

ALISON FINDLAY

Trust, Tryst and Tragedy in *Macbeth*

'He's here in double trust' says Macbeth before going on to break both bonds by murdering Duncan. This paper explores how the weird sisters' first tryst and their eccentric meeting with Macbeth and Banquo sets in train a perverse rewriting of trust in everyday social interactions. Using an anthropological framework to read the apparently trivial greetings and partings made by characters, and the more formal trysts between Scottish nobles and their Kings, I will argue that trust is indeed 'double'. It is essential to community in war and in peacetime and yet extremely dangerous, as the ultimate fates of two soldiers Banquo and Macbeth show.

