

## Macbeth: A True Story – Fiona Watson

Watson attempts to give us an account of the real Macbeth, King of Scotland (although not geographically what we think of as Scotland today). Unfortunately, there is little in the way of primary sources for the mediaeval scholar to consult about the man himself. Watson, therefore, has chosen to resort to providing the context in which a Scottish King of the mid eleventh century would find himself. She begins with the foundation of Iona and considers the challenges that faced those attempting to rule the lands that now constitute Scotland. I, personally, found this very interesting as it is an aspect of Scottish History of which I understood little. However, for those wanting to get to the story of Macbeth himself it may prove a little circuitous. Watson is at her strongest when she reviews the context in which Shakespeare wished to ingratiate himself to James, the King of Scotland and now also King of England and possible reasons as to why the myth about Macbeth arose. If you are looking for a biography of the human being this may not be for you; although any such biography would be based on very little real evidence. However, if you wish to learn more about the times and culture of Scottish Kings in the Dark Ages then you will be entertained and informed by this account,