

*******START*******

(Lights rise on a section of road outside the castle. The MESSENGER and a COMPANION (perhaps a year or three older than ‘the Messenger’), equally dressed to travel masquerading as a man, traverse across the stage through their following dialogue:)

COMPANION

What the hell? You got nothing?

MESSENGER

It’s not as if I didn’t try.

COMPANION

It’s exactly as if you didn’t try. Christ.

MESSENGER

Then you go back and talk to her. I’d like to see you . . . I did my best.

COMPANION

I’m sure you did.

MESSENGER

Meaning?

COMPANION

It means what it means: you did your best.

MESSENGER

Meaning *my* best—

COMPANION

Is the best you can do.

MESSENGER

And you can do better?

COMPANION

What’s done is done.

(Removes her hat, letting down her hair.)

Well . . . we can’t return empty handed.

MESSENGER

What do you suggest we do?

COMPANION

You saw the troupe of soldiers returning with his Lordship and the King.
 (Rearranging her costume to appear far more feminine as
 they continue:)
 A few hours on our backs . . .

MESSENGER

Ahhh, I thought we were done with that; we're witches now.

COMPANION

We're dirt poor witches; and witches be bitches when they need be.

MESSENGER

(Following suit in feminizing her appearance as they
 journey on.)

I hate you.

(As they exit:)

Next time *I'm* staying home and watching the animals.

(Exuant. Lights fade as)

*******END*******

A Side note:

(Rather than prolong the obvious, to those who well know the story of the Bard's tale, the MESSENGER and (her) COMPANION are two of the three characters commonly known as the three witches (or more accurately described: the three weird sisters). The MESSENGER (the youngest of the three) is the same character ascribed in Shakespeare's play as the Third Witch, while her COMPANION (the middle child) is the Second Witch. We are yet to meet (and of course we're going to) the eldest of the Sisters known under William's pen as the First Witch. I say all this because from here on in we will be referring to these "ladies" by those previously given titles of THIRD WITCH, SECOND WITCH and FIRST WITCH. And, while we're at it, the person of AGNES may also be found in the classic script as the character Gentlewoman (ACT V, Scene 1). LADY MacBETH and LADY MacDUFF (the latter of which is also yet to be introduced in this telling of our tale) are both self explanatory; while our final character (VANESSA) is original to this story alone. But enough of this—the lights are coming back up as)