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SEUSSPEARE: MEET THE MACBETHS



Seusspeare:

Meet the Macbeths



A "Seussified" spoof of Shakespeare
by Christina Hamlett and Jamie Dare



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Seusspeare: Meet the Macbeths

A "Seussified" spoof of Shakespeare
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CAST OF CHARACTERS

ETHELBERT McFee — a blacksmith who has done well for himself

GWYNETH McFee — Ethelbert's status-conscious wife

PENELOPE — Ethelbert and Gwyneth's teenage daughter

MACBETH — Thane of Glamis

LADY MACBETH — Macbeth's scheming spouse

BYRTEL — a witch, has a Yoda mask prop

MYRTEL — a witch, has a Pinocchio doll prop

GYRTEL — a witch, has a Ken doll prop

BRIE — a nosy teenage maid in the Macbeth household

DUNCAN — King of Scotland

MALCOLM — Duncan's older son

DONALBAIN — Duncan's younger son

BANQUO — a friend of Macbeth's

MACDUFF — a Scottish lord

Body Guard #1 — a non-speaking role

Body Guard #2 — a non-speaking role

SETTING AND CIRCA

All action takes place during the Middle Ages in the Scottish gated community of Dunsinane Woods. It's a split stage in which the McFee residence (a cozy country cottage interior) is Stage Right and the Macbeth residence (a cold and humorless castle interior) is Stage Left. The respective rooms are only illuminated when action transpires in them. Several spotlight scenes will be played in the theatre aisle. Both interiors have wing exits, Upstage windows, and share an Upstage door in the wall that divides them. The Macbeths have a Downstage Left stone fireplace with a hearth, elegant dining table and chairs, and a throne-like chair Downstage Right. The McFees have similar furnishings, but the style is plain and rustic. There is a sound effect of a loud crack of thunder.

1 *(At rise: The lights come up Stage Right. PENELOPE, with her*
2 *back to us, is at the Upstage window, trying to spy on the new*
3 *neighbors that are moving in. She's using a huge pair of*
4 *binoculars. After a moment, GWYNETH enters from Stage*
5 *Right carrying a tray of plates and mugs which she sets on the*
6 *table. She shakes her head in annoyance at her daughter's*
7 *eavesdropping.)*

8 **GWYNETH:** *(Sternly)* See here, Penny! Come away!
9 I'll not have snooping night and day!

10 **PENELOPE:** But if they have a son perchancey,
11 I could be the one he'll fancy!

12 **GWYNETH:** Only if his family's rich
13 Would I approve a speedy hitch.

14 **PENELOPE:** If chairs could talk and tables sing,
15 I'd say our neighbors got some bling!

16 **GWYNETH:** Really now? You're not mistook?

17 **PENELOPE:** Wowy zow! Come take a look! *(Intrigued,*
18 *GWYNETH rushes to the window to check it out herself.*
19 *ETHELBERT enters from Upstage Left door after a long day at*
20 *work. He carries an anvil. Neither one notices him.)*

21 **ETHELBERT:** I've come in the door — why doesn't that
22 count?
23 I've got to make noises in greater amount! *(To get their*
24 *attention, he drops the anvil on the floor. It hits with a loud*
25 *clang but they're still fixated on snooping.)*
26 My goodness! My gracious!
27 What's made you possessed?

28 **PENELOPE:** Come watch the new neighbors!
29 **GWYNETH:** They've got us obsessed!

30 **PENELOPE:** They're dripping in riches ...
31 **GWYNETH:** That looks like a throne ...
32 **PENELOPE:** I'm guessing they're royals ...
33 **GWYNETH:** Let's make ourselves known!
34 I'll take them a pudding or bake them a tart ...
35 **PENELOPE:** A casserole maybe?
36 **GWYNETH:** An excellent start!
37 We'll soon be invited to parties galore.
38 We'll be their best neighbors —

1 **PENELOPE:** **And maybe much more!** (*Giggling, the two of them*
2 *exit Stage Right. A confused ETHELBERT scratches his head*
3 *and watches them leave as the lights go down Stage Right. The*
4 *lights come up Stage Left. A peeved LADY MACBETH is*
5 *examining a spotty goblet at the dining room table and*
6 *reprimanding her teenage servant, BRIE.*)

7 **LADY MACBETH:** **One spot, two spot, three spot, four!**
8 **If I find more, you're out the door!** (*Hands BRIE the*
9 *goblet.*)
10 **Take this back and clean it right**
11 **Or you shall have no gruel tonight!**

12 **BRIE:** **Of course. My bad. I should be flayed.**
13 **Next time I shall use Cascade.** (*BRIE takes the goblet,*
14 *curtsies, and exits Stage Left. A weary MACBETH enters*
15 *through the Upstage Right door.*)

16 **LADY MACBETH:** **I do loathe to say this. It's such a cliché.**
17 **It is the Mid'Agas, though. How was your day?**

18 **MACBETH:** **I've just come from battle.**
19 **Well, more like a war.**
20 **I hath killed a man**
21 **Or two, three, or four.**
22 **I'm peppered with ghosts —**
23 **A trend I abhor!**
24 **I'm tired, it's hot.**
25 **Let me get through the door.**

26 **LADY MACBETH:** **Don't be so snippy and give me a break.**
27 **I'll be in the kitchen. I've made you a steak.** (*She exits*
28 *Stage Left. MACBETH pulls out a chair to sit but is soon*
29 *confused by the sound of hysterical cackling coming from the*
30 *center aisle of the theatre. He peers into the darkness as a green*
31 *spotlight illuminates BYRTEL, MYRTEL, and GYRTEL, three*
32 *witches stirring a cauldron.*)

33 **BYRTEL:** **Eye of wombat, processed meat.**
34 **Cigarettes and NutraSweet.**

35 **MYRTEL:** **Full-fat cheese and possum's knee.**
36 **BPA and MSG.**

37 **GYRTEL:** **Look at me, look! Opposable thumbs!** (*Looks toward*
38 *MACBETH.*)

1 Something henpecked this way comes.
2 **MACBETH:** Oh, you slay me. Oh, my side.
3 Explain thy visions, Chucky's Bride. (*SFX: A loud crack of*
4 *thunder. BYRTEL holds up a floating head. It's a Yoda mask.*)
5 **BYRTEL:** Macbeth, beware! The Jedi master.
6 **MACBETH:** Wrong story, you flerkus. What a disaster.
7 (*MYRTEL holds up a Pinocchio doll.*)
8 **MYRTEL:** No one will harm you who's born from a thwuzz.
9 A thwuzz is a thwuzz if ever there was.
10 **MACBETH:** Don't be so cryptic. Please be less dense.
11 I'm not a genius, but that makes no sense. (*GYRTEL*
12 *holds up a Ken doll clutching some sticks.*)
13 **GYRTEL:** Oh, the kingdoms you'll rule.
14 You'll see no defeat.
15 But do keep the forest
16 Away from your street! (*LADY MACBETH returns carrying*
17 *a serving dish. She sees the witches and gives MACBETH the*
18 *evil eye.*)
19 **ALL WITCHES:** Miff moff, hassel hoff! (*SFX: A loud crack of*
20 *thunder. The green spotlight goes out and the witches exit.*)
21 **LADY MACBETH:** I do not like those extra guests.
22 I do not like them. They are pests.
23 I do not like them in my home.
24 I do not like them when in Rome.
25 I do not have three extra steaks.
26 If you don't like it, them's the breaks.
27 **MACBETH:** I did not ask these witches here.
28 I can't control them, they appear.
29 I think they haunt me. This I fear.
30 But here's your answer: 'Fine. Yes, dear.' (*The lights go*
31 *down on Stage Left. A spotlight comes up in the center aisle.*
32 *BRIE holds a laundry basket under her left arm and has just*
33 *encountered PENELOPE.*)
34 **PENELOPE:** (*Extends her hand.*) Penelope. But call me
35 'Penny.'
36 Four syllables is way too many.
37 **BRIE:** My name's Brie. Yeah, like the cheese.
38 I've heard 'em all. No dumb jokes, please.

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