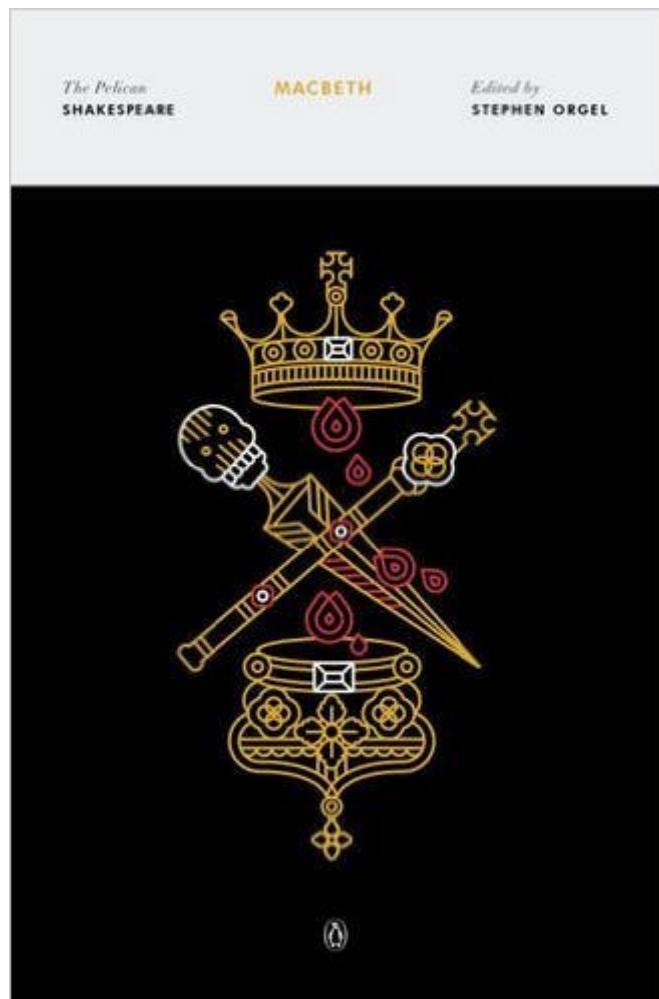


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Macbeth (The Pelican Shakespeare)



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Customer Reviews

In 11th century Scotland, King Duncan has just put down a rebellion with the help of his thane and

cousin, Macbeth. Out of gratitude, Duncan promises to bestow great honors and lands and even greater rewards upon Macbeth. But this is not enough. For you see, after the battle was won, Macbeth happened upon three witches who prophesized that HE will be king of Scotland. While Macbeth might have been content to let the prophecy come true of its own accord, his wife wants to speed up the process a bit. By murdering King Duncan. What happens after that is pretty predictable, summed up by Shakespeare's quote, "...blood will have blood." You would think that from all of the examples from literature throughout the history of the written word that people would have learned by now not to make a deal with the devil. But most people are weak, so we will have tales like Macbeth for as long as we remain human. Greed and avarice always bring about the downfall of man. Word of advice: don't believe in prophecies that spring from evil sources, as embodied by the witches and the goddess Hecate in this play. They pretty much take delight in messing with mortals and making them fall into disaster. Their oracle of Macbeth was the truth....IF he let the darkness in himself take over and killed Duncan, which he does, of course. Lady Macbeth has to goad him a little further by questioning his manhood, but it doesn't take a LOT of prodding to get him to commit murder. I wonder if the witches picked Macbeth BECAUSE they knew they could turn him to evil. It wasn't CHANCE that he came upon them. They are there to meet Macbeth and none other. Maybe they had already seen the future and what he would do? Or maybe they're not there to turn Macbeth to the dark side.

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