



## **Macbeth**

Giuseppe Verdi

Partial translation and some English text sourced from [www.operafolio.com](http://www.operafolio.com). Several text insertions are direct quotes from the original play by William Shakespeare. Original Italian libretto by Francesco Maria Piave.

ACT 1

INTRODUZIONE

**Sop. 3**

Say there's progress... Tell us now.

**Sop. 2**

We have polls and money...

**Sop. 3**

And you?

**Sop. 1**

Yesterday we found this gem; such a dirty little tale from a senator's wife. She found pictures at her door of her husband and an aide- need we say any more? But her husband is the head of ways and means and that means such a scandal will cause scenes.

**Sop. 3**

To his rival I will give...

**Sop. 2**

Waves of money I shall raise...

**Sop. 1**

I will drag his name through mud...

**All Women**

Who is this then? What will be? How surprising- it is Macbeth! If you're coming to us here you must be thinking of campaigning. We encircle all the nation, fair is foul and foul is fair.

SCENA E DUETTO

**Macbeth**

So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

**Banquo**

Nor so glorious.

**Macbeth**

Oh, what a group is here...

**Banquo**

And who are you all? Are you from here or from somewhere else? Does your group have a title? Or are you press? What's your business with us?

**Macbeth**

Give him an answer!

**Sop. 3**

All hail Macbeth, Thane of Glamis.

**Sop. 2**

All hail Macbeth, Thane of Cawdor.

**Sop. 1**

All hail Macbeth, you surely shall reign.

**Banquo**

The must be joking. Do you fear their comments? Tell me then, in a way that isn't hidden- if you really can see, what is my future?

**All Women**

Hail!

**Sop. 3**

You will be lesser than Macbeth, and greater.

**Sop. 2**

And not so happy, yet much happier.

**Sop. 3**

No reign, but father a line of rulers.

**All Women**

Long live Banquo and Macbeth.

**Macbeth**

They've gone! So then your children shall be rulers. So it is spoken.

**Banquo**

And you will be before them. So it is spoken.

**Messengeri**

Hail Macbeth, our ruler has named you acting governor- Thane of Cawdor.

## **Macbeth**

But there is a sitting governor.

## **Messengeri**

No! A scandal, a scandal has ended his career.

## **Macbeth**

Ah! Ah, the hellish- the hellish truth was told! So now two prophecies have been fulfilled... The third has promised to make me ruler, What is this feeling coursing through my veins? This thought of blood... where was it born? What has been offered to me is fate. I will not stretch my hand for this.

## **Banquo**

Oh, how this promise of power fills him with vain pride I have never seen before. But yet how often a wicked (evil?) spirit betrays us with a promise of truth. We are abandoned and we are cursed in the pit of hell dug out for us.

## **Messengeri**

Why has he taken this news so coldly? His dull expression is a surprise.

CORO DI STREGHE

## **All Women**

And now for breaking news: We're now reporting political rivalry that's in full motion. And now for breaking news: With the election coming in three months the polls have been brutal. Duncan will seek to revitalize his sagging polls with this bold news—Macbeth will be his new running mate. He's the governor of a critical state. The candidates are scrutinized and meet with party leadership, but most importantly of all, they must sit down with the superPACs that make or break their campaigns. We'll see- the superPACs will make or break their campaigns. Macbeth will be the running mate, but the superPACs and media will likely drive his fate. This network has all the latest updates live. Keep watching so that you can stay apprised. Keep watching us!

## SCENA E CAVATINA

### **Lady Macbeth**

They met me in the day of success: and I have learned by the perfectest report, they have more in them than mortal knowledge. When I burned in desire to question them further, they vanished. I stood, rapt in wonder, as a message from Duncan all-hailed me Thane of Cawdor: lay it to your heart, and farewell.

An (Such?) ambitious spirit, you are (have), Macbeth. You surely long for greatness, but can you be ruthless? The road to power is filled with dastardly crimes- and woe to him that waivers- who sets his foot upon it and backs away.

Come now, and hurry, my husband- a fire I'll light in your heart. I shall provide you the courage to complete this crime- I shall provide you the courage! You may have been promised a title, but to get there you must make strides. Why wait then? Accept it! Accept the gift you've been given. Accept the power you've been given.

### **Servo**

Ma'am, there's news: Duncan will be here this evening.

### **Lady Macbeth**

What's that? Macbeth is with him?

### **Servo**

Macbeth is with him- they're coming for the rally.

### **Lady Macbeth**

Let us prepare the welcome he deserves. Duncan will be here? Here? Here this evening! The moment has come, you agents of hell, to rouse these mortals to perpetrate this crime. Let night enclose us in motionless darkness- the shadows will cover the crimes, the crimes that are committed.

## SCENA E MARCIA

### **Macbeth**

Oh, my wife-

### **Lady Macbeth**

Oh, Cawdor!

**Macbeth**

Soon, Duncan will be here.

**Lady Macbeth**

When will he go?

**Macbeth**

Tomorrow.

**Lady Macbeth**

For him, the sun will never rise tomorrow!

**Macbeth**

What say you?

**Lady Macbeth**

You get my meaning?

**Macbeth**

I get it, I get it.

**Lady Macbeth**

So, what then?

**Macbeth**

And if this plan should fail?

**Lady Macbeth**

It will not fail if you have courage. He's here. Change your demeanor. Let's give him welcome befitting of a king.

## GRAN SCENA E DUETTO

### **Macbeth**

Please go and find my wife- she went downstairs to get something to drink- when she's done and ready- tell her to call me.

Is this a dagger I see before me? If you are not a dream, let me clutch you. Unseen- and yet I see you! You lead me on a path that is yet unclear. My eyes are made the fools of the other senses- oh, horrid vision! And on the blade and dudgeon, gouts of red blood, which was not so before. There's no such thing- it is the bloody business which informs thus to my eyes. Nature seems dead and wicked dreams abuse the sleep. Thus with his stealthy pace, withered murderer moves like a ghost. Do not hear my steps- which way they walk- and take the present horror from the time. I go- it's done- the bell (ring? call?) invites me. Hear it not, oh Duncan, for it's a knell that summons thee to heaven or hell.

### **Lady Macbeth**

All is quiet- they're sleeping. Oh, what's that crying? Do I hear screaming? Oh what do I hear?

### **Macbeth**

Who's there?

### **Lady Macbeth**

But what if he has some suspicion and awoke from his sleep?

### **Macbeth**

It is all over. Oh there's one that did laugh in his sleep- and one that cried murder.

### **Lady Macbeth**

I heard the shrieking of an owl- what did you say just now?

### **Macbeth**

Just now?

### **Lady Macbeth**

I thought I heard you speaking.