



1.5 We meet Lady Macbeth

Audience

They know he is going to meet his wife

What will he tell her? How will she react?

Who else will be at his castle?

Where will they meet in the castle?

Setting

Location: Macbeth's castle in Inverness – 26 miles from Forres

Conditions: Inside the castle

Time: Daytime as the next scene states torches *ignorant present* 57 How long does it take Macbeth to get from Forres? Bear in mind Duncan's comments in 1.6 *he rides well, / And his great love, sharp as his spur, hath holp him / To his home before us.* 22:24

Space: Private space and she is alone

Character

Status: Macbeth, Lady Macbeth and messenger

See: Lady Macbeth – letter, *Great Glamis, worthy Cawdor.* Macbeth – *his dearest love*

Envy: Lady Macbeth – her husband's gender, Macbeth – his wife's role in their life

Predicament: Lady Macbeth – to kill Duncan/imagine not being fertile woman, Macbeth - ignore his wife/reassure her *we will speak further*

Stakes: Lady Macbeth – lucidity to plan the murder of Duncan, Macbeth – an alternative to her suggestion

Identity/unidentity: Lady Macbeth – Caring wife/ calculating person Macbeth Loving husband/doubting subject

Language 38 : 54

Pre-scene: when did Macbeth write the letter, is this the first time Lady Macbeth has read it?

Under poem: *blood/remorse/nature/between/breasts* clearly foreshadowing *the future in an instant*

Pronoun: uses *my* 6 times in the soliloquy

Iambic: *And take my milk for gall, you murdering ministers,* 48 why does it have 13 syllables

Hear: This is the first soliloquy in the play the others are asides – why? *Come, Come, Come* – who else appears/speak in triplets? Don't forget her speech at the end of the scene...

Impact

See: woman on stage (played by a man) reading a letter who doesn't want to be fertile, the Macbeths for the first time.

Remind: their own marriages, their own positions in society, their own desires

Think: how will this couple act after the news, will he listen to her?

Feel: excited to see the couple together curious to know what will happen next

React: eager to see the plan in action and horrified that they are eager to see a King killed

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