

Brother Mac

Adapted from Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

By

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Brother Mac

Characters:

Duncan Harding: Chairman of the Party
Malcolm: Bodyguard to Duncan, next in line as chairman
Brother Mac: Party Lieutenant
Bobby Martin: Party Member
Duffy: Party Member
Lennox: Party Member
Ross: Party Member
Lady: Wife to Mac
1st Witch:
2nd Witch:
3rd Witch:

Brother Mac

Prelude: Scene opens with music—party members are frozen—we hear the bites of news, etc.

[SPOKEN VOICE OFF STAGE]

Good Morning, Oakland. Its looks like its gonna be another scorcher today. In local news, the People's Liberation Party will stage a rally today in East Bay Park to protest alleged police brutality in the beating and arrest of Party member Thomas Lincoln, the uncle of Party Chairman Duncan Harding. The police are on alert. A spokesman for the Oakland Police Department said last night, "The Police are not looking for trouble but we are prepared for any and all developments." A spokesman for the People's Liberation Party made it clear that the Party will not back down from the Pigs. They went on to accuse the Police Department of continued harassment (not only of Party Members but the Black Community as a whole). More news later. Now back to the smooth sounds of Motown. . . .

[WITCHES enter as we hear music rise]

Act I

Scene 1:

1st WITCH

What did I tell you sisters. See, there they are.

2nd WITCH

Is this the infamous People's Liberation Party?

3rd WITCH

They don't look infamous to me.

1st WITCH

But well suited for our purposes

3rd WITCH

Why are they demonstrating here in the park?

1st WITCH

Crazy Fred shot dead
Black man running
Cops out gunning
All out war; A beachhead

2nd WITCH

Which one is Brother Mac?

1st WITCH

There standing near Chairman Duncan.

3rd WITCH

He looks neither ambitious nor disloyal.

1st WITCH

The thread of revolution is true but the fiber that spins it is flawed.

2nd WITCH

Is theirs' a just cause?

1st WITCH

As just as turning the other cheek and getting slapped again, As just as a Georgia bigot slinging an ax handle, As just as a Jim Crow, apartheid, poll tax, and church bombings, As just as no freedom in a free state, As just as any cause.

2nd WITCH

What is he saying?

1st WITCH

Listen and know.

DUNCAN

We want freedom. We want power to determine the destiny of our black community. We want an end to the robbery by the "man" of our black community. We want an immediate end to police brutality and murder of black people. We want decent housing, fit for shelter of human beings. We want full employment of our people. We want land, housing, education, clothing, justice, and peace. We want education for our people that exposes the true nature of this decadent society. We want our freedom and we want it now!

ALL

Freedom now! Freedom now!

3 WITCHES

Little Sally Walker sitting on a saucer
Rise Sally Rise wipe your weeping Eyes
Put your hand on your Hip
Let your backbone slip.
Child shake it to the East

Child shake it to the West
Shake it to the one you love the best
[They choose Brother Mac]

(At end of chant we hear gunshots—riot)

1st WITCH

Lets meet again sisters before the day is done.

2nd WITCH

Meet when this battle is lost or won,

3rd WITCH

Meet so we may tighten the screws,
We three sisters who birthed the blues

End of Scene

Act I Scene 2

DUNCAN

I'm alright

MALCOLM

The pigs just came from nowhere

DUFFY

Where the hell was Jack? This wasn't supposed to happen

MALCOLM

Something went really wrong out there. . . .

DUNCAN

Who's that man bleeding so badly, Brother Lennox?

MALCOLM

He was at the rally. (To Man) Come, tell Chairman Duncan how it was going when you left.

LENNOX

It was in the balance. Like two tired swimmers, the people clung together, dragging each other down. More squad care came. But it wasn't enough. Brother Mac just ignored the odds he pushed his way forward till he faced the damn pigs. He fought them back till the people could escape the park. Such bravery I have never seen.

DUNCAN

Well done my brothers

LENNOX

Brother Bobby and the others soon joined Brother Mac. Our valiant brothers, fighting their just cause, had no sooner forced the punk ass pigs out of the park when the SWAT team arrived

DUNCAN

Did our brother lose heart?

THOUSAND ONE LENNOX

Do sparrows scare eagles or lions fear hares? They fought twice as hard. The revolution has begun, brothers.

DUNCAN

Who's this?

MALCOLM

Brother Ross

DUNCAN

Did you come from the park, Brother Ross?

ROSS

Yes, I saw your Minister of Defense Jack Cotton laughing and talking with the mayor—Brother Mac saw him too, that's when Jack took off running.

DUNCAN

No wonder Cotton was so keen on us carrying weapons. He set us up. Traitor, Cotton won't deceive us twice, find him. See he's dealt with, Cotton's title shall pas to our good Brother Mac.

ROSS

I'll see it's done.

DUNCAN

Cotton's title shall pass to our good Brother Mac. Brother Mac shall be our New Minister of Defense. Right on, come brothers.

Act I Scene 3

1ST WITCH

Where have you been sister?

2ND WITCH

Making a call to insure that Brother Mac will fall

3RD WITCH

And you my sister, where have you been?

1ST WITCH

Stirring evil in one of the party's men.

3RD WITCH

And I have toiled hour after hour
Increasing Brother Mac's thirst for power
Those ambitions once thought dead
Now resound within his head
[Dance]
Listen, sisters hear the drum
It tells us Brother Mac does come.

ALL WITCHES

The weird sisters, hand in hand
Travelers of sea and land
Thus go roundabout, about
Three times your way, three times mine
Three more again to make it nine
Stop! The charm's prepared

BROTHER MAC

Damn, its hot.

BOBBY

Do you think they saw us cut in to this alley?

BROTHER MAC

No, we're safe here for the moment. But soon as we catch our breath, we should get back to party headquarters.

BOBBY

Man, you were something back there in the park. When I saw you pick up that bottle and step out front of the pigs I knew then the party was moving from talk to action.

BROTHER MAC

The pigs knew it too.

BOBBY

I was scared to death

BROTHER MAC

You did good Bobby, Duncan will be pleased.

BOBBY

I just followed you, Mac.

BROTHER MAC

We are a team young brother, you and I

BOBBY

Yeah, a team....Hot damn! I feel like going back to the park and

BROTHER MAC

Take it easy Bobby, this is not over yet. You will get another chance to prove yourself.

BOBBY

Yeah, Yeah...

BROTHER MAC

I have never seen a day so foul and fair.

BOBBY

Party headquarters are not far [sees witches]. What are these creatures so wrinkled and so wildly dressed? They don't look human. [To witches] Are you living beings? You seem to understand me from the way you put your crooked fingers on your skinning lips.

BROTHER MAC

Speak, if you can. Who are you?

1ST WITCH

All hail Brother Mac! Hail to you, Lieutenant of the Party

2ND WITCH

All hail Brother Mac! Hail to you Minister of Defense

3RD WITCH

All hail Brother Mac! Hail to you Chairman of the Party!

BOBBY

Why be so startled? Why fear what sounds so fine? [To witches] The truth now! Are you supernatural? Or are you as mortal as you look? You greeted my brother by his present title. Then you prophesized new honors, now he's lost in thought. To me, you say nothing. If you really can foretell the future, speak to me! I don't seek your favor and I don't fear your hate.

Hail! 1ST WITCH

Hail! 2nd WITCH

Hail! 3rd WITCH

1st WITCH
Lesser than Brother Mac and greater. . . .

2nd WITCH
Not so happy, yet much happier. . . .

3RD WITCH
So all hail Brother Mac and Brother Bobby

1ST WITCH
Bobby and Brother Mac, all hail

BROTHER MAC
Stop. You've only told me half the story. Tell me more. I know I'm a lieutenant. But how can I be Minister of Defense? Jack Cotton is one of the founders of the People's Liberation Party. As for being Chairman, that's beyond belief—as impossible as being Minister of Defense. Where did you get this story from? And why stop us tell us these prophecies? Answer me! [Witches vanish]

BOBBY
Where have they gone?

BROTHER MAC
Into the air. What seemed solid has melted away like breath into the wind.

BOBBY
Were they really here, or have we gone mad?

BROTHER MAC
You shall be great

BOBBY
And you, Chairman of the Party

BROTHER MAC
And Minister of Defense too. That's what they said.

BOBBY

Exactly. Who's here?

[ENTER ROSS AND LENNOX]

ROSS

Brothers. Chairman Duncan was pleased to hear of your success, Brother Mac. When he heard of your valor against the pigs, he was speechless with admiration. "Death holds no fear for my good brother," he said. Reports poured in praising your part in defense of the Party. Congratulations.

LENNOX

We come with Chairman Duncan's thanks along with a sample of the honor yet to come. He instructed us on his behalf to call you Minister of Defense. So in that name, hail, most worthy Brother, its yours! (All is Yours)

BOBBY

[To himself] What? Can the devil speak true?

BROTHER MAC

But what of Jack Cotton? Why do you call me by his title?

ROSS

The man who was "minister" is still alive, but sentenced to death.

LENNOX

Whether he allied himself with "the man" or secretly aided the pigs or did both, I don't know. But treason has been proved and he's confessed.

BROTHER MAC

[To Himself] This morning I was just another Lieutenant—Minister of Defense—The greatest is yet to come. [To Bobby] Do you hope for greatness? Those who made me Minister of Defense promised no less to you.

BOBBY

Sometimes to tempt us to evil the devil wins our confidence with trifling bits of truth. Then he betrays us in the big things that really matter. [To others] Brothers, a word.

BROTHER MAC

[To Himself] Two predictions have come true. The first steps toward that ultimate goal—why has it given me a foretaste of success? I am Minister of Defense. If its good, why am I thinking ghastly thoughts that make my heart thump unnaturally. Imagined horrors are worse than real fears. Just thinking about murder is enough to paralyze me. Only what's going on in my head seems real.

BOBBY

[To others] Look how carried away our brother is.

BROTHER MAC

[To himself] If fate says I'll be Chairman of the Party, fate may empower me without my help.

BOBBY

New honors are like new clothes. It takes time to get used to them.

BROTHER MAC

[To himself] Whatever happens, even the roughest day comes to an end.

BOBBY

Brother Mac, we are ready when you are.

BROTHER MAC

Forgive me. My thoughts were elsewhere. Thanks brothers for your kindness. Let us go to meet Duncan. [To Bobby] Think about what has happened, and after we've had time to weigh the thing, let's speak openly to each other.

BOBBY

Gladly

BROTHER MAC

[To Bobby] Enough for now

DUNCAN

What of Jack Cotton? Has the Brother in charge returned?

MALCOLM

Yes. Brother Ross said Jack confessed his treason and died like a man.

DUNCAN

He was my right hand man. You can never tell from a man's face what's going on in his mind. I trusted him completely. [Enter Brother Mac, Bobby, Lennox & Ross] My Brother, you have achieved so much so quickly that I cannot keep up with the debt the party owes you. I can only say that more is due to you than we can ever repay.

BROTHER MAC

Service to the People's Liberation Party is its own reward. We are only doing our duty when we protect the Party's honor. Power to the People.

DUNCAN

And good Bobby, you are no less deserving. Your worth must be recognized. I will see you prosper.

BOBBY

If I prosper, the benefits will be for the Party.

DUNCAN

Joy overwhelms me to the point of tears. Brothers, Friends, All, let it be known in these uncertain times that I choose as my successor Brother Malcolm, (From now on) to be First Secretary of the Party. His will not be the only honor bestowed. All merit will be nobly rewarded.

BROTHER MAC

[To himself] Malcolm, The First Secretary? That's an obstacle that will trip me up unless I leap over it. Let darkness hide my wicked ambitions. The work the hand must do is not for the hand to see. But what the eye fears must be done.

DUNCAN

[Others join in chant]

Power to the people
Power to the people
Power to the people.

[SONG: *Lift Every Voice*]

Act I Scene 5

LADY

[On phone] What makes you think they had supernatural power? What do you mean vanished? The Minister of Defense? And THEY had told you this—no—no I won't speak of it to anyone. Yes, yes, goodbye. [hangs up phone] Minister of Defense. You shall be what you have been promised. Yet I'm worried about your nature. You want greatness. You are not without ambition yet you are too scared to do it. Come home quickly so that I can inspire you with my passion. My words will overcome the scruples standing between you and the golden circle. [Phone rings] yes? It can't be—Chairman Duncan's coming here? Of course we would be honored—thank you, thank you very much [hangs up phone]. Come, you spirits that serve the thought of mortals. Thicken my blood. Make me remorseless so that no urging of conscience can alter my plan. Come, dark night and shroud yourself in the blackest smoke of hell. So my knife won't see the wound it makes, nor will heaven.

MAC

Well, baby?

LADY

Yes Brother McArthur Williams.

MAC

What do you think?

LADY

I think Minister of Defense fits you just fine—just fine.

MAC

We've started to move in the Party, Baby. Now, all we have to do is sit back and wait.

LADY

You will be Chairman soon.

MAC

That's too much to hope for.

LADY

I can arrange it for you. Duncan comes here tonight.

MAC

What?

LADY

He'll never see tomorrow's sun. Don't look so surprised. Your face is like a book. It can reveal strange things to its reader. Act normally. Be full of welcome in your eye, your hand, your tongue. Look like the innocent flower, but be the snake that's lying under it. Just leave everything to me.

BROTHER MAC

We must discuss this more.

LADY

Tonight's great business you must leave to me. Now let's celebrate.

BROTHER MAC

[During the following speech, Lady greets Duncan, passes out drinks, we hear laughter at points during speech] If I could get away with the deed after its done then the quicker the better...If when I strike the blow, that would be the end of it—we'd change the life to come. [Party laugh] But usually, we get what's coming to us here on earth. We teach the art of bloodshed, then become the victims of our own lesson. Duncan is here because I'm his host, who should protect him from his murderer—not bear the knife. [Party laughter] Duncan has used his power to gently, he's been so incorruptible in his office that his virtue will plead like angels. I have nothing to spur me on out high—leaping ambition which can bring about one's downfall. [Lady enters] Well, what news?

LADY

He's almost finished supper. Why have you left the room?

BROTHER MAC

We'll go no further in this business. I've won great respect from all sorts of people. This is to be enjoyed while its new. Not cast aside so soon.

DUNCAN

Good for the Party.

LADY

Are you afraid to match your acts with your ambitions? From now on, I know what your love's worth. "I'd like to, but I daren't," like the poor cat that wanted fish but wouldn't get his feet wet.

BROTHER MAC

That's enough of that! I'll dare do anything that's worthy of a man.

LADY

What made you share this scheme with me? When you dared to do it, then you were a man. Before, neither the time nor the place mattered—yet you were prepared to arrange them both. Now they have arranged themselves, and at this perfect opportunity you've lost your nerve.

MALCOLM

A coward and a punk.

BROTHER MAC

What if we should fail?

LADY

Courage baby. We won't fail. When Duncan is asleep—and he'll sleep soundly after today's events. I'll ply his bodyguard with so much drink his memories will be fogged and his brain addled—when he's drunk and sleeping, what can't we do to the unguarded Duncan. We simply blame it on the bodyguard.

BROTHER MAC

Then everyone assumes that he has done it?

LADY

Who would dare think otherwise since we shall grieve and lament his death so loudly.

Act I Scene 7

BOBBY

Who's there?

BROTHER MAC

A friend. The party is breaking up.

BOBBY

I dreamed of the three weird sisters last night. In your case they've been pretty accurate.

BROTHER MAC

I haven't given them a thought. But soon when you've got some time to spare we must talk about their prophecies.

BOBBY

Anytime.

BROTHER MAC

Back me when the time comes Bobby, and you'll do yourself some good

BOBBY

Provided I can remain loyal to the Party.

BROTHER MAC

Of course, meanwhile sleep well. Power to the People.

BOBBY

Thanks. Power to the People. [Bobby exit]

BROTHER MAC

Is this a dagger I see before me? Nothing there. I'm so obsessed with murder that I'm seeing things. The time is ripe to do the deed. Too much talk cools one's courage. [exit]

Act I Scene 8

ALL WITCHES

I pledge allegiance to my Black people.

1ST WITCH

I pledge to develop my mind and body to the greatest extent possible.

2ND WITCH

I will learn all I can in order to give my best to my people in their struggle for liberation.

3RD WITCH

I will keep myself physically fit, building a strong body free from drugs and other substances which make me less capable of protecting myself. . .

. . .my family

1ST WITCH

. . .my black brothers and sisters.

2ND WITCH

LADY

The wine that has made them drunk has made me brave. Listen. Ssh! He's doing it now. I left the dagger ready. He couldn't miss them. If Duncan hadn't looked like my father in his sleep, I'd have done it myself

[The murder takes place during following.]

ALL WITCHES

I will train myself never to hurt or allow others to harm my Black Brothers and sisters for I recognize that we need every Black man, woman, and child to be physically, mentally, and psychologically strong. These principles I pledge to practice daily and to teach them to others in order to unite my people.

BROTHER MAC

The deed is done. Didn't you hear a noise?

LADY

When?

BROTHER MAC

Now.

LADY

No.

BROTHER MAC

Listen! Who's in the second bedroom.

LADY

Malcolm and the bodyguard.

BROTHER MAC

This is a dreadful sight.

LADY

"A dreadful sight." That's stupid. Go and get some water. Wash the evidence off your hands. Why did you bring the knife with you. It must be left up there. Take it back and smear the bodyguard's fingerprints on it.

BROTHER MAC

I won't go back! I'm afraid to think what I've done. I dare not look at it again!

LADY

Coward! Give me the knife! Sleeping and dead people are like picture of themselves. Only children fear a picture, even of the devil. I'll get the bodyguard's prints so it will look as if he did it. [Exit Lady]

BROTHER MAC

Where's that knocking? What's happening to me? Whose hands are these? Is there enough water in the ocean to wash my hands of this blood. No! More likely my hands will stain the vast green seas blood-red. [Lady enters]

LADY

My hands are the same color as yours. But I'd be ashamed to have a heart as white as yours. let's return to bed. A little water will wash away all traces of the deed. Then it will be easy. You've lost your nerve. Listen, put on your bathrobe in case we're seen out of bed. And don't get so lost in thought.

BROTHER MAC

Better to be lost in thought than face reality.

Act I Scene 8

[Knock at the door, Brother Mac enter to answer, Lennox and Duffy enter]

LENNOX

Good morning.

BROTHER MAC

Good morning to you both.

DUFF

Is Duncan up.

BROTHER MAC

Not yet.

DUFF

He wanted me to call him early. I'm almost late.

BROTHER MAC

I'll show you the way.

LENNOX

It's been a stormy night. People said they heard wailing, strange screams of death, and terrible prophecies of revolution and disorder, all products of these troubled times. Some say there were earthquakes.

BROTHER MAC

It was a rough night.

LENNOX

I can't recall one like it in my short lifetime. [Duff enters, strange look on his face]

BROTHER MAC & LENNOX

What's the matter?

DUFF

The greatest possible tragedy has taken place. The Chairman has been murdered!

BROTHER MAC

What's that you say.

LENNOX

You mean Duncan.

DUFF

Come to the bedroom. What you'll see will blind and turn you to stone. Don't ask me to speak. See, then speak yourselves [Lennox & Brother Mac exit] Wake up! Wake Up! Malcolm, Wake Up!

[Lady enters]

LADY

What's the matter? Speak!

DUFF

No woman could survive the telling [Bobby enters] Oh Bobby! Duncan has been murdered.

LADY

Oh no!

BOBBY

Say it isn't true!

[Brother Mac and Lennox enter]

BROTHER MAC

If I had died an hour before this happened, I'd have lived a blessed life span. [Malcolm enters]

MALCOLM

What's the trouble?

BROTHER MAC

Yours, but you don't know it.

DUFF

Duncan has been murdered.

MALCOLM

Who would murder Duncan?

LENNOX

By the look of things, his bodyguard.

BROTHER MAC

Oh, how I wish now I hadn't lost my self-control and killed him.

DUFF

Why did you, then?

BROTHER MAC

Who can be wise and astounded, calm, and furious, loyal and neutral, all at the same time? Nobody my passion overwhelmed my reason.

BOBBY

Doubts and fears disturb me. I align myself with God. From that position I'm ready to fight against any secret plot or wicked treason.

DUFF

And so am I.

ALL

And all of us.

BROTHER MAC

Let's get dressed and call the authorities.

ALL

Agreed

[All exit except Malcolm]

MALCOLM

This murder is only the start. I should get out of the firing line. Just leave, and not too polite about leaving. Just slip away. Where there's no mercy, there's no shame in stealing off. [Exit]

NEWS REPORT

This just in. Duncan Harding, one of the leaders of the infamous People's Liberation Party, was found stabbed to death in a party member's home this morning. While there were several fingerprints left on the murder weapon, police have been unable to track down the possible suspect, party member Malcolm Washington. It is believed that Washington has fled the state.

Act I Scene 9

BOBBY

Its yours now. Chairman, Minister of Defense, Everything, just as the weird women promised: and I'm afraid Brother Mac you've played a vile game to get it. But ssh—I'd better say no more.

[enter Lady and Brother Mac]

BROTHER MAC

Here's our guest of honor.

LADY

My Dear Bobby, if you had been forgotten, there would have been a very embarrassing gap at our dinner table party.

BROTHER MAC

Tonight we are hosting a dinner party in your honor Bobby.

BOBBY

Thank you.

BROTHER MAC

Are you taking reports to Party Central Committee this afternoon?

BOBBY

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

BROTHER MAC

Are you armed?

BOBBY

Mac, you know I don't carry a gun when I'm alone. It's Party policy.

BROTHER MAC

Here, take this. You never know what can happen. I hear Malcolm has disappeared. He has been telling wild stories to anyone who'll listen. But we can go into that tomorrow. Don't miss the Party.

BOBBY

I won't

BROTHER MAC

Till tonight

BOBBY

Yes, till tonight.

LADY

I'll see you out Bobby.

[Bobby and Lady exit]

BROTHER MAC

To be Chairman of the Party is nothing unless I'm without blame and the only one who could accuse me is Bobby. Noble Bobby. Is it possible I sold out for the likes of him [witches appear as Mac picks up phone] Is this the Metropolitan Police Department? To whom do I give an anonymous tip concerning the People's Liberation Party. . .

1ST WITCH

we want an immediate end to police brutality and murder of black people. . . .

BROTHER MAC

There's a Party member traveling south in a stolen white 1956 Ford. . .

2ND WITCH

We believe we can end police brutality in our Black community by organizing Black self-defense groups that are dedicated to defending our Black community from racist police oppression and brutality. . .

BROTHER MAC

That's that, my Brother. If your soul is bound for heaven, it will reach there tonight.

LADY

Well, now. Why do you stay by yourself, with morbid thoughts as your only companion. What can't be cured must be endured. What's done is done.

BROTHER MAC

We've wounded the snake, not killed it. It'll heal and be a snake again, while we remain in danger of its bite.

LADY

Come on, baby, don't look so glum. Be bright and cheerful among your guests, tonight.

BROTHER MAC

I will Baby

LADY

Good

BROTHER MAC

This is an unsafe time when we must hide our fears, and disguise what's in our heart.

LADY

You must stop this.

BROTHER MAC

The good things of day begin to droop and become drowsy while the predators of the dark stir about their tasks. My words amaze you? But hold on: "Bad deed grow strong through wickedness." So please, go with me.

[Both exit]

NEWS REPORT

Bobby Martin, a member of the notorious People's Liberation Party, was fatally shot today, when police stopped him because of a broken tail light. Officers said Martin pulled a gun. Bobby Martin was fatally wounded when police returned his fire. . . . In other related news, the body of Party cofounder Jack Cotton was found today in a Carver Heights Junkyard. Cotton had been shot several times. Police have no leads, but believe Cotton's death may be related to a string of violent crimes linked to the People's Liberation Party.

Act I Scene 10

BROTHER MAC

Do please sit. Where is Bobby.

ROSS

He's promised to come

BROTHER MAC

I hope his is a case thoughtlessness, not mischance.

ROSS

Come, sit Brother Mac

BROTHER MAC

The table's full

LENNOX

Your place is here.

BROTHER MAC

Where?

LENNOX

Here, Mr. Chairman.

BROTHER MAC

[Points at Ghost] Which of you has done this?

OTHERS

What, what is he looking at? [ghost signals]

BROTHER MAC

You cannot say I did it! Don't shake your finger at me.

ROSS

Is he okay?

LADY

Sit good friends. The Chairman is like this since his youth. Please stay in your seats. The fit will soon pass. He would be embarrassed if you took too much notice. Eat up and ignore him. [To Brother Mac] Are you a man? Shame on you. Why are you making such faces? When all is said and done, you are only looking at a stool.

BROTHER MAC

See there, look! There! Now what do you say [To ghost] Why what do I care? If you can nod, speak too!

LADY

Be a man.

[Exit ghost]

BROTHER MAC

I saw him!

LADY

Nonsense

BROTHER MAC

There was a time when smashed brains meant the man would die, and that was that. But men rise again with gunshot wounds in their heads, and steal our seats. This is stranger than murder.

LADY

Mr. Chairman, our guests are waiting.

BROTHER MAC

Yes, yes our guests. Don't brood over me brothers. I haven't been sleeping well. Come! Love and health to all. [Ghost Enters] Go away! Back to your grave! [Ghost Exit]

LADY

You have spoiled the evening with your ridiculous behavior. [To Others] Please don't say anything. Questions enrage him. Now, good night.

LENNOX

Good night [Exit]

LADY

A kind good night to all!

BROTHER MAC

It will have blood. They say "blood will have blood." Gravestones have been known to move and trees to speak. What time is it?

LADY

Almost morning.

BROTHER MAC

What do you make of Duffy's absence?

LADY

Did you invite him?

BROTHER MAC

I hear rumors. I'll go back to the weird sisters. They must tell me more. I must know the worst by whatever means. I need to think.

LADY

What, you need is sleep.

BROTHER MAC

My delusions are beginner's fear. I need experience. We've only just started.

End of Act I

Act II Scene 1

1ST WITCH

Thrice the mist of dawn has burned away.

2ND WITCH

Thrice plus once the sirens screamed.

3RD WITCH

The fiend cries, "Its time; its time!"

1ST WITCH

Round about the cauldron go:
As if stoned on "white girl" blow
Vision blinded by darkest greed,
For fruit so sour it has no seed.

ALL

Double, double, toil and trouble,
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.

2ND WITCH

Snakes and frogs and flying bats
Belly fur from a street-killed cat
Simmered together in a dixie cup,
Lace with the blood of a newborn pup.

ALL

Double, double toil and trouble,
Fire burn and cauldron bubble

3RD WITCH

Splinters from a slave ship battered and tossed
Ashes gathered from a burnt Klan's cross.
A southern lynch rope, just a thread.
Add a splash of rage, still blood red.

ALL

Double, double, toil and trouble,
Fire burn and cauldron bubble

2ND WITCH

By the pricking of my thumbs
Something wicked this way comes;
Open locks, whoever knocks.

BROTHER MAC

Well, you secret, black and midnight hags! What are you up to now?

1ST WITCH

A deed without a name.

BROTHER MAC

I call upon you, in the name of your art—whatever the source of your knowledge—to answer me!

1ST WITCH

Speak,

2ND WITCH

Demand,

3RD WITCH

We'll answer.

1ST WITCH

Say if you'd rather hear it from our mouths or from our master's?

BROTHER MAC

Call them. Let me see them.

ALL

Come spirits, show yourselves.

BROTHER MAC

Tell me, you unknown power—

1ST WITCH

He knows your thoughts. Hear his speech, but speak not.

1ST SPIRIT

Brother, Brother Mac beware of Duffy. Beware, beware. (vanish)

BROTHER MAC

Thanks for your warning. You've rightly guessed my fear. One word more—

2ND WITCH

He will not be ordered. Here's another more powerful than the first—

2ND SPIRIT

My brother, be bold and resolute. Laugh to scorn the power of man. Nobody born of woman shall have Brother Mac's blood on his hand. (vanish)

BROTHER MAC

The live Duffy. Why need I fear you? But I'll make doubly sure, to back fate up. You must die—Then I can sleep at night. [3rd Spirit appears] What is this?

3RD WITCH

Listen, but do not speak to it!

3RD SPIRIT

Be brave as a lion, proud and take no heed of those who vex or worry or plot against you. Brother Mac shall never be vanquished till stone wall bleed.

BROTHER MAC

That's never. How can a stone produce blood? Good! Only when stone walls bleed should I fear. Brother Mac will live his full-life span, and die naturally from old age. Is that all then?

2ND WITCH

Don't try to know more!

BROTHER MAC

I insist, tell me more.

1ST WITCH

Show his eyes, and grieve his heart; come like shadows, then depart. [Procession of spirits with Bobby]

BROTHER MAC

You are too like the ghost of Bobby. You blind my eyes. [To witches] You filthy hags, why are you showing me this? I won't look.

2ND WITCH

Come sisters, let's cheer up his spirits by showing him our best delights.

1ST WITCH

I'll charm the air to give a sound while you cavort and dance around.

3RD WITCH

So that Brother Mac may kindly say his welcome got its rightful pay. [They vanish]

BROTHER MAC

Where are they? Gone? May the air they ride on be infected. And damned be to all who trust them. Duffy, just to be on the safe side, I will remove you and all your kin. This I'll do before my temper cools.

NEWS REPORT

In other news tonight, still more violence involving the militant People's Liberation Party. An explosion in a Carver Heights home this evening claimed the lives of a woman and three children who have been identified as the family of Party member Walter Duffy. Duffy was not in the house at the time of the explosion. Police found a pipe bomb that failed to detonate on the premises. Officials are baffled as to what prompted the incident. People's Liberation Party members have refused to comment on the occurrence. . .

Act II Scene 2

MALCOLM

Let's weep away our sadness.

DUFFY

Better to fight like men in defense of the Party. Every day new sorrows strike Heaven in the face. Heaven groans in sympathy with us and weeps for our people.

MALCOLM

What I believe I'll mourn. What I can, I'll put right when the time comes what you have said may be true. Brother Mac was once thought honest. By betraying me you could do yourself some good. It's a wise policy to sacrifice a lamb to appease an angry god.

DUFFY

You don't trust me?

MALCOLM

Even a virtuous nature can be forgiven for yielding to the pressure from the Party Chairman. Please, I don't wish to dishonor you. You may well be honorable, whatever I may think.

DUFFY

Damn! Damn you, Malcolm! I wouldn't be the villain that you think me for all the money in the world.

MALCOLM

Don't be offended. I don't distrust you totally. Our people weep and bleed from oppression. This business adds a gash to the wounds. Brother Mac is greedy, treacherous, deceitful, impetuous, malicious and smacking of every sin that has a name. But would I be better?

DUFFY

What do you mean?

MALCOLM

I have an unnatural weakness for women.

DUFFY

That has caused many a good man to fall, but you can easily cover that up.

MALCOLM

As well as this, among my falls is greed. The more I have, the more I hunger for—so much so I might destroy the Party.

DUFFY

This greed goes deeper. It has a firmer root system than short-lived lust. Yet do not fear. All these faults are tolerable, weighed against other virtues.

MALCOLM

What virtues? Justice, truth, mercy, humility, devotion, courage—I have no trace of them. Is such a man fit to govern.

DUFFY

Fit to govern? No, not to live. Oh, wretched Brothers, with a murderous tyrant as Party Chairman, when will we see decent days again? You sit there and say you aren't fit to be Chairman? Then there is no hope.

MALCOLM

Brother Duffy, I am satisfied as to your truth and honor. Simple wisdom forbids me to be persuaded easily. I renounce the stains and blemishes I said I had. At no time have I broken faith to my wife or to the party. I was only testing you—Why are you silent?

DUFFY

Now I don't know what to believe. [Enter Ross] Ross! What are you doing here? What has happened?

ROSS

Your wife and children are dead.

What? DUFFY

A pipe bomb ROSS

My children too? DUFFY

Nothing is left. ROSS

Damn! I had to be gone. DUFFY

What could you have done? MALCOLM

Nothing ROSS

We'll make our revenge MALCOLM

He has no children—Damn! Damn! I'll see you pay Brother Mac! [he sobs] DUFFY

I'm truly sorry my Brother. MALCOLM

Damn you Duffy! They were killed for you! DUFFY

Don't man—let your grief turn to anger. MALCOLM

Bring Brother Mac and myself face to face. Put him before me, we will both need heaven's forgiveness. DUFFY

Take comfort from the fact that he is ripe for toppling. Come, I have a plan. MALCOLM
[Exit]

Act II Scene 3

1ST WITCH
She's at it again.

2ND WITCH
When did she last walk?

1ST WITCH
Two nights ago.

3RD WITCH
Very unnatural, asleep and walking about

2ND WITCH
Here she comes

1ST WITCH
She's asleep sisters.

3RD WITCH
Just look at the poor thing.

2ND WITCH
Her eyes are open.

1ST WITCH
But they don't really see.

3RD WITCH
She's speaking

LADY

Out damned spot. Out, I say. Now's the time to do it. Hell is murky. Control yourself. Why should we fear—who—knows the old man had so much blood in him. Duffy had a wife. Where is she now? Will these hands never be clean. Don't panic baby, you spoil everything with your panicking. The smell of blood is still there—wash your hands. Put on your bathrobe don't look like that, baby. Bobby is buried. He can't rise from his grave. To bed, to bed. Someone is coming. Give me your hand. What's done cannot be undone. To bed, to bed, to bed. [Exit]

ALL WITCHES

Vile rumors, dirty lies, unnatural deeds breed like flies [repeat]

Act II Scene 4

[The following is two scenes played in different areas]

DUFFY

There is looting in the streets. The city is ablaze. We must reach him before the pigs.

LENNOX

The brothers are ready burning with revenge.

DUFFY

Where is the murderer now?

LENNOX

He has fortified himself at Party Headquarters.

BROTHER MAC

Are the rocks bleeding?

LENNOX

Some say he's mad.

BROTHER MAC

Was Malcolm born of woman—

LENNOX

Others that don't hate him so much say he's lost self-control—

BROTHER MAC

"No man born of woman shall ever have power over you." That's what they said. . .

LENNOX

Those that follow him do it out of duty to the Party—

DUFFY

Brother Mac can never fill Duncan's shoes.

BROTHER MAC

Have I lived long enough? Is this it then? With old age come the rewards of honor, love, obedience and good friends. Instead I'll have cold looks and curses behind my back. Bleed, walls, if you can—only then will Brother Mac be afraid.

DUFFY

Come brothers, let's get the bastard.

3rd WITCH

The city is all ablaze with death. The Gallant Revolution is consuming itself.

1ST WITCH

Women cry and children hide when your name is spoken. Not even Uncle Tom can condone the trust you've broken.

BROTHER MAC

Ghostly sounds and sights are commonplace in my murderous thoughts.

2ND WITCH

"Are you a man" the echo rings still. But treason and greed are bitter pills.

BROTHER MAC

What's that noise?

1ST WITCH

Your wife, Mr. Chairman, is dead. She has killed herself.

BROTHER MAC

She would certainly have died sometime—one day that message would have come. Tomorrow—and tomorrow—and tomorrow—All our yesterdays have merely lighted the way for fools to reach their graves. Out, out brief candle. Life is but a walking shadow. An Actor who poses and rages for a short time on stage and then is heard no more. It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.

1ST WITCH

People in the street.

2ND WITCH

A patrol car

3RD WITCH

Another, and another

1ST WITCH

At the end of the block, a mob gathers.

2ND WITCH

They look angry.

3RD WITCH

Angry at the system

2nd WITCH

Angry at the "man"

They are coming. 1ST WITCH

The mob or the pigs? BROTHER MAC

The Party 1ST WITCH

and the pigs 2ND WITCH

Have the Brothers seen the pigs yet? BROTHER MAC

No, not yet. 1ST WITCH

They're getting sloppy. BROTHER MAC

Their hatred for you blinds them. 3RD WITCH

Pigs move into place: "Halt, Nigger!" 1ST WITCH

Break and run 2ND WITCH

Gun shots Pop! Pop! Pop! Pigs take cover. More gun shots. Pop! Pop! Take cover, Brothers. 3RD WITCH

Pop! Pop! Pop! Vietnam in the ghetto. Pop! Pop! Too late for the six o'clock news. Pop! A time bomb is set to blow. Pop! Pop! Revolution interrupted for a verse of the blues. 1ST WITCH

Look, a gallant brother is shot,
Dead right there on the spot.
Blown hard against the wall,
Blood spills, causes killed as he falls. 3RD WITCH

1ST WITCH

Blood races down the wall after him as if the very stones themselves are bleeding.

BROTHER MAC

You lie!

1ST WITCH

Now stop, just listen to him. It's you my brother out on the limb. See for yourself.

BROTHER MAC

[He looks] The stones do seem to bleed—I begin to doubt the descriptions of the devil, whose lies sound like truth. “Until stone walls bleed” and now even that appears to be so. If this is true, there's no running away, nor hesitating here. The world can fall apart. Let the winds blow! Come ruin!

2ND WITCH

The Party still comes—

1ST WITCH

The Brothers will have their own justice

3RD WITCH

The Party still comes—

2ND WITCH

The city is ablaze with death. Sirens screaming like howling dogs.

1ST WITCH

The brothers still come.

3RD WITCH

And the revolution is consuming itself.

[The following is a monologue of music, movement, and the spoken word. Picket signs, props, etc.]

3RD PERSON

This is the beginning of the end of the beginning of the Revolutionary struggle. This is the New World, the world of guns and political direction.

2ND PERSON

No more murder!

4TH PERSON

Put an end to the terror, this dying has been done for all of us—no crucifixion, no martyrdom.

1ST PERSON

No ignorance, but Revolutionary arrogance. We will dare to struggle and dare to win.

3RD PERSON

This head, this heart, this hand, this body will clean itself of this filth, these morals, these ethics.

4TH PERSON

This spirit will strike out against Racism, Capitalism, Imperialism, Oppression, and Brutality.

2ND PERSON

I am anonymous, so I must fight!

3RD PERSON

This is the dawning of the age of **REVOLUTION!**

4TH PERSON

No! This is the dawning of the age of JUST war against unjust degradation, humiliation, starvation, castration, abasement, torture. If blood be shed for the future of our people, let it be done!

[Police in white mask enter, take off, another takes his place]

1ST PERSON

Black men can you hear me? We are being murdered. Black women, your unborn children are dying—[1st PERSON is taken away] Listen! Somebody I am screaming—help me!

3RD PERSON

There is no other hope

There is no other generation

There are no more ways of looking at the problem. We must change this dawning of the age of permanent darkness. [3rd PERSON is taken away] In the hands of Nixon's gestapo.

4th PERSON

Forget the pleasure you once had, it remains that we suffer.

1ST PERSON

Even when we do not know it, even when we smile—

3rd PERSON

Hell awaits us, we will die

2ND PERSON

Hell awaits us. . .

1ST PERSON

Hell awaits us. . .

4TH PERSON

Hell awaits us. . .

3RD WITCH

The revolution is dying before your eyes—

1ST WITCH

and the brothers still come

BROTHER MAC

They've tied me to a stake. I cannot escape. I must stand and fight. What kind of man is he who was not born of woman? That's who I fear—and nobody else.

[Enter Duffy]

DUFFY

Mac!

BROTHER MAC

Duffy, of all men I've avoided you—don't come any closer. There's too much blood of yours on my soul already.

DUFFY

Save the words, your life is what I've come for.

BROTHER MAC

You're wasting your time. I bear a charmed life, not to be surrendered to a man born of woman.

DUFFY

Then lose all hope in your char, for Duffy was taken from his mother's womb before her time.

BROTHER MAC

They lied! They lied! They sustain us with promises, then dash our hopes. This is the end, face it like a man.

[They fight; DUFFY kills BROTHER MAC. We hear knocking offstage; VOICE:
"Open up, it's the police!" DUFFY hurries off in opposite direction. We hear Sirens and
gunshots]

[Fade to Black]

MALCOLM

McArthur Williams did the “man’s” work for him. He destroyed the Party. When I think that the agent of our destruction did not clothe himself in the robes of racism but came from our own ranks, it makes me shiver still. Every Party member not killed during that long hot summer of 1969 went to jail and was forgotten—a footnote in a history book. Over 20 years later—a few bits of legislation—a trial won here and there, the fact still remains that while some of us sit snugly in our middle-class homes, our Brothers and Sisters are still engaged in the struggle. Listen, you can hear them. Yes, the flame of revolution has been reduced to a smoldering ember. But even the smallest of sparks could set the world ablaze again.

The End