

In William Shakespeare's "Macbeth" one of the main characters, Lady Macbeth, experiences isolation as the play progresses. Although initially presented as a cold, determined individual that is inseparable from Macbeth, we slowly see her become more isolated as the drama moves on. Her becoming more isolated helps to create a more three-dimensional character and also helps to emphasise the theme of conscience throughout the play.

At the beginning of the play, the Lady Macbeth we are introduced to has a strong connection with her husband, Macbeth, that is quickly learned of as he addresses his letter to her by referring to Lady Macbeth as his "dearest partner of greatness". She is shown to be able to easily manipulate him, as she knows that by calling him a coward he will do whatever she is asking of him. When planning on killing Duncan but Macbeth is about to chicken out, she tells him "From this time / Such I account thy love", basically insinuating that if he does not follow her plan of killing Duncan then he clearly must not love her. As this is not the case at all, Macbeth therefore agrees to kill Duncan. In this beginning act of the play, Lady Macbeth uses her strong relationship with Macbeth to guide him towards killing Duncan so that he can become king himself. Although after she initially talks about her plan of killing Duncan and Macbeth says they "will speak further", Lady Macbeth can tell that he is considering her plan and reassures him that he should "leave all the rest to {her}", helping to convey the trust that Macbeth has in his wife and again helps to show how close they are. This also helps to show the audience that Macbeth and Lady Macbeth tell each other everything at the start of the play - a complete contrast to the end of the play.

After this point in the play, Lady Macbeth starts to deteriorate and shows more signs of becoming isolated from Macbeth. She gradually becomes less of an important figure in his life