



Lady Macbeth

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My name is Lady Macbeth. My husband Macbeth was Thane of Glamis. We lived in a castle at Inverness.

My husband was a good soldier and fought for King Duncan. He fought so well he was made Thane of Cawdor.

He had been told this would happen by some witches. They also told him he would be King. I wanted this.

It is sometimes hard to be a wife. We always have to help our husbands. My husband was a good man but weak. He needed encouragement. I had to plan for him. We invited Duncan to visit us. I made him very welcome. He was grateful and gave me a beautiful present, but I knew what had to be done. I also knew Macbeth would make a good King. I knew that he had to kill Duncan. I helped him to have the strength to do it. Indeed I helped him to do it. I drugged Duncan's servants. I looked at Duncan in his sleep holding a dagger in my hand.

After the killing, Macbeth was in a very bad state. I had to plant the daggers on the grooms and get him cleaned up.

Macbeth was made King. He had got what he wanted. We planned a big banquet in our palace at Dunsinane. All the important nobles were invited. Banquo did not come. As soon as Macbeth realised this he started acting oddly. He talked at the empty chair where Banquo should have been. His talking grew very wild. I thought he was going to speak of Duncan's death. He was quite pathetic. He could not control himself at all. In the end I asked the guests to leave.

Later I learned of Banquo's death.

Gradually, it all became too much to bear. I busied myself in the day but at night the horror kept coming back. I felt as though my hands could not get clean no matter how hard I tried to wash them. I began sleepwalking. Duncan's murder came back again and again. I could not rest. These words came to my mind

“Out, damned spot! out I say. Who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him? All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand”.

The doctor tried to help me. It did no good. It was not an illness of the body. It was an illness of the mind but nevertheless it killed me.



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Questions

1. Whose hands did Banquo put himself into after Duncan's death?
2. What event did Macbeth' s banquet follow?
3. What was Macduff's title and where did he live?
4. Which birds lived in your castle in Inverness?
5. What did the witches tell your husband he would become?
6. *"Is this a that I see before me? Come let me thee*
_____ " said by whom?