

Archibald Plot Step Plan

1. Archibald and Elsinore, discover three strange women, who prophesy that Archibald will be promoted and then become King of Scotland, while Elsinore's heirs shall be kings.
2. The King promotes Archibald and proposes to make a brief visit to Archibald's castle.
3. Lady Archibald receives news from her husband and vows to help him become king by whatever means are necessary.
4. The Archibalds plot together
5. Later that night, while all are sleeping and after his wife has given the guards drugged wine, Archibald kills the King and his guards.
6. Almost immediately he regrets the action but is reproved by Lady Archibald.
7. When the murder is discovered The King's sons, Malcolm and Donalbain flee, fearing for their lives, but they are nevertheless blamed for the deed.
8. Archibald is elected King of Scotland,
9. Fearing prophecy, he arranges for Elsinore and his son, Fleance to be killed, but in the dark the boy escapes the assassins.
10. Archibald sees the ghost of Elsinore and disconcerts the courtiers with his strange manner.
11. Archibald seeks out the weird sisters and learns from them that he will be safe until a wood surrounds his castle. He need fear no-one born of woman, but the Scottish succession will come from Elsinore's son.
12. Archibald embarks on a reign of terror and many, including Macduff's family are slaughtered, while Macduff himself has gone to seek Malcolm at the court of the English king, Edward the Confessor.
13. Macduff persuades Malcom to lead an army against Archibald.
14. Birnam Wood begins moving towards Archibald . Malcolm's army is carrying branches from the forest as camouflage for their assault.
15. Macduff challenges Archibald who, on learning his adversary is the child of a Caesarian birth, realises he is doomed. Macduff triumphs and brings the head of the traitor to Malcolm who declares peace and goes to Scone to be crowned king in his turn.