



Macbeth, Acts III to V, the fall after the crown



Macbeth, Acts III-V, the plot beats that matter

Banquo's murder and the ghost

Macbeth has Banquo killed to silence the witches' prophecy for his line, then sees Banquo's ghost at his own banquet, visible to no one else

The second visit to the witches

Macbeth demands more answers and receives riddling reassurances, that no man born of woman can harm him, and that he is safe until a wood itself marches on his castle

Lady Macbeth's decline

guilt breaks her composure, she is seen sleepwalking, trying to wash invisible blood from her hands, and dies offstage before the final battle

The final battle

Malcolm's army disguises itself with cut branches, fulfilling the wood on the march, and Macduff, born by caesarean, kills Macbeth in the closing fight

Act III, what it sets up *

- Macbeth now acts alone, planning Banquo's murder without telling Lady Macbeth, a clear shift from Act I and II's partnership
- the ghost appears only to Macbeth, and his panic in front of the court exposes him to suspicion he cannot explain away
- the murderers let Banquo's son Fleance escape, which leaves the witches' promise to his line still hanging over Macbeth
- Macbeth's line, I am in blood stepped in so far, marks him choosing to keep going rather than turn back



three steps in order along a dashed path, Banquo killed, the ghost appears, then Fleance escapes

