**Be Bloody, Bold and Resolute**: Tragic Action and Sexual Stereotyping in *Macbeth*

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| **I ii** | **The male stereotype in the play is associated with violence** ‘What bloody man is that?’ |  |
| **Violence is made socially acceptable through the ritual of warfare** ‘This is the sergeant / Who like a good and hardy soldier fought / ‘Gainst my captivity’ |
| **Macbeth is representative of a society that values conflict and violence** ‘O valiant cousin, worthy gentleman’ |
| **I iii** | **Macbeth has an awareness of the potential for violence within him** ‘make my seated heart knock at my ribs’ |  |
| **Macbeth is both terrified and fascinated by the power within him** ‘why do I yield to that suggestion / Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair’ |
| **I v** | **Lady Macbeth’s displays of valour are primarily rhetorical** ‘That I may pour my spirits in thine ear / And chastise with the valour of my tongue’ |  |
| **Lady Macbeth understands that she must work through her husband to attain power** ‘To have thee crown’d withal’ |
| **Lady Macbeth feels she must divest herself of her femininity if she is to influence her husband** ‘Come, you spirits / That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here’ |
| **I vii** | **Macbeth must continually prove his masculinity** ‘I dare do all that may become a man’ |  |
| **Lady Macbeth affirms to Macbeth that daring and courage will overcome all obstacles**  ‘But screw your courage to the sticking-place / And we'll not fail’ |
| **II iii** | **Women lack influence because they do not overtly possess qualities suited to a warrior society** ‘gentle lady’ |  |
| **Macduff assumes that Lady Macbeth will be unable to cope with news of Duncan’s death** ‘Tis not for you to hear what I can speak’ |
| **III iv** | **Macbeth feverishly resorts to violent declarations of his masculine prowess after the feast** ‘What man dare, I dare’ |  |
| **IV iii** | **Malcolm urges Macduff to forget his sorrow and seek revenge on Macbeth**  ‘dispute it like a man’ |  |
| **Macduff embraces the extremes of retaliatory violence** ‘I must also feel it like a man’ |
| **V iii** | **Macbeth is dismissive of his enemies by highlighting their lack of maturity** ‘What’s the boy Malcolm?’ |  |
| **V viii** | **Young Siward manages to prove himself as a man by fearlessly confronting death** ‘like a man he died’ |  |