

12/11/50 'MacBird' NYT Books
The autumn's big underground book—although it can't be called underground any longer—is a \$1 paperback entitled "MacBird." A political satire, and often a savage one, about L.B.J. and others, it is set to the rhythm of "Macbeth" and is the work of Barbara Garson. How this moved along its underground course forms an interesting sidelight on the ways publishing can take.

Mrs. Garson wrote her parody while a student at the Yale School of Drama. She and her husband, Marvin Garson, shopped around the commercial publishers but found no takers. Back in late October, they decided to publish the work themselves, created the Grassy Knoll Press (Box 2273, Grand Central Station, New York) for that purpose. Under the circumstances there was an initial print order for 5,000 copies, which were distributed in such places as



Jacket drawing by Lisa Lyons for "MacBird."

Greenwich Village, East and West. "MacBird" became a conversation piece, began to be known, so another 5,000 copies were ordered. The City Lights Journal of San Francisco published the play, excerpts were published in Ramparts; the play, itself, was cast for an off-Broadway production—and the presses started on another 20,000 copies. Mr. Garson now has a full-time job as a publisher, and Mrs. Garson is thinking of another book. As to the Grassy Knoll Press—it has no immediate plans for branching out.

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