

# Shakespeare's presentation of lady macbeth

Literature



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Her tragic flaw is greed. It initiates her evil thoughts of killing people in her husband's way and eventually leads to her going mad. The only way Lady Macbeth can rise in status and gain power is through her husband; she is an ambitious woman in a time where only men profit from ambition. Therefore, she concentrates all her ambition on her husband. This ambition and loyalty is her driving force, but ultimately her downfall. Lady Macbeth is presented as a loyal, ambitious, flawed character that is stronger than her husband and knows it.

She has both feminine and masculine characteristics which allow her to literally get away with murder-she is manipulative, ruthless and cunning. It is very clear from the act if you have read it. Lady Macbeth is full of evil, and is well aware of that. She is evil and she wants to be evil. She wants to forget every connection to humanity and womanhood she shares. That's why she wants the spirits to unsex her - " fill me from the crown to the toe full of direst cruelty! Make thick my blood. Come, thick night and pall thee in the dunnest smoke of Hell, so that my keen knife see not the wound it makes."

She is powerful - in fact i think the most powerful of all Shakespearean female characters. But her strength is the strength of the Devil. She is confident, focussed and downright evil. Lady Macbeth realizes that her husband is uncertain of their mutual decision to murder King Duncan. When Macbeth claims that " we will proceed no further in this business" (1. 7. 31), Lady Macbeth threatens his masculinity in order to manipulate his emotions toward the situation. She tells him that he cannot back out of his promise now, and that she would even kill a baby that she was nursing if she had sworn to her husband that she would.

"I have given suck, and know how tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me: I would, while it was smiling in my face, Have plucked my nipple from his boneless gums, and dashed the brains out, Had I so sworn as you Have done to this (1. 7. 54-59)" In William Shakespeare's play Macbeth, the character of Lady is a very decisive, controlling of her husband Macbeth, and ambitious woman during the course of the first act. One reason that Lady Macbeth is decisive is because she has made up her mind for her husband Macbeth to become King of Scotland.

It does not matter to her how he attains the title, it only matters that he does. When Lady Macbeth realizes her husband's uncertainty, she wishes for the spirits to " unsex me here,/And fill me from the crown to the tow, top-full/of direst cruelty" (1. 5. 39-41). In other words, she wishes that she could be released of the tenderness of a woman so that she could be even more heartless and cruel so as to murder King Duncan, the present King of Scotland, in order for Macbeth to reign. A second characteristic of Lady Macbeth is that she is very controlling of her husband Macbeth.