

LEAD-INS TO LITERATURE

Machbeth

by William Shakespeare



PRESTWICK HOUSE, INC.



Macbeth

by William Shakespeare

Table of Contents



■ Introduction 5

Background

Source of Macbeth:

Holinshed's Chronicles

Elizabethan/Jacobean Period

■ Theater & Audience 22

Shakespeare's Theaters

The Groundlings

■ Dramatic Conventions 34

Asides

Soliloquies

■ Narrative Conventions 49

Witches

Ghosts

Messengers

■ Shakespeare's Language 62

Punctuation

Inverted and Elliptical Sentences

Poetry

Prose

■ Literary Techniques 77

Metaphor and Simile

Allusion

Pun

■ Themes 92

Free Will vs. Fate

Disrupting the Natural Order

What Becomes A Man?

Unbridled Ambition

■ Characters 97

Witches

Macbeth

Lady Macbeth

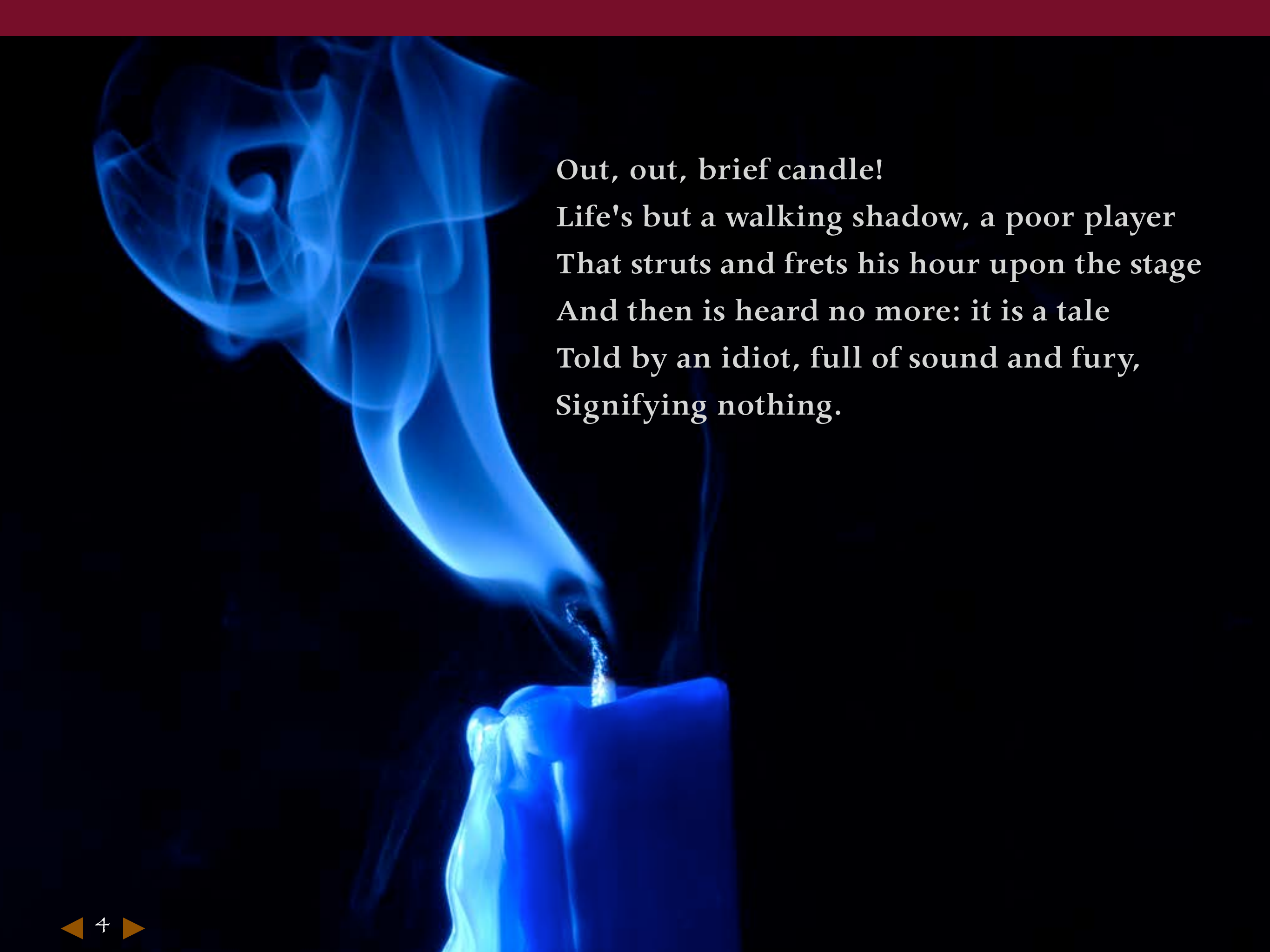
Duncan

Banquo

■ End Notes 123

Productions

Biography

A lit candle is shown at the bottom of the frame, with a bright flame. A thick, billowing plume of blue smoke rises from the candle, filling the left side of the image. The background is solid black, making the blue smoke and the white text stand out. The text is a quote from Shakespeare's Hamlet, Act 2, Scene 2.

Out, out, brief candle!
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage
And then is heard no more: it is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing.

INTRODUCTION



Background



Source of *Macbeth*:
Holinshed's *Chronicles*



Elizabethan/Jacobean
Period

Macheth

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In feudal Scotland, a semi-barbaric country of rival clans and chieftains, treacherous murders lead to more and more bloody violence.



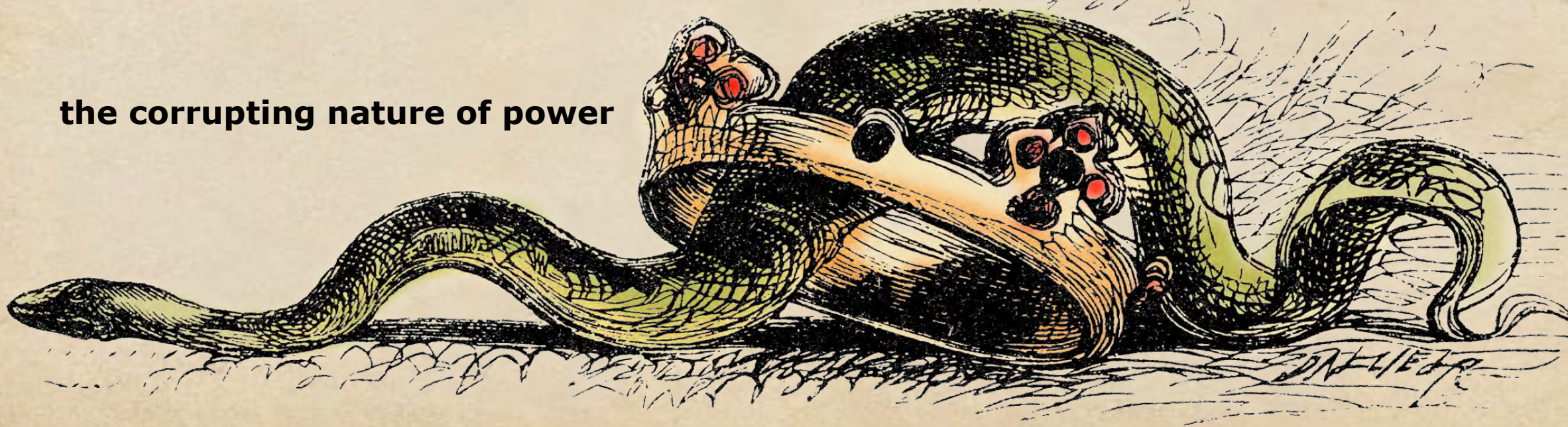
Macbeth

by William Shakespeare



Written during the reign of King James I,
who ruled England from 1603–1625,
Macbeth speaks to

the corrupting nature of power



Macbeth

by William Shakespeare

**the ability of humans
to choose their own
destinies**



Macbeth

by William Shakespeare

**the effects of guilt
on human behavior**

