

[Enter a Messenger]

Lady Macbeth: What news are you bringing?

Messenger: The king's coming here tonight.

Lady Macbeth: But that's crazy! Isn't your master, Macbeth, with him? He would have informed me so that I could prepare for the king's arrival.

Messenger: So help me, it's true. Lord Macbeth is on his way here, but a faster messenger has just arrived who was so out of breath that he was barely able to get out his message.

Lady Macbeth: Go take care of him; he brings great news.

[Exit Messenger]

How appropriate that the messenger croaks like an ominous raven just as Duncan arrives in our fortress. Come, you evil spirits that influence human thoughts! Strip away my femininity and fill me from head to toe with cruelty! Make my blood so thick that it can't carry any feeling of guilt to my heart. Make it so that no kind of natural pity can prevent my cruel intentions from being carried out.

Come, you invisible creatures, from wherever you are conducting evil harm. Come, thick night, cover yourself with the murkiest smoke in hell. Make it so that even my knife won't see the wound it has made, and Heaven can't see through the blanket of the dark to yell, 'Stop, stop!'

[seeing Macbeth arrive]

Great Glamis! Worthy Cawdor! But you'll have a title even greater than those, according to the promise you received! Your note brought me far beyond the present moment, and I can already feel the future right now.

Macbeth: My dearest love, Duncan's coming here tonight.

Lady Macbeth: And when is he leaving?

Macbeth: He plans to leave tomorrow.

Lady Macbeth: Oh, he'll never see tomorrow's sun.

Your face, my lord, is like a book in which men can read strange things. To deceive everyone right now, act appropriately for the present occasion. You must look, act, and speak like a welcoming host. You must look like an innocent flower, but act as evilly as the serpent underneath it. Preparations must be made for Duncan's stay. You should leave me to carry out this night's business, which shall allow us in the near future to reign over the kingdom.

Macbeth: We'll talk about this later.

Lady Macbeth: Be sure to look relaxed; fear always shows in one's appearance. Leave everything else to me.