



TEEN SERVICES
COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

Macbeth #Killingit By Courtney Carbone
Reviewed by Joshua Radford

Reviewer: Joshua Radford

Grade: 12

Book Title: Macbeth #killingit

Author: William Shakespeare, Courtney Carbone

Number of Pages: 81

Rating (On A Scale of 1-5): 2

Character List:

- Macbeth - Macbeth, our sort-of-protagonist, is a grand and valiant war hero and not much else. He is Thane of Glamis in the country of Scotland and close friend of King Duncan. But three witches' prophecy slowly develops in him a power complex with a side of insanity.
- Lady Macbeth - Macbeth's even more mad and power-driven (if you can believe it) wife who ultimately pushes Macbeth to seize control. But she has her own demons that may overcome her.
- The Three Witches - A group of grotesque soothsayers who prophesize wealth and royalty for Macbeth and a line of royal heirs for Banquo. They set our story in motion.
- Banquo - A captain in the army and best friend to Macbeth. They have fought side by side until the prophecy that Banquo's sons will succeed even Macbeth and the throne, Banquo is just another obstacle in Macbeth's conquest for power.
- Macduff - Another lord of Scotland who discovers Macbeth's treachery and flees to England in fear that he's next. He joins with Duncan's son Malcolm to take back Scotland. But, when Macbeth goes after Macduff's family, it becomes a personal affair.

Review:

"Macbeth #killingit" is a... different telling of Macbeth entirely through smartphone text chats as opposed to your typical scenes. Through texts littered with "LMAO"'s, "WTF"'s, and emoji's galore we see the retelling of the Shakespeare classic, Macbeth. Macbeth is a war hero just back from stomping a rebellion by Macdonwald, a Norwegian Lord, sided by the treacherous Thane of Cawdor. Macbeth and Banquo soon come across three witches who foretell that

Macbeth will be the new Thane of Cawdor and King of Scotland, but that Banquo shall father a royal dynasty, in time. Macbeth, with the drive of delusions of grandeur, lust for power, and his own wife, will overthrow Scotland; the only things standing between him and absolute control being Macduff and three tricky witches' fortune. Then ensues betrayals, mental breakdowns, alliances, and battles typical of your Shakespearean action/drama; the whole shebang.

Where the book is at fault is in the way it chooses to depict the story; by injecting a culture of abbreviative, casual, and frankly lazy language that we have come to use. While it is arguable as to its appropriateness in everyday conversation, it is a complete corruption of what Shakespeare is known for. The only aspects that keep this book from being bottom-of-the-barrel levels of incompetence is the undeniable fact that this is a version of Macbeth that is incredibly easy to grasp for today's teenagers. It, despite being a casual retelling, holds nothing back in terms of graphic nature and plot details. However, Shakespeare is, on the surface, a rather predictable and clichéd writer by today's standards, and thus, all of its value lies in its artistic use of language. This version ultimately robs the book of any and all literary value, leaving nothing left to truly appreciate. The author herself even states that this book is "for all the slackers being quizzed on this tomorrow - good luck." So perhaps comprehension (or entertainment) is simply this book's intention. If you are looking to understand Shakespeare better, even CliffNotes is a better source for investigating various literary elements and the meaning of the book. So unless this isn't your first time reading Macbeth or any Shakespeare, don't bother.