

Theme: Shakespeare – a literary 'giant' in the 21st century

Text: Comparison Macbeth Act I,5 – Movie transcript taken from: ShakespeaRe-Told / Macbeth (2005)

Original version

Film transcript (BBC / Peter Moffat)

MACBETH

My dearest love,
Duncan comes here to-night.

5 LADY MACBETH

And when goes hence?

MACBETH

To-morrow, as he purposes.

10

LADY MACBETH

O, never

Shall sun that morrow see!

Your face, my thane, is as a book where men

15 May read strange matters. To beguile the time,

Look like the time; bear welcome in your eye,

Your hand, your tongue: look like the innocent flower,

But be the serpent under't. He that's coming

Must be provided for: and you shall put

20 This night's great business into my dispatch;

Which shall to all our nights and days to come

Give solely sovereign sway and masterdom.

Ella: [...] Duncan's staying here tonight.

25 **Joe:** Tonight... you mean tomorrow, don't you?

Ella: No, it's Friday *now*. It's easy to forget which night is which when you're working back to back eighteen-hour shifts, isn't it?

30 **Joe:** Ah ...chefs don't sleep, that's part of it.

Ella: He milks you for everything you've got and he pays you in charme and blarney.

Joe: He pays me good money ...

35 **Ella:** Joe – he knows no amount of money covers what you do for him, so he bullshits you with all his backslapping and insentiment and you buy it.

Joe: Ella .. don't ...

40 *Joe signals her to stop the argument and leaves the room to prepare for bed. While he is undressing Ella follows him and continues badgering him.*

45 **Ella:** You are too full of the milk of human kindness, Joe. Thank you, Duncan, for this slap on the back. I'm so very, very grateful. Is it shaming to you to hear the truth, Joe? What kind of man is it who doesn't feel humiliated the position you're in? What man is that, Joe?

Annotations:

6 hence – from here 9 purpose – intend 13 morrow – morning 15 beguile – deceive 20 dispatch – a) act of putting to death b) management 22 sovereign sway – royal power 32 blarney – flattering talk 36 insentiment – lack of perception 40 badger – trouble

Assignments:

1) Point out the content of the conversation between Macbeth and his wife and put it into the larger context of Shakespeare's drama *Macbeth*.

2) Compare the two versions and show how screenwriter Peter Moffat translates the original into today's world. Consider the choice of words in your comparison.

3) How convincing do you find Moffat's "translation"? Refer to the BBC production in your answer.