2: ALL HAIL, MACBETH! THANE OF CAWDOR!

Adapted by Neil Richards

SCENE 4: THE KING’S CAMP

FX  Marching soldiers, horses. The single drumbeat of Macbeth approaches.

NARRATOR  Macbeth and Banquo finally arrive at King Duncan’s camp. Standing outside the King’s tent are three of his noblemen: Angus, Ross and Lennox.

LENNOX  Aha! The good generals, Macbeth and Banquo!

MACBETH  Greetings, Lennox! We come fresh from the battle and have news for the King!

ROSS  He has already heard of your battle, Macbeth.

ANGUS  And how bravely you fought!

ROSS  And he has told us to call you Thane of Cawdor!

MACBETH  Thane of Cawdor, Ross? But that’s not possible. Cawdor lives. How can I be Thane of Cawdor?

ANGUS  Cawdor joined the rebels and is under sentence of death!

MACBETH  The witches. What they said has come true. Banquo - could the next step be the throne itself? Could I become King?

BANQUO  Be careful. Sometimes the devil tempts us with small truths - to make us believe the bigger lie to come.

LENNOX  Look! Here comes King Duncan himself!

ALL  The King! The King!

DUNCAN  My generals Macbeth and Banquo.

BANQUO/MACBETH  Your majesty.

DUNCAN  It is true. The battle is won. The rebels and the Norwegians have fled.

ALL  Victory! The King!
DUNCAN  So, my cousin, Macbeth! How can I pay the debt I owe you after today?

MACBETH  Serving you is its own reward, your majesty.

DUNCAN  And noble Banquo too!

BANQUO  I am your servant, King Duncan.

DUNCAN  Today’s joy overwhelms me! But I have one last announcement. I have chosen my eldest son, Malcolm, as my successor! He is now to be known as Prince of Cumberland.

ALL  Malcolm, Prince of Cumberland!

MACBETH  Malcolm now Duncan’s heir! Prince Malcolm? If I am going to be king - this could cause problems.

DUNCAN  We shall go now to your castle, Macbeth, to celebrate.

MACBETH  Your majesty, I shall go ahead to Dunsinane. (GOING) My Lady Macbeth will be delighted at the good news of your coming.

DUNCAN  We shall follow! (TO ALL) Macbeth is valiant and worthy. We are lucky to have him as our kinsman. Now, let us prepare for the journey to Dunsinane.

SCENE 5: LADY MACBETH’S CHAMBER AT DUNSFANNE

NARRATOR  At Dunsinane, Macbeth’s castle, his wife Lady Macbeth is waiting in her bedroom for him to return from the battle. In her hands she holds a letter from him…

LADY MACBETH  ‘My beloved wife. I believe these weird sisters do have special powers. They told me I’d be Thane of Cawdor - and it came true! They even said - I would be King! King! ‘Keep this secret. I shall be with you soon…’

Macbeth - you want greatness. But are you ruthless enough to get it? You are ambitious. But I fear you will be too scared to do what is needed. Come home soon. So I can inspire you to take the crown. Without me - you will never do it.

FX  A clattering of footsteps on the stairs, doors bang, the bedroom door opens.

MACBETH  My lady. Have you heard..?

LADY MACBETH  Great Thane of Cawdor! Macbeth - your future starts now.

MACBETH  King Duncan comes here tonight.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Speech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LADY MACBETH</td>
<td>And when does he leave?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MACBETH</td>
<td>Tomorrow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LADY MACBETH</td>
<td>That must not happen. He must not live to see the morning sun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MACBETH</td>
<td>What are you saying?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LADY MACBETH</td>
<td>He must be taken care of tonight!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MACBETH</td>
<td>‘Taken care of…’?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LADY MACBETH</td>
<td>Yes. Oh, Macbeth - your face is so easy to read. But at the banquet tonight - you must hide your feelings. Be friendly to our king...and leave the plan to me.</td>
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