

Lady Macbeth's Equivocation

Directions: People often disguise what is really on their minds. In Act I, Scene 6, when Duncan comes to Macbeth's castle, Lady Macbeth and her husband have made plans to murder him. Thus her false show to the king is obvious to the audience. Below are the king's lines. Lady Macbeth's lines have been left blank. After examining what Lady Macbeth says to Duncan, fill in the blanks with what you think is really going through her mind.

Duncan: See, See honored hostess!
The love that follows us sometimes is our trouble,
Which still we thank as love. Herein I teach you
How you shall bid God 'ild us for your pains,
And thank us for your trouble.

Lady Macbeth:

Duncan: Where's the thane of Cawdor?
We coursed him at the heels, and had a purpose
To be his purveyor; but he rides well,
And his great love, sharp as his spur, hath holp him
To his home before us. Fair and noble hostess,
We are your guest tonight.

Lady Macbeth:

Duncan: Give me your hand;
Conduct me to mine host. We love him highly,
And shall continue our graces towards him.
By your leave, hostess.
(You might add some of her final thoughts.)

Lady Macbeth:
