged together.

**MACBETH**

One cried `God bless us' and `Amen' the other,  
As they had seen me with these hangman's hands. 25  
List'ning their fear I could not say `Amen'  
When they did say `God bless us.'

**LADY MACBETH**

Consider it not so deeply.

**MACBETH**

But wherefore could not I pronounce `Amen'?  
I had most need of blessing, and `Amen' 30  
Stuck in my throat.

**LADY MACBETH** These deeds must not be thought  
After these ways. So, it will make us mad.

**MACBETH**

Methought I heard a voice cry `Sleep no more,  
Macbeth does murder sleep'±±the innocent sleep,  
Sleep that knits up the ravelled sleeve of care, 35  
The death of each day's life, sore labour's bath,  
Balm of hurt minds, great nature's second course,  
Chief nourisher in life's feast±±

**LADY MACBETH**

What do you

mean?

**MACBETH**

Still it cried `Sleep no more' to all the house,  
`Glamis hath murdered sleep, and therefore Cawdor 40  
Shall sleep no more, Macbeth shall sleep no more.'

**LADY MACBETH**

Who was it that thus cried? Why, worthy thane,  
You do unbend your noble strength to think  
So brain-sickly of things. Go get some water  
And wash this filthy witness from your hand. 45

Why did you bring these daggers from the place?  
They must lie there. Go, carry them, and smear  
The sleepy grooms with blood.

**MACBETH** I'll go no more.  
I am afraid to think what I have done,  
Look on't again I dare not.

**LADY MACBETH** Infirm of purpose! 50  
Give me the daggers. The sleeping and the dead  
Are but as pictures. 'Tis the eye of childhood  
That fears a painted devil. If he do bleed  
I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal,  
For it must seem their guilt.

*Exit*

*Knock within*

**MACBETH** Whence is that knocking?±± 55  
How is't with me when every noise appals me?  
What hands are here! Ha, they pluck out mine eyes.  
Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood  
Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather  
The multitudinous seas incarnadine, 60  
Making the green one red.

*Enter Lady Macbeth*

**LADY MACBETH**  
My hands are of your colour, but I shame  
To wear a heart so white.

*Knock within*

I hear a knocking

At the south entry. Retire we to our chamber.  
A little water clears us of this deed. 65  
How easy is it then! Your constancy  
Hath left you unattended.

*Knock within*

Hark, more

knocking.

Get on your nightgown, lest occasion call us  
And show us to be watchers. Be not lost  
So poorly in your thoughts. 70

**MACBETH**  
To know my deed 'twere best not know myself.  
*Knock within*

Wake Duncan with thy knocking. I would thou  
couldst.  
*Exeunt*