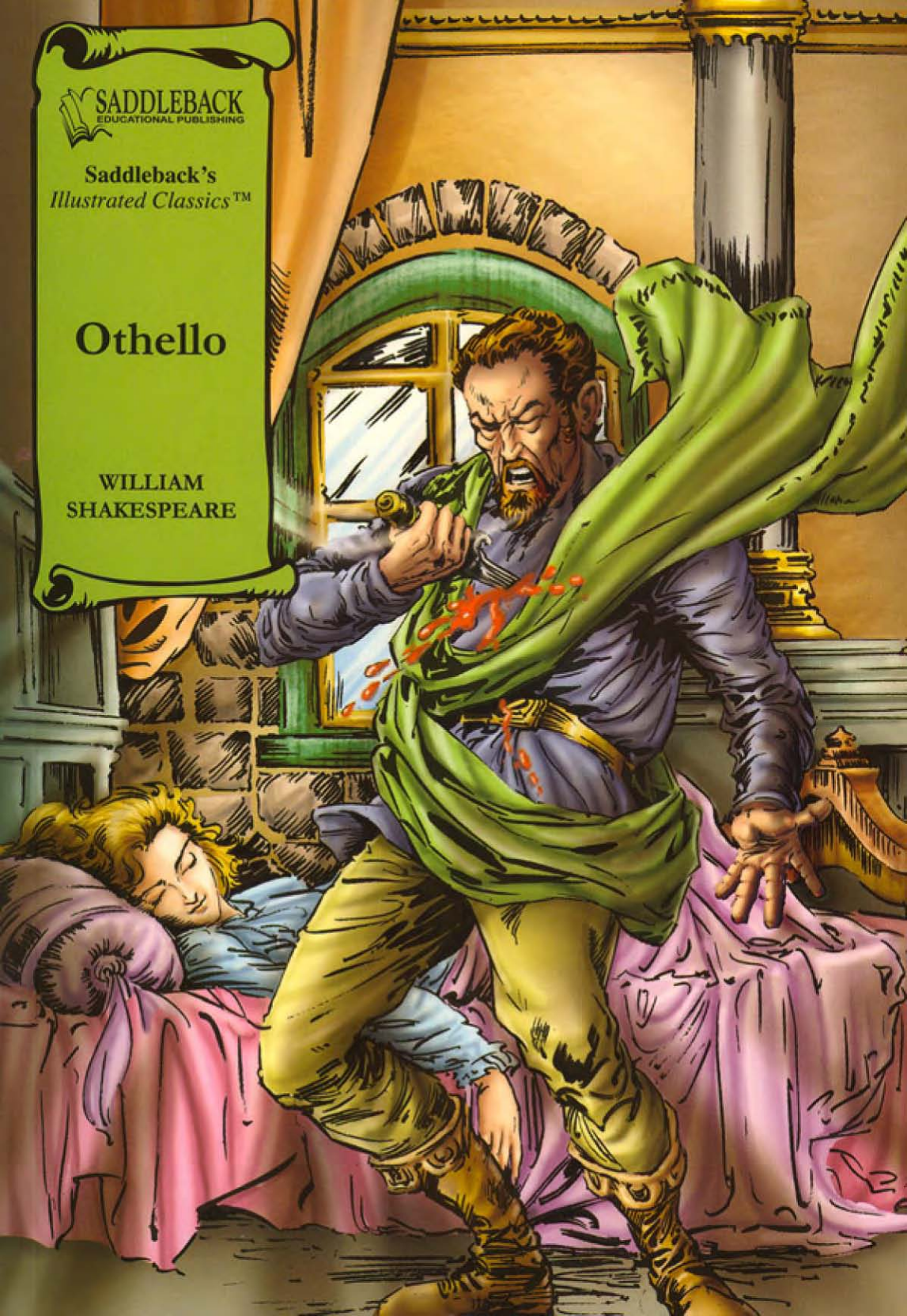


 **SADDLEBACK**
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING

Saddleback's
Illustrated Classics™

Othello

WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE

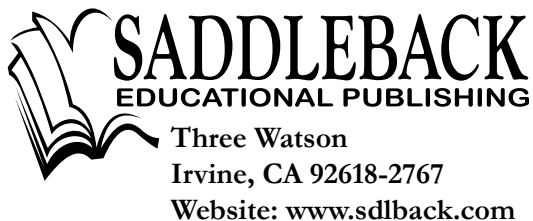


Othello

William Shakespeare



Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*TM



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Remember,

“Today’s readers are tomorrow’s leaders.”

William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare was baptized on April 26, 1564, in Stratford-on-Avon, England, the third child of John Shakespeare, a well-to-do merchant, and Mary Arden, his wife. Young William probably attended the Stratford grammar school, where he learned English, Greek, and a great deal of Latin. Historians aren't sure of the exact date of Shakespeare's birth.

In 1582, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway. By 1583 the couple had a daughter, Susanna, and two years later the twins, Hamnet and Judith. Somewhere between 1585 and 1592 Shakespeare went to London, where he became first an actor and then a playwright. His acting company, *The King's Men*, appeared most often in the *Globe* theater, a part of which Shakespeare himself owned.

In all, Shakespeare is believed to have written thirty-seven plays, several nondramatic poems, and a number of sonnets. In 1611 when he left the active life of the theater, he returned to Stratford and became a country gentleman, living in the second-largest house in town. For five years he lived a quiet life. Then, on April 23, 1616, William Shakespeare died and was buried in Trinity Church in Stratford. From his own time to the present, Shakespeare is considered one of the greatest writers of the English-speaking world.

William Shakespeare

Othello



DESDEMONA


IAGO

CASSIO

OTHELLO

EMILIA

VENICE IS THE FAMOUS ITALIAN CITY BUILT ALONG CANALS* BORDERED** WITH BEAUTIFUL HOMES. MANY YEARS AGO, LATE AT NIGHT, TWO MEN WERE WALKING TOGETHER.



YOU ARE A STRANGE MAN, IAGO! YOU SAY YOU HATE OTHELLO, THE GENERAL YOU SERVE SO WELL?

YES, RODERIGO, I DO.

OTHELLO HAD FIRST COME AS A SOLDIER FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF VENICE. SINCE THEN HE HAD BECOME A GREAT HERO.

* man-made waterways

** set along the side of something

EVEN THOUGH I AM A BETTER SOLDIER, HE CHOSE MICHAEL CASSIO TO BE HIS NEXT IN COMMAND!



SO NOW I AM ONLY ONE OF HIS OFFICERS INSTEAD OF A REAL LEADER. I HATE OTHELLO FOR THIS!

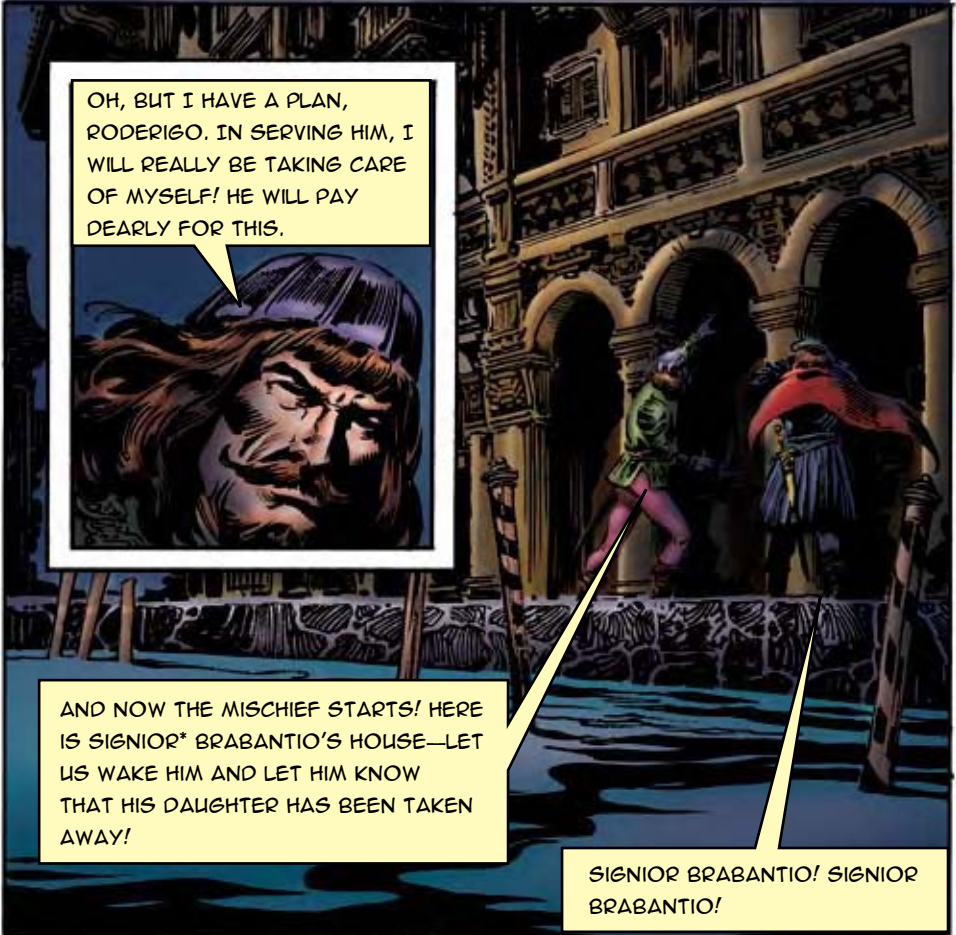
WELL, I WOULDN'T CONTINUE TO SERVE HIM IF I FELT THAT WAY.



OH, BUT I HAVE A PLAN, RODERIGO. IN SERVING HIM, I WILL REALLY BE TAKING CARE OF MYSELF! HE WILL PAY DEARLY FOR THIS.



AND NOW THE MISCHIEF STARTS! HERE IS SIGNIOR* BRABANTIO'S HOUSE—LET US WAKE HIM AND LET HIM KNOW THAT HIS DAUGHTER HAS BEEN TAKEN AWAY!



SIGNIOR BRABANTIO! SIGNIOR BRABANTIO!

* a title given to a noble (and usually rich) Italian citizen



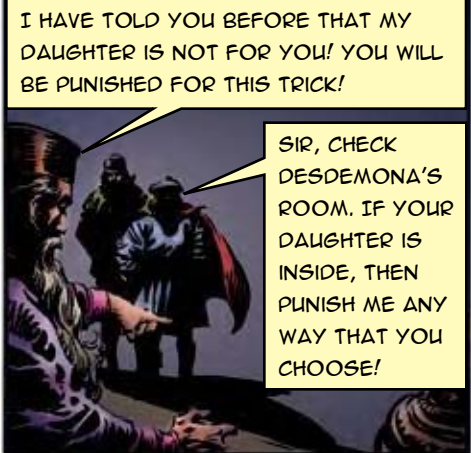
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF ALL THIS NOISE AT THIS HOUR OF THE NIGHT?

YOUR DAUGHTER, DESDEMONA, HAS BEEN STOLEN AWAY BY OTHELLO, THE MOOR!*



WHAT, HAVE YOU LOST YOUR WITS? WHO ARE YOU?

I AM RODERIGO.



I HAVE TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT MY DAUGHTER IS NOT FOR YOU! YOU WILL BE PUNISHED FOR THIS TRICK!

SIR, CHECK DESDEMONA'S ROOM. IF YOUR DAUGHTER IS INSIDE, THEN PUNISH ME ANY WAY THAT YOU CHOOSE!



SERVANTS! BRING ME A LIGHT!

* a person from the northern part of Africa

WHILE BRABANTIO WENT TO LOOK FOR HIS DAUGHTER, IAGO MADE OTHER PLANS.



I MUST LEAVE NOW SO THAT OTHELLO DOESN'T KNOW I'VE HAD ANY PART OF THIS.

BRABANTIO WAS EVEN MORE UPSET WHEN HE RETURNED.



SHE IS GONE! RODERIGO, TELL ME, ARE THEY MARRIED?

I THINK SO, SIR!

MEANWHILE, IAGO HURRIED TO OTHELLO AND TOLD HIM THAT HIS LIFE WAS IN DANGER.



THEN HELP ME, RODERIGO! I WILL GET MY SOLDIERS AND WE WILL LOOK FOR THEM.

I WANTED TO KILL BRABANTIO FOR THE BAD THINGS HE SAID ABOUT YOU!

IT'S GOOD THAT YOU DIDN'T, IAGO. I LOVE HIS DAUGHTER DESDEMONA, AND I THINK THAT HE WILL COME TO SEE MY SIDE OF THINGS.



JUST THEN CAS-
SIO ARRIVED WITH A
MESSAGE.

THE DUKE OF VENICE IS CALLING FOR YOU, GENERAL
OTHELLO. THERE IS TROUBLE WITH THE TURKS IN
CYPRUS*. THE SENATE** IS MEETING NOW.

HERE COMES SENATOR
BRABANTIO! BE CARE-
FUL, OTHELLO!



GOOD SIGNIOR
BRABANTIO, THIS
IS NO TIME FOR
FIGHTING!

YOU HAVE
TAKEN AWAY MY
DAUGHTER WITH
YOUR MAGIC! I
WILL HAVE YOU
PUNISHED!



I WILL BE GLAD
TO TALK TO
YOU ABOUT
THIS LATER.
BUT NOW I
MUST MEET
WITH THE DUKE.

THIS IS TRUE,
SIGNIOR. I AM
SURE THAT
YOU HAVE
ALSO BEEN
SENT FOR.

THIS LATE AT
NIGHT? WELL,
LET US GO.

* an island in the Mediterranean Sea near Turkey

** a group of men elected to help govern a state or country

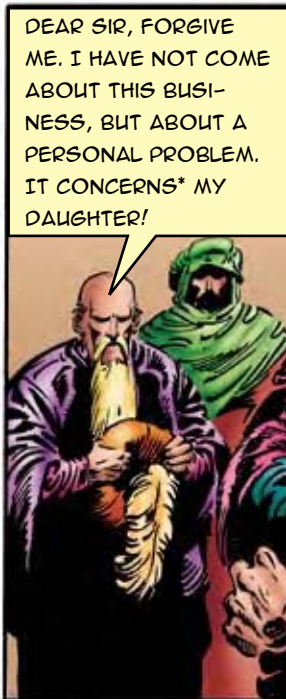


MEANWHILE, THE DUKE AND HIS ADVISORS WERE WAITING FOR OTHELLO.

SIR, THE REPORTS ALL SAY THAT A FLEET OF SHIPS FROM TURKEY IS HEADED FOR CYPRUS.



BRAVE OTHELLO, WE BEG YOU TO SAIL FOR CYPRUS RIGHT AWAY!



DEAR SIR, FORGIVE ME. I HAVE NOT COME ABOUT THIS BUSINESS, BUT ABOUT A PERSONAL PROBLEM. IT CONCERNS* MY DAUGHTER!

WHY, WHAT IS THE MATTER?

IS SHE DEAD?

* has something to do with



SHE IS AS GOOD AS DEAD TO ME. SHE HAS BEEN STOLEN AWAY BY MAGIC.

WHOEVER HAS DONE THIS WILL BE PUNISHED—EVEN IF IT SHOULD BE BY MY OWN SON!



I THANK YOU, SIR! HERE IS THE MAN, THIS MOOR!



OTHELLO, WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY?

IT IS TRUE THAT I HAVE MARRIED THIS MAN'S DAUGHTER—AND THAT I LOVE HER.



BUT I BEG YOU, SEND FOR DESDEMONA AND LET HER TELL YOU WHETHER I USED MAGIC TO WIN HER LOVE.

BRING DESDEMONA HERE!



GOOD IAGO, PLEASE GO FOR DESDEMONA. UNTIL SHE COMES, I WILL TELL MY PART OF THE STORY.

TELL US OTHELLO.



MANY TIMES BRABANTIO, HER FATHER, INVITED ME TO HIS HOUSE. HE ALWAYS ASKED ME QUESTIONS ABOUT MY LIFE AND THE BATTLES I HAVE FOUGHT ALL OVER THE WORLD.

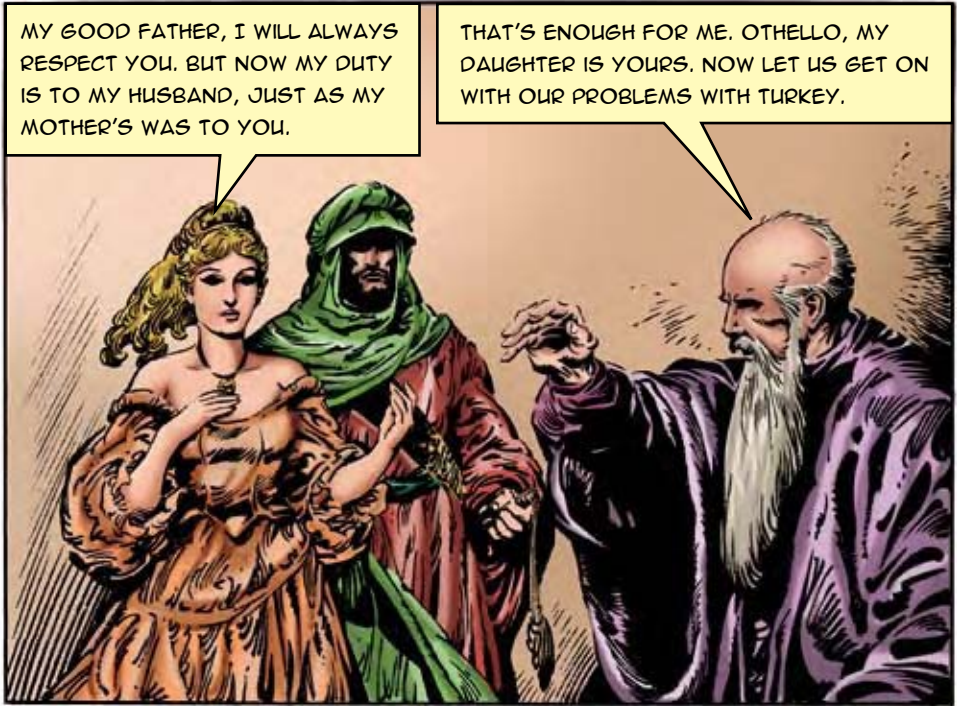


DESDEMONA LISTENED AS OFTEN AS SHE COULD. HER EYES, AS THEY LOOKED UPON ME, BEGAN TO SHOW HER LOVE.



I THINK MY VERY OWN DAUGHTER WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME.

PLEASE HEAR DESDEMONA SPEAK. COME, CHILD, TELL THIS GROUP ABOUT THE PERSON YOU SHOULD MOST OBEY.



MY GOOD FATHER, I WILL ALWAYS RESPECT YOU. BUT NOW MY DUTY IS TO MY HUSBAND, JUST AS MY MOTHER'S WAS TO YOU.

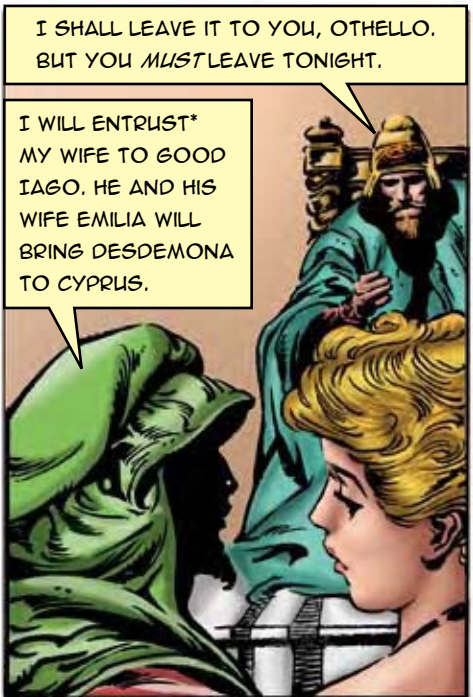
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME. OTHELLO, MY DAUGHTER IS YOURS. NOW LET US GET ON WITH OUR PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY.



OTHELLO, YOU MUST SAIL AT ONCE FOR CYPRUS TO PROTECT IT FROM THE TURKS.

I WILL SIR. BUT I WILL NEED A PLACE FOR DESDEMONA TO STAY.

OH, YES! I WANT TO GO WITH MY HUSBAND!



I SHALL LEAVE IT TO YOU, OTHELLO. BUT YOU *MUST* LEAVE TONIGHT.

I WILL ENTRUST* MY WIFE TO GOOD IAGO. HE AND HIS WIFE EMILIA WILL BRING DESDEMONA TO CYPRUS.

* place something or someone in another's care



NO, SHE IS FAITHFUL TO ME. COME, DESDEMONA, WE HAVE ONLY A LITTLE TIME LEFT TO SPEND TOGETHER.



SOON NO ONE WAS LEFT BUT IAGO AND RODERIGO.

I SUFFER TOO MUCH WHEN I SEE DESDEMONA'S LOVE FOR OTHELLO! I THINK I WILL DROWN MYSELF.

COME, BE A MAN! A MAN WOULD NEVER DROWN HIMSELF FOR LOVE!



* fooled, tricked

DESDEMONA WILL NOT LOVE THE MOOR FOR LONG. SHE WILL BE YOURS, AND I WILL HELP YOU GET HER. GATHER ALL THE MONEY YOU HAVE AND BRING IT TO ME TOMORROW.



THEN IAGO WAS LEFT ALONE.

WHAT A FOOL RODERIGO IS! YET I CAN USE HIM AND HIS MONEY IN MY REVENGE* ON OTHELLO. AND MAYBE I CAN USE CASSIO TO MAKE THE MOOR CRAZY WITH JEALOUSY!**



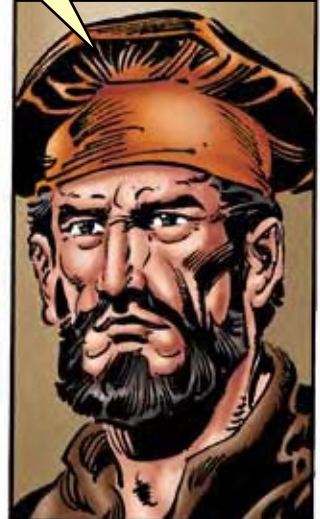
A FEW DAYS LATER IN CYPRUS, SOME MEN STOOD TALKING.

GOOD NEWS! THE STORM THAT STRUCK US YESTERDAY HAS SUNK MOST OF THE ENEMY SHIPS!

HOW DO YOU KNOW?



A SHIP FROM VENICE COMMANDED BY MICHAEL CASSIO HAS JUST LANDED WITH THE NEWS!



* getting even with someone

** wanting what someone else has



AND NOT LONG AFTERWARD THE REMAINING SHIPS ARRIVED FROM VENICE.

MY DEAR OTHELLO!

DESDEMONA! IF ONLY LIFE ALWAYS HAD SUCH SWEET CALMS AFTER ALL ITS STORMS. YOU MUST HAVE HEARD THAT THE WAR IS OVER! LET US CELEBRATE!*

AT THIS, EVERYONE LEFT FOR THE CASTLE—EVERYONE BUT IAGO AND RODERIGO.

I HAVE NEWS FOR YOU, RODERIGO! DESDEMONA IS IN LOVE WITH MICHAEL CASSIO!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!


SHE FALLS IN LOVE EASILY. SHE MUST BE TIRED OF OTHELLO, AND CASSIO IS YOUNGER AND MORE HANDSOME.



* rejoice, have a good time

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE!

TRUST ME. CASSIO WILL BE ON GUARD DUTY TONIGHT. MAKE HIM ANGRY SO THAT HE STRIKES OUT AT YOU WITH HIS SWORD. IF YOU DO, YOU WILL BE CLOSER TO WINNING DESDEMONA'S LOVE.



WHEN RODERIGO HAD LEFT, IAGO CONTINUED TO PLAN.

I AM SURE THAT CASSIO IS IN LOVE WITH DESDEMONA. I THINK I CAN MAKE OTHELLO SO JEALOUS THAT HE WILL PLAY RIGHT INTO MY HANDS!



THAT NIGHT THE PEOPLE OF CYPRUS WERE INVITED TO A GREAT FEAST AT THE CASTLE. THEY WOULD CELEBRATE THE END OF THE WAR WITH TURKEY AS WELL AS OTHELLO'S RECENT MARRIAGE.

CASSIO, YOU ARE IN CHARGE OF THE GUARD TONIGHT. MAKE SURE THAT EVERYTHING REMAINS PEACEFUL.



BUT LATER, WHEN CASSIO MET IAGO, IAGO HAD PLANNED A TRAP FOR HIM.

WELCOME, IAGO. LET US GO TO OUR WATCH.

IT IS TOO EARLY. LET US FIRST HAVE A DRINK WITH SOME OF THE CYPRUS SOLDIERS.



NOT TONIGHT, IAGO. I GET DRUNK VERY EASILY, AND I'VE HAD ONE DRINK ALREADY. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT NIGHT FOR ME TO STAY SOBER.*

NONSENSE! ONE MORE DRINK WON'T HURT.



BEFORE LONG, CASSIO WAS DRUNK.

DO NOT THINK, GENTLEMAN, THAT I HAVE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK. THIS IS MY LEFT HAND, AND THIS IS MY RIGHT. AND I THINK I CAN STILL WALK AND CAN GO TO MY WATCH.



* not drunk

AFTER CASSIO HAD LEFT THEM, IAGO MADE MATTERS STILL WORSE.

IT'S TOO BAD OTHELLO PUTS SO MUCH TRUST IN THIS FELLOW. HE CAN CAUSE A LOT OF TROUBLE ON THIS ISLAND BECAUSE OF HIS DRINKING.



YOU'RE RIGHT! SOMEONE SHOULD WARN GENERAL OTHELLO ABOUT HIM.



SOON AFTERWARD, IAGO SENT RODERIGO AFTER CASSIO. AS IAGO HAD ORDERED, RODERIGO SHOUTED INSULTS* AT CASSIO. THEY BEGAN TO FIGHT, AND THE SOLDIERS RUSHED TO STOP THEM.

I PRAY SIR, YOU MUST STOP THIS! YOU'RE DRUNK!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

DRUNK? HOW CAN YOU SAY I'M DRUNK?



* words that hurt or upset another person

AT THIS, CASSIO STARTED FIGHTING WITH THE SOLDIER. MEANWHILE, IAGO TOLD RODERIGO TO RUN TO THE TOWN SQUARE AND SOUND THE ALARM. THIS BROUGHT OTHELLO TO WHERE THE TROUBLE WAS TAKING PLACE.

WHO STARTED THIS FIGHT, IAGO?

SIR, I DO NOT WANT TO MAKE TROUBLE FOR MICHAEL CASSIO. BUT IT STARTED BECAUSE HE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK.



CASSIO, NEVER AGAIN WILL YOU BE AN OFFICER OF MINE!



WHEN OTHELLO AND THE OTHERS HAD LEFT, IAGO AND CASSIO REMAINED BEHIND.

DON'T LOOK SO SAD, CASSIO. SPEAK TO OTHELLO'S WIFE, DESDEMONA, IN THE MORNING. SHE IS VERY KIND AND WILL PLEAD* FOR YOU BEFORE OTHELLO.



YOU'RE RIGHT, I WILL ASK HER TOMORROW. GOOD NIGHT, HONEST IAGO.



* beg

NOW I WILL FIX IT SO OTHELLO THINKS THAT DESDEMONA AND CASSIO ARE IN LOVE.



THE NEXT DAY, IAGO HAD HIS WIFE EMILIA ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN DESDEMONA AND CASSIO.

CASSIO, I WILL TRY TO GET MY HUSBAND TO FORGIVE YOU.

PLEASE DON'T TAKE TOO LONG, OR HE MAY FORGET MY SERVICE TO HIM. BUT HERE HE COMES. I MUST NOT LET HIM SEE ME!



WASN'T THAT CASSIO THAT JUST LEFT YOUR WIFE? HE LOOKED GUILTY* AND RAN WHEN HE SAW YOU!



DEAR HUSBAND, I BEG YOU TO FORGIVE CASSIO! HE TRULY WANTS TO SERVE YOU AGAIN!

I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT NOW, DESDEMONA.



* having committed a crime

BUT I SHALL GIVE YOU NO REST UNTIL YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND!



I WILL NOT DENY* YOU ANYTHING, DESDEMONA. BUT LEAVE US ALONE FOR A LITTLE WHILE AND I WILL JOIN YOU SOON.

JUST AS YOU WISH, MY DEAREST. COME, EMILIA, LET US GO INSIDE.



BUT IAGO WAS DETERMINED** TO MAKE OTHELLO JEALOUS. SO, WHEN THEY WERE ALONE AGAIN, HE SPOKE.

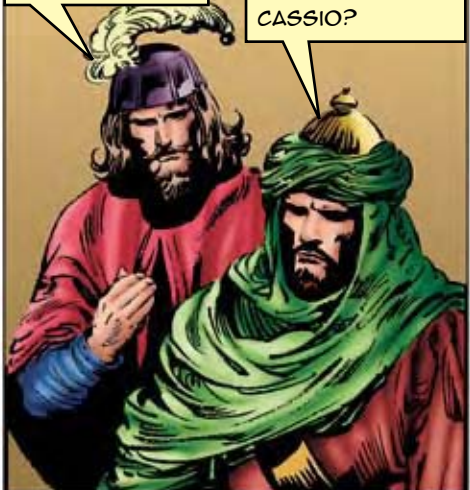
SIR, WHEN YOU WERE FIRST COURTING YOUR LADY, DID MICHAEL CASSIO KNOW OF YOUR LOVE?

OH YES, HE WENT BETWEEN US OFTEN WITH MESSAGES. WHY DO YOU ASK?



IT'S NOTHING, SIR. I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THAT CASSIO WOULD TRY TO TRICK YOU.

IAGO, AS MY TRUE FRIEND, ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT DESDEMONA AND CASSIO?



* keep from having

** made up one's mind to do something

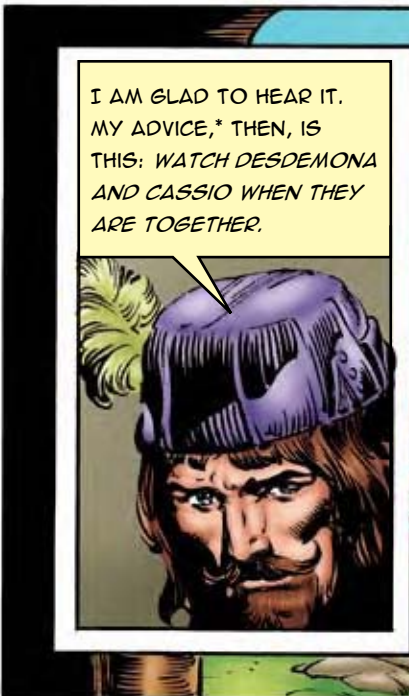


YOU MUST BE HONEST WITH ME. TELL ME WHAT IS ON YOUR MIND!



BEWARE OF JEALOUSY, DEAR GENERAL.

I WILL NOT BE JEALOUS WITHOUT PROOF. I LOVE AND TRUST MY WIFE.



I AM GLAD TO HEAR IT. MY ADVICE,* THEN, IS THIS: WATCH DESDEMONA AND CASSIO WHEN THEY ARE TOGETHER.



REMEMBER, DESDEMONA TRICKED HER FATHER WHEN SHE MARRIED YOU SECRETLY.



WELL, TELL EMILIA TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON HER.

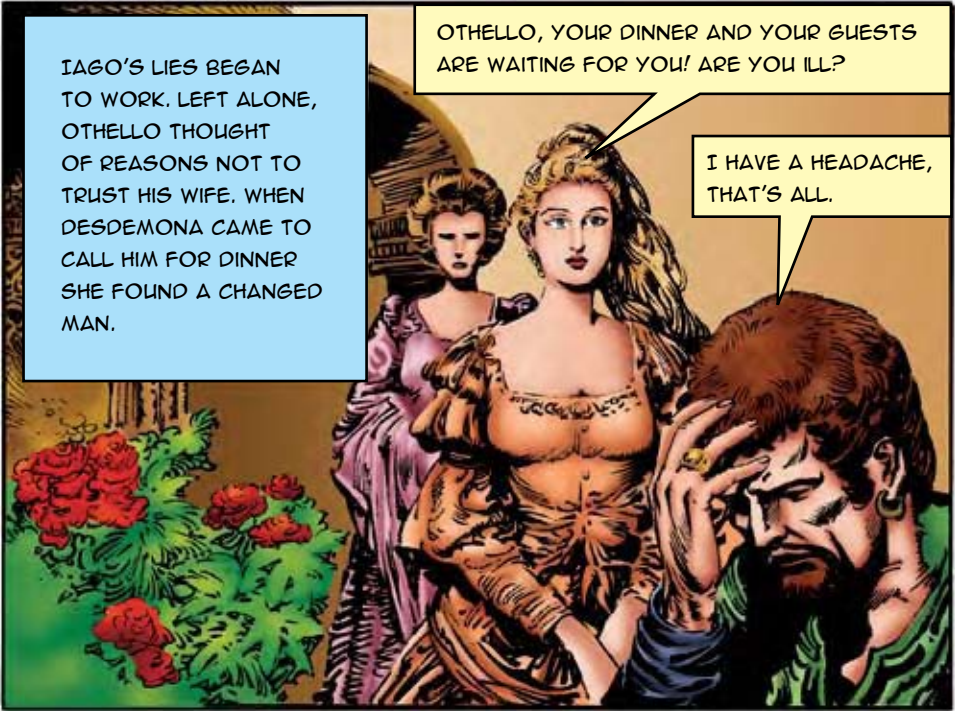
WHY DID I MARRY? HONEST IAGO SEEMS TO KNOW MORE THAN HE IS TELLING ME!

* help, warning

IAGO'S LIES BEGAN TO WORK. LEFT ALONE, OTHELLO THOUGHT OF REASONS NOT TO TRUST HIS WIFE. WHEN DESDEMONA CAME TO CALL HIM FOR DINNER SHE FOUND A CHANGED MAN.

OTHELLO, YOUR DINNER AND YOUR GUESTS ARE WAITING FOR YOU! ARE YOU ILL?

I HAVE A HEADACHE, THAT'S ALL.



LET ME TIE MY HANDKERCHIEF TIGHT AROUND YOUR HEAD, AND IT WILL GO AWAY.

NO! YOUR HANDKERCHIEF IS TOO LITTLE. LEAVE IT ALONE. I'LL COME WITH YOU.



AS OTHELLO AND DESDEMONA LEFT, EMILIA BENT OVER QUICKLY TO PICK UP THE HANDKERCHIEF THAT HAD FALLEN.

I'M GLAD I FOUND THIS. IT WAS DESDEMONA'S FIRST GIFT FROM OTHELLO AND SHE LOVES IT. BUT IAGO ORDERED ME TO STEAL IT. I HAVE NO IDEA WHY.





* hurt greatly

YOU HAD BETTER SHOW ME PROOF THAT WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, OR YOU WILL DIE!

O WORLD, TAKE NOTE! IT DOES NOT PAY TO BE AN HONEST MAN!

 A man with a beard and brown hair, wearing a green cloak over a red tunic, looks intensely at another man. The second man has long brown hair, a beard, and wears a purple hat with a large green feather. He is also wearing a red tunic. They are outdoors with trees in the background.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO TRUST YOU—MY GOOD FRIEND, OR HER—MY DARLING WIFE. GIVE ME PROOF OF WHAT YOU SAY!

FOR TWO NIGHTS I SLEPT IN CASSIO'S HOUSE. TWICE I HEARD HIM CRY OUT IN HIS SLEEP, "SWEET DES-DEMONA! LET US HIDE OUR LOVE FROM OTHELLO!"

 The man in the green cloak is speaking to the man in the purple hat. The man in the purple hat has his hand raised as if gesturing while speaking.

AND THERE IS SOMETHING MORE—A HANDKERCHIEF WITH STRAWBERRIES ON IT.

THAT WAS MY FIRST GIFT TO DESDEMONA.

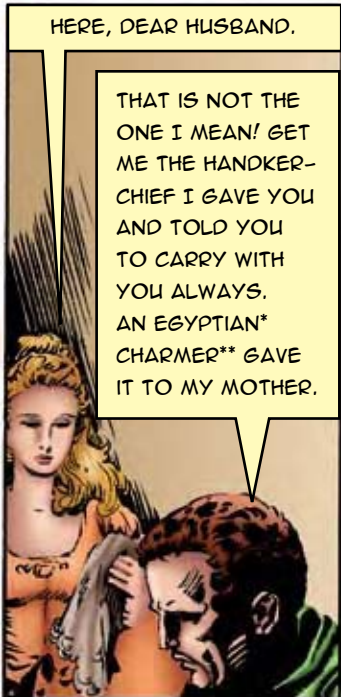
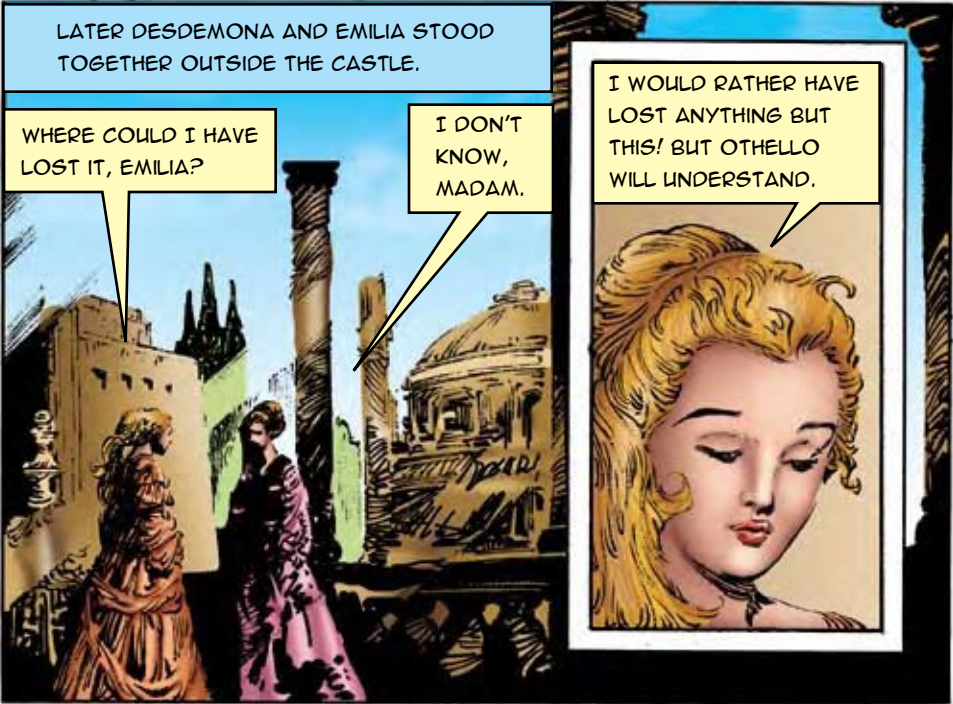
 The man in the green cloak is speaking to the man in the purple hat. The man in the purple hat is looking back at him.

WELL, I WOULDN'T KNOW THAT. BUT I SAW MICHAEL CASSIO WIPE HIS BEARD WITH IT TODAY!

 A close-up shot of the man in the purple hat, showing his face, beard, and the feather on his hat. He has a serious expression.

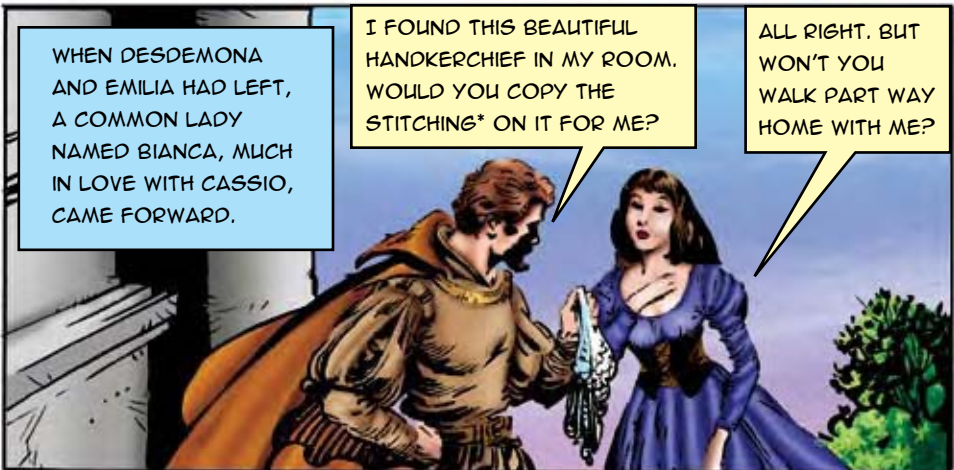
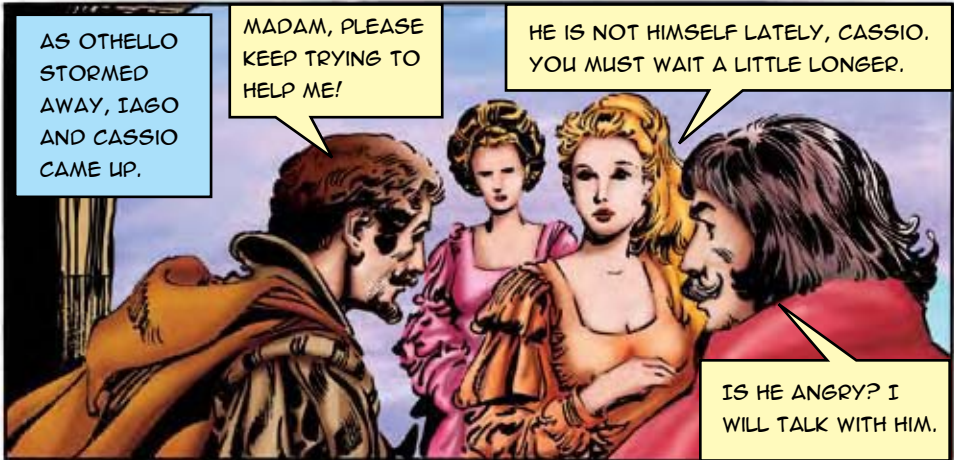


* next in command



* from Egypt, in northern Africa

** someone who has supernatural powers



* patterns worked into something with thread

LATER, WHEN HE MET OTHELLO AGAIN, IAGO WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT OTHELLO WAS STILL VERY ANGRY.

IF I GAVE MY WIFE A HANDKERCHIEF, THEN IT WOULD BE HERS TO GIVE TO WHOMEVER SHE LIKES, WOULDN'T IT?

I WOULD MOST GLADLY HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT! BUT HE *DID* HAVE MY WIFE'S HANDKERCHIEF.



SUPPOSE CASSIO WENT ABOUT BRAGGING THAT HE SLEPT WITH HER?

HAS HE DONE THAT?



OH YES, SIR!

DID HE? I CAN'T STAND THIS ANYMORE!



AND WITH THESE WORDS OTHELLO FAINTED.

AT THAT MOMENT CASSIO CAME UP.

WHAT'S
WRONG?

OTHELLO FAINTED, BUT
I'M TAKING CARE OF
HIM. LEAVE US ALONE
FOR A WHILE, AND
LATER I WOULD LIKE
TO SPEAK WITH YOU.



OTHELLO WOKE IN A FEW MOMENTS.

AFTER YOU FAINTED, CASSIO CAME
BY, BUT I SENT HIM AWAY. IF YOU WILL
HIDE YOURSELF, I WILL QUESTION HIM
ABOUT DESDEMONA WHEN HE RE-
TURNS. YOU CAN WATCH HIS FACE EVEN
IF YOU CAN'T HEAR WHAT HE SAYS.

ALL RIGHT.



OTHELLO DID AS IAGO SAID.
BUT WORSE THINGS WERE
ABOUT TO HAPPEN.

NOW I WILL QUESTION CASSIO
ABOUT THAT WOMAN, BIANCA,
WHO LOVES HIM SO MUCH.
OTHELLO WILL THINK HE IS SPEAK-
ING ABOUT DESDEMONA.



IN A MOMENT CASSIO WAS BACK.

CASSIO, YOU MUST KEEP ON ASKING DESDEMONA'S HELP. NOW, IF BIANCA WERE HELPING YOU, HOW QUICKLY ALL THIS WOULD GET DONE!

AH, YES, GOOD OLD BIANCA.



LOOK HOW HE SMILES AND LAUGHS IN TALKING ABOUT MY WIFE'S LOVE FOR HIM!



I NEVER SAW A WOMAN SO IN LOVE WITH A MAN!

ALAS, POOR SILLY WOMAN. SHE DOES SEEM TO LOVE ME!

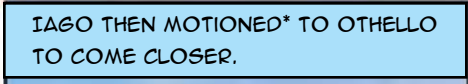
I WILL GET EVEN WITH THEM BOTH!





THEY SAY YOU WILL SOON BE MARRYING HER!

SHE THINKS THAT BECAUSE IT'S HER DREAM, NOT MINE!



IAGO THEN MOTIONED* TO OTHELLO TO COME CLOSER.

SHE FOLLOWS ME ALL OVER THE PLACE AND HANGS ABOUT MY NECK I CAN'T GET RID OF HER!



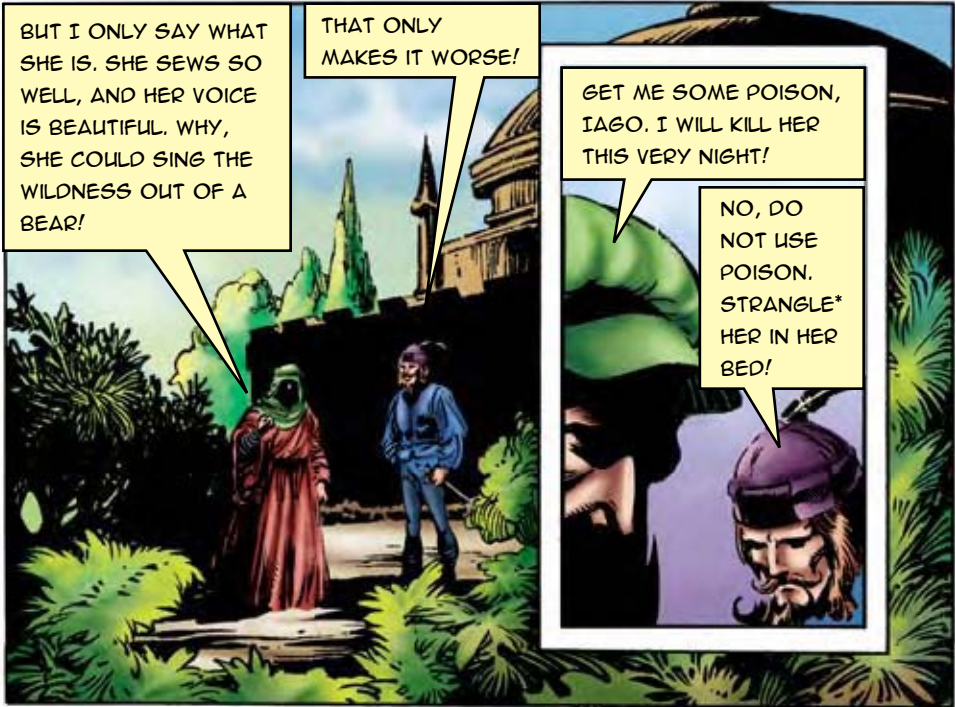
JUST THEN BIANCA DREW NEAR WITH THE HANDKERCHIEF IN HER HAND.

I AM NOT GOING TO SPEND MY TIME COPYING THE WORK THAT SOME OTHER WOMAN HAS GIVEN YOU!

WHY, THAT IS THE HANDKERCHIEF I GAVE DESDEMONA!

* made a movement with one's hand





BUT I ONLY SAY WHAT SHE IS. SHE SEWS SO WELL, AND HER VOICE IS BEAUTIFUL. WHY, SHE COULD SING THE WILDNESS OUT OF A BEAR!

THAT ONLY MAKES IT WORSE!

GET ME SOME POISON, IAGO. I WILL KILL HER THIS VERY NIGHT!

NO, DO NOT USE POISON. STRANGLE* HER IN HER BED!



AND LET ME TAKE CARE OF CASSIO. YOU SHALL HEAR MORE ABOUT THIS BY MIDNIGHT.

VERY GOOD!



JUST THEN A TRUMPET SOUNDED.

WHAT IS THIS?

IT MUST MEAN A VISITOR FROM VENICE.

* choke



AT THAT MOMENT, LODOVICO, ONE OF DESDEMONA'S RELATIVES* FROM VENICE, CAME FORWARD.

GREETINGS, GOOD GENERAL! THE DUKE SENDS YOU THIS LETTER.



AND WHAT'S THE NEWS, GOOD COUSIN LODOVICO?

I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU, SIR. WELCOME TO CYPRUS.

I THANK YOU. HOW IS LIEUTENANT CASSIO?



HE IS ALIVE.

THERE HAS BEEN A PROBLEM BETWEEN HIM AND MY HUSBAND. BUT I AM SURE THAT YOU WILL MAKE ALL THINGS WELL AGAIN.

ARE YOU SO SURE OF THAT?

* people belonging to the same family



PARDON ME?

SO—THERE IS A PROBLEM BETWEEN OTHELLO AND CASSIO.



A MOST UNHAPPY ONE. I WOULD DO MUCH TO MAKE THEM FRIENDS AGAIN, FOR THE LOVE I FEEL TOWARD CASSIO!



WHAT?

IS HE ANGRY?

IT MAY BE THE LETTER. HE HAS JUST BEEN ORDERED BACK TO VENICE, AND CASSIO HAS BEEN PUT IN COMMAND HERE IN CYPRUS.



OH, I'M GLAD!

AND AT THAT, BEFORE ALL THE COMPANY, OTHELLO STRUCK DESDEMONA IN THE FACE.

THEY ARE CROCODILE TEARS.* GET OUT OF MY SIGHT, WOMAN! I'LL SEND FOR YOU LATER.

I HAVE NOT DESERVED THIS!

SIR! THIS WOULD NOT BE BELIEVED IN VENICE! BEG HER PARDON! SHE WEEPS!



SIR, I OBEY THE ORDER. I WILL RETURN TO VENICE AND LEAVE CASSIO HERE IN MY PLACE. NOW PLEASE EXCUSE ME.

LODOVICO WAS SHOCKED TO SEE OTHELLO STRIKE DESDEMONA. HE SPOKE TO IAGO.

IS THIS THE NOBLE MOOR OUR SENATE ADMIRES SO?

HE IS MUCH CHANGED. I ONLY HOPE THIS IS THE WORST HE DOES!



* false tears

LATER, OTHELLO QUESTIONED EMILIA ABOUT DESDEMONA.

HAVE YOU NOTICED DESDEMONA AND CASSIO TRYING TO BE ALONE? HAVE THEY SENT YOU AWAY ON SOME SMALL EXCUSE?

OF COURSE NOT! SHE IS THE MOST HONEST, FAITHFUL WOMAN I KNOW. IF ANYONE HAS PUT THIS THOUGHT INTO YOUR HEAD, A SNAKE SHOULD STRIKE HIM!



ALL RIGHT. GO NOW, AND BRING DESDEMONA HERE.

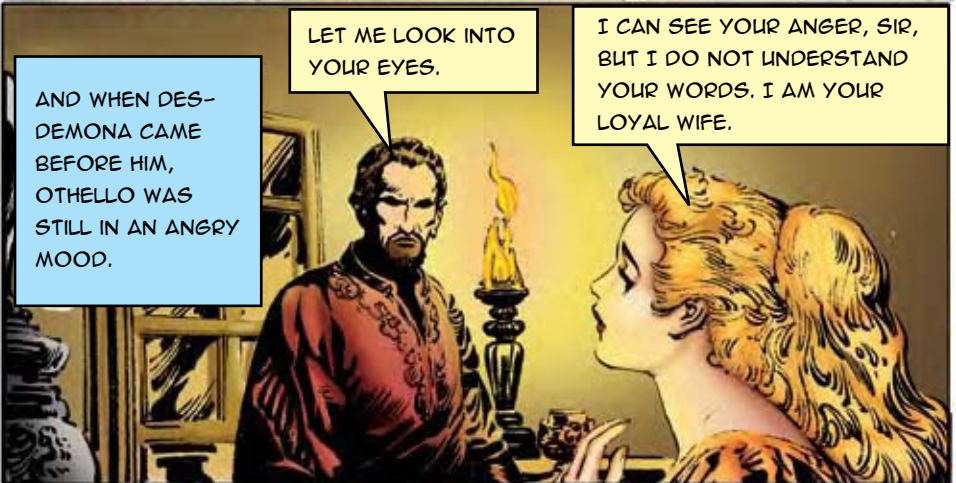
I DON'T BELIEVE EMILIA EITHER.



AND WHEN DESDEMONA CAME BEFORE HIM, OTHELLO WAS STILL IN AN ANGRY MOOD.

LET ME LOOK INTO YOUR EYES.

I CAN SEE YOUR ANGER, SIR, BUT I DO NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR WORDS. I AM YOUR LOYAL WIFE.



ARE YOU NOT AN UNFAITHFUL WIFE WHO HAS FALLEN IN LOVE WITH ANOTHER MAN?

NEVER! MY ONLY WISH HAS BEEN TO SERVE AND PLEASE YOU!

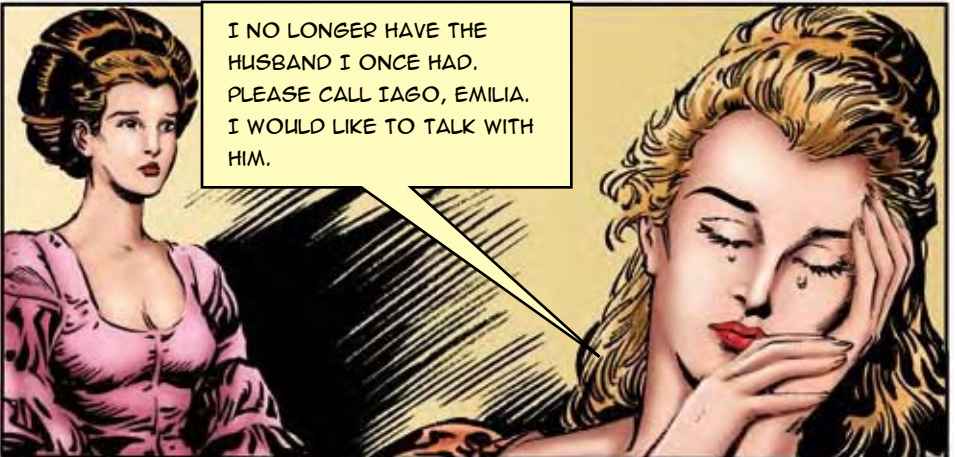


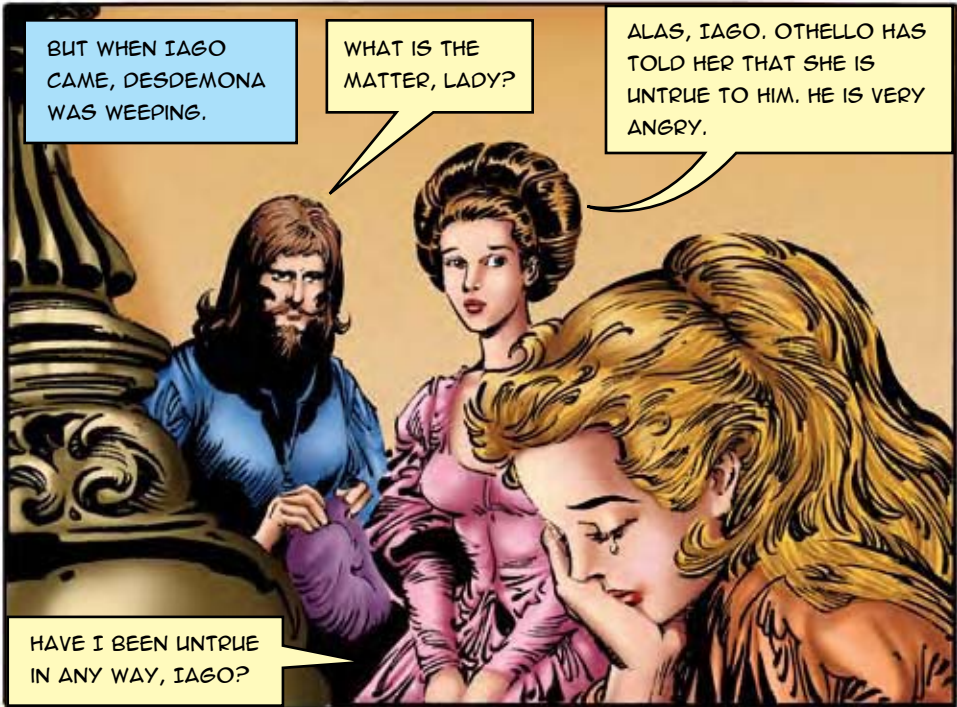
BUT OTHELLO'S JEALOUSY HAD GONE TOO FAR. DESDEMONA COULD NO LONGER REACH HIM WITH HER SIMPLE WORDS.

GOOD LADY, WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOUR HUSBAND?



I NO LONGER HAVE THE HUSBAND I ONCE HAD. PLEASE CALL IAGO, EMILIA. I WOULD LIKE TO TALK WITH HIM.



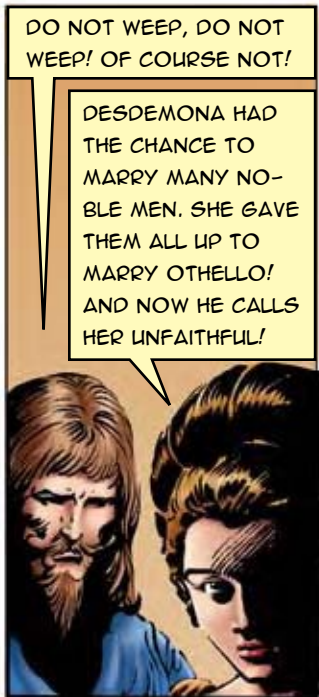


BUT WHEN IAGO CAME, DESDEMONA WAS WEEPING.

WHAT IS THE MATTER, LADY?

ALAS, IAGO. OTHELLO HAS TOLD HER THAT SHE IS UNTRUE TO HIM. HE IS VERY ANGRY.

HAVE I BEEN UNTRUE IN ANY WAY, IAGO?



DO NOT WEEP, DO NOT WEEP! OF COURSE NOT!

DESDEMONA HAD THE CHANCE TO MARRY MANY NOBLE MEN. SHE GAVE THEM ALL UP TO MARRY OTHELLO! AND NOW HE CALLS HER UNFAITHFUL!

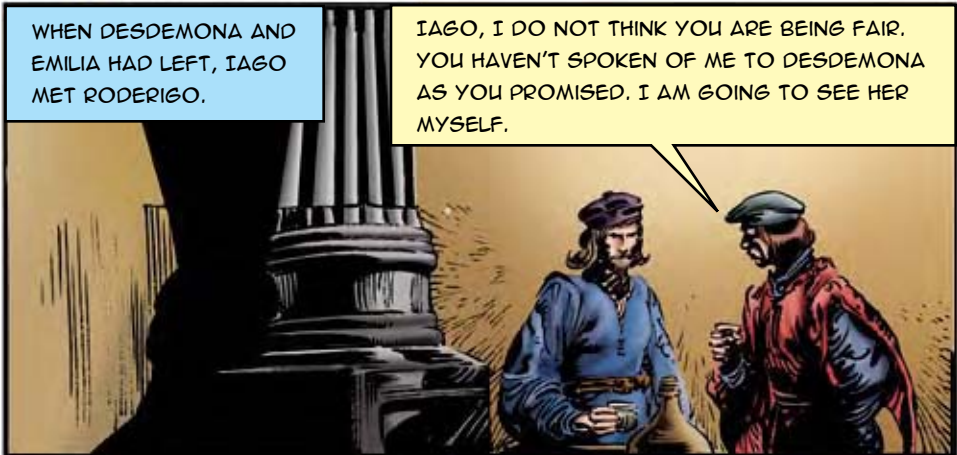
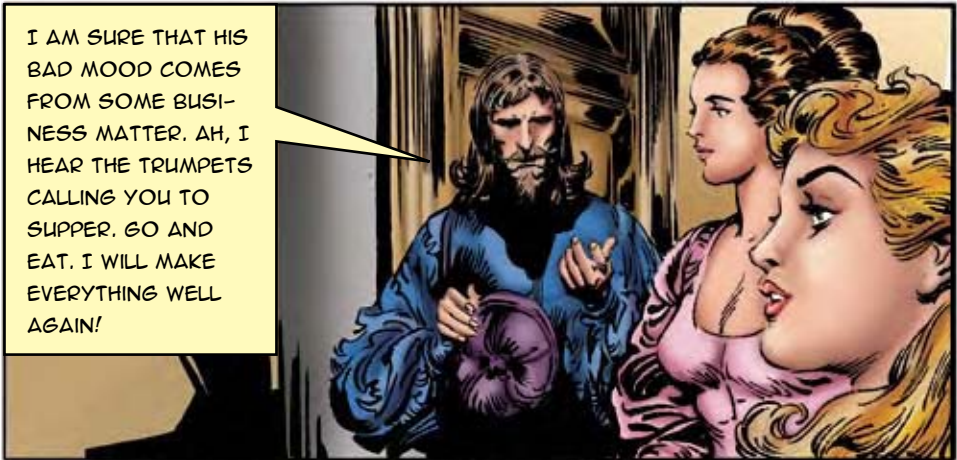


HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

PERHAPS SOME EVIL PERSON—IN ORDER TO GAIN SOME HIGH RANK—HAS DONE THIS AWFUL THING!



O GOOD IAGO, WHAT SHALL I DO TO WIN HIM BACK AGAIN? PLEASE GO TO HIM FOR ME!

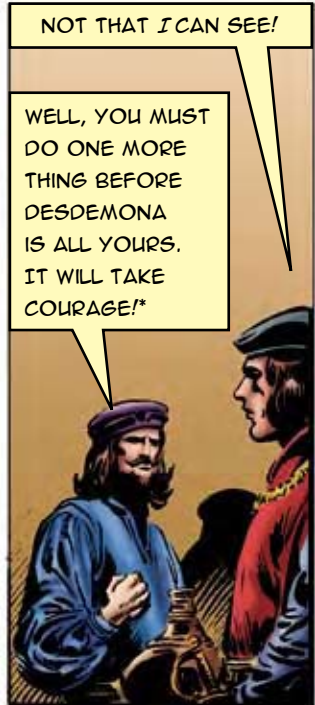




WELL, RODERIGO, YOU DO HAVE SOME NERVE AFTER ALL! I THINK THE BETTER OF YOU FOR IT.

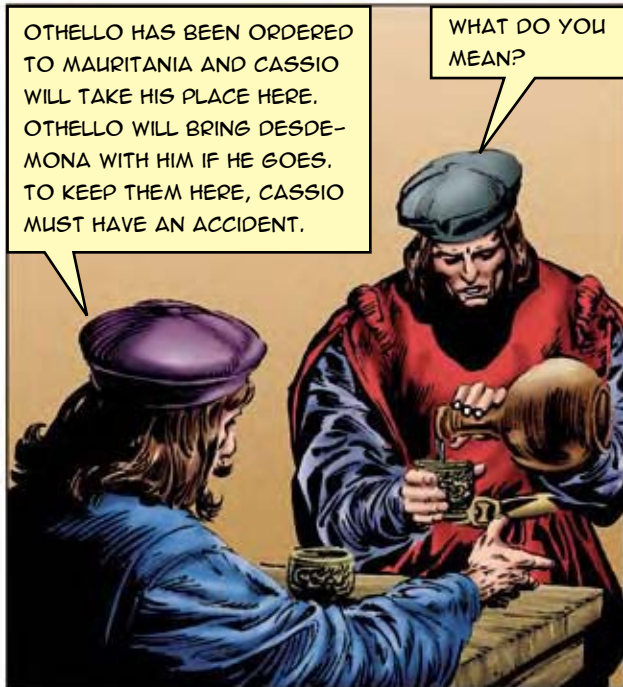


BUT I HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR YOU!



NOT THAT I CAN SEE!

WELL, YOU MUST DO ONE MORE THING BEFORE DESDEMONA IS ALL YOURS. IT WILL TAKE COURAGE!*



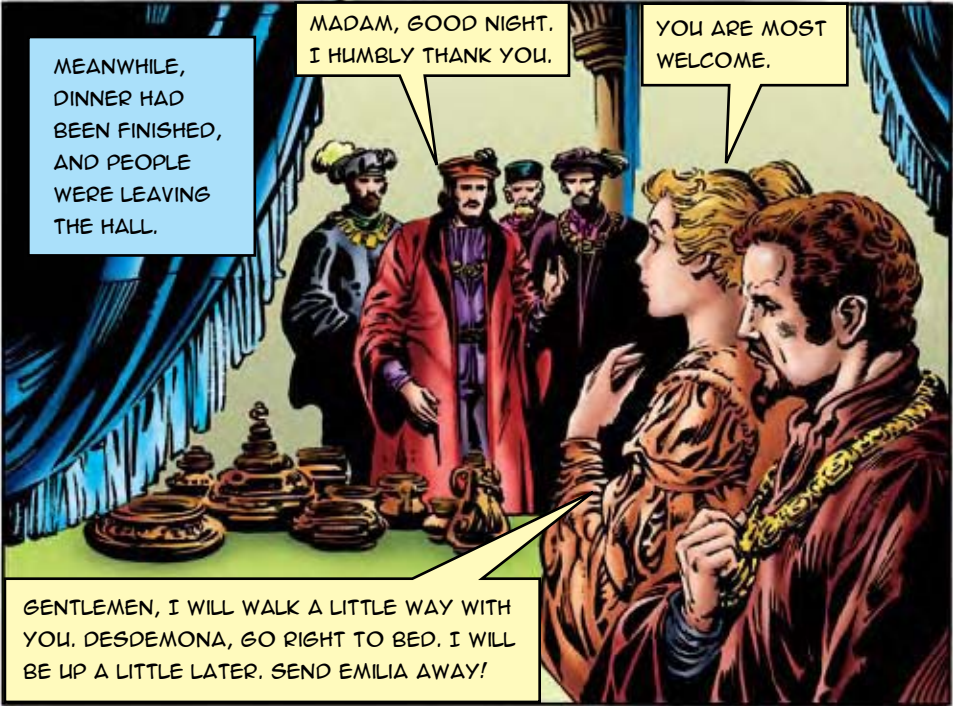
OTHELLO HAS BEEN ORDERED TO MAURITANIA AND CASSIO WILL TAKE HIS PLACE HERE. OTHELLO WILL BRING DESDEMONA WITH HIM IF HE GOES. TO KEEP THEM HERE, CASSIO MUST HAVE AN ACCIDENT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



CASSIO MUST BE KILLED—OTHERWISE DESDEMONA WILL BE LOST TO YOU. AND JUST AS YOU WERE ABOUT TO WIN HER!

* bravery, daring



MEANWHILE, DINNER HAD BEEN FINISHED, AND PEOPLE WERE LEAVING THE HALL.

MADAM, GOOD NIGHT. I HUMBLY THANK YOU.

YOU ARE MOST WELCOME.

GENTLEMEN, I WILL WALK A LITTLE WAY WITH YOU. DESDEMONA, GO RIGHT TO BED. I WILL BE UP A LITTLE LATER. SEND EMILIA AWAY!



LATER, IN THE BEDROOM, DESDEMONA SPOKE WITH EMILIA.

HELP ME WITH MY THINGS, EMILIA, AND THEN LEAVE. OTHELLO HAS ORDERED IT, AND WE MUST NOT DISPLEASE HIM.

I WISH YOU HAD NEVER SEEN HIM!



AH, BUT I STILL LOVE HIM. GOOD NIGHT, EMILIA, GOOD NIGHT.

LATER THAT NIGHT, IAGO AND RODERIGO WAITED FOR CASSIO TO PASS BY.

STAND BEHIND THIS WALL AND KEEP YOUR SWORD READY. FEAR NOTHING, AND BE QUICK!

STAY NEAR ME IN CASE I MISS HIM.



I'VE MADE RODERIGO MAD ENOUGH TO KILL CASSIO. BUT WHETHER HE KILLS CASSIO OR CASSIO KILLS HIM—OR THEY KILL EACH OTHER, I WILL GAIN.

IF CASSIO LIVES, HE WILL FIND OUT ABOUT ME AND TELL OTHELLO. HE *MUST* DIE!



HERE HE COMES! DIE, CASSIO!

THAT MISSED ME, BUT I'VE HURT HIM INSTEAD.

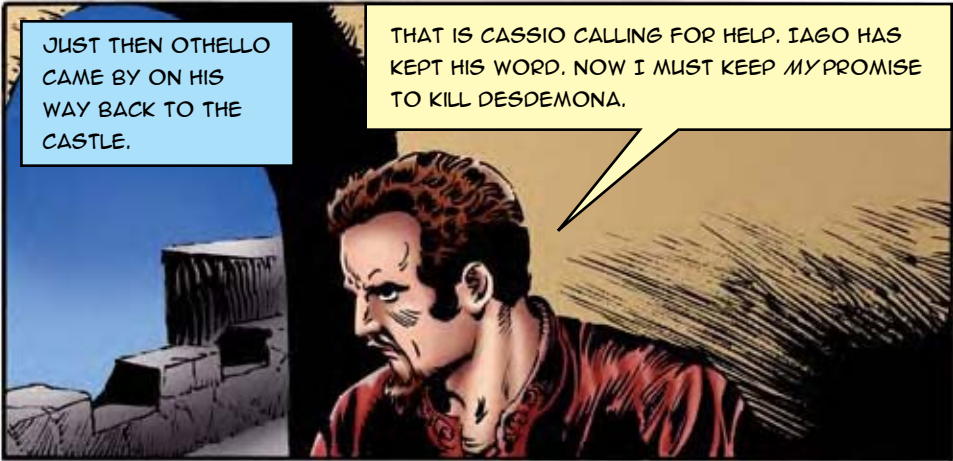


CASSIO WOUNDED* RODERIGO. BUT FROM BEHIND, IAGO DROVE HIS SWORD INTO CASSIO'S LEG.

NOW I AM HURT! HELP! MURDER!



* hurt, as with a knife



JUST THEN OTHELLO CAME BY ON HIS WAY BACK TO THE CASTLE.

THAT IS CASSIO CALLING FOR HELP. IAGO HAS KEPT HIS WORD. NOW I MUST KEEP MY PROMISE TO KILL DESDEMONA.

SOON AFTER THIS, DESDEMONA'S COUSIN LODOVICO AND ANOTHER RELATIVE NAMED GRATIANO CAME BY. THEY HAD BEEN DRAWN TO THE SAME SPOT BY CRIES OF CASSIO AND RODERIGO. IAGO CAME FORTH AS THOUGH HE HAD JUST ARRIVED.



WHO CRIES MURDER?

WE DON'T KNOW!

IAGO, PLEASE HELP ME! I HAVE BEEN STABBED. ONE OF THE MEN WHO DID IT IS NEARBY AND IS ALSO HURT.



HELP ME, HERE!

THAT'S ONE OF THEM!

QUICKLY, AND WITHOUT BEING SEEN, IAGO STABBED RODERIGO, AND RODERIGO GREW STILL.

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE WHO KILL MEN IN THE DARK? MURDER! MURDER! WAKE THE TOWNSPEOPLE!



JUST THEN, BIANCA CAME BY AND FOUND CASSIO.

WHO CALLS MURDER? OH, MY DEAR CASSIO!

CASSIO, DO YOU KNOW WHO TRIED TO KILL YOU? THIS WOMAN MAY HAVE BEEN ONE OF THEM!



CASSIO MUST BE CARRIED AWAY TO BE TAKEN CARE OF. BUT GOOD HEAVENS! THE OTHER MAN IS RODERIGO!

I KNOW HIM FROM VENICE!



MEN, CARRY HIM CAREFULLY! CASSIO, DO YOU KNOW WHY RODERIGO WANTED TO KILL YOU?

NOT AT ALL. I DON'T EVEN KNOW HIM.



GENTLEMEN, LOOK HOW PALE THIS WOMAN IS. HER GUILT* SHOWS IN HER FACE.

JUST THEN EMILIA CAME BY.

WHAT IS THE MATTER HERE, IAGO?

CASSIO WAS ATTACKED IN THE DARK BY RODERIGO. CASSIO IS HURT, AND RODERIGO IS DEAD!

WAS CASSIO AT YOUR HOUSE EARLIER? ANSWER, WOMAN!

CASSIO WAS AT MY HOUSE, BUT I AM AN HONEST WOMAN. I HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG.

EMILIA, RUN TO THE CASTLE AND TELL OTHELLO WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

THIS IS THE NIGHT THAT EITHER SOLVES MY PROBLEMS OR KILLS ME FOR TRYING!

* knowing that someone has done wrong

WHILE ALL THIS WAS TAKING PLACE OUTSIDE THE CASTLE, OTHELLO HAD RETURNED TO HIS BEDROOM AND FOUND DESDEMONA ASLEEP.

YOU ARE THE CAUSE OF IT ALL! BUT I WILL NOT SHED YOUR BLOOD, FOR YOU ARE TOO BEAUTIFUL FOR THAT. STILL. . . YOU MUST DIE!



I WEEP FOR YOU, BUT THEY ARE TEARS THAT HAVE BROUGHT ME TOO MUCH SUFFERING. AH, SHE'S WAKING UP.



WHO'S THERE?
OTHELLO!



HAVE YOU PRAYED TONIGHT, DESDEMONA?



YES, DEAR HUSBAND.

IF YOU WANT TO ASK GOD'S PARDON FOR ANYTHING, DO IT NOW. I WOULD NOT WANT TO KILL YOUR SOUL!



ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ME? MY ONLY SIN IS THAT OF LOVING YOU TOO MUCH.

WHAT ABOUT THE HANDKERCHIEF I GAVE YOU? YOU GAVE IT TO CASSIO!



I DID NOT! SEND FOR THE MAN AND ASK HIM!

BUT I SAW THE HANDKERCHIEF IN HIS HAND. HE ALSO BRAGGED THAT YOU LOVED HIM!



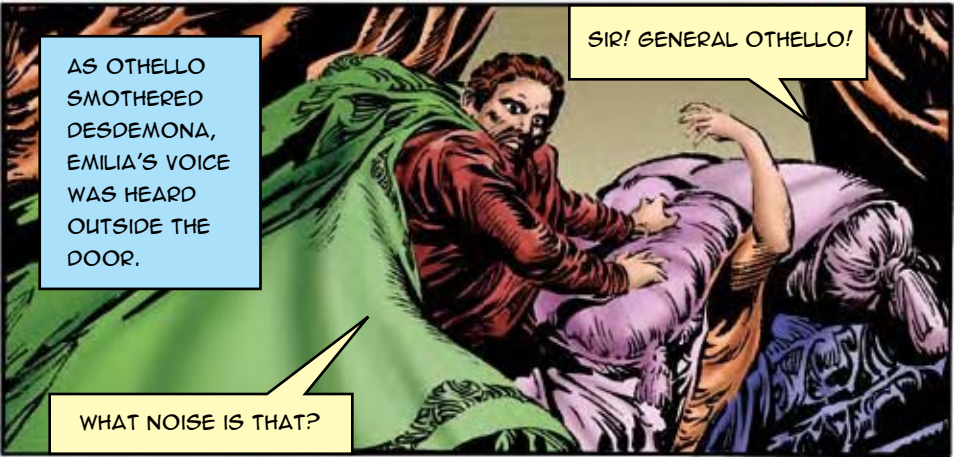
SEND FOR HIM!

HE IS DEAD! IAGO HAS TAKEN CARE OF THAT.



OH, HUSBAND! LET ME LIVE TONIGHT. . . KILL ME TOMORROW! OR AT LEAST GIVE ME MORE TIME TO PRAY!

NO, THIS IS THE END. I DARE NOT WAIT ANY LONGER.



AS OTHELLO SMOTHERED DESDEMONA, EMILIA'S VOICE WAS HEARD OUTSIDE THE DOOR.

SIR! GENERAL OTHELLO!

WHAT NOISE IS THAT?



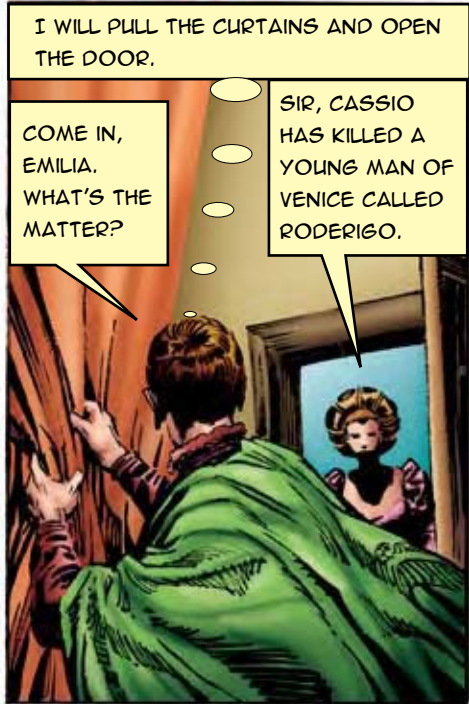
SIR, I MUST SPEAK A WORD WITH YOU!

THAT IS EMILIA. SHE'S COME TO TELL ME OF CASSIO'S DEATH.



IF SHE COMES IN SHE'LL SEE THAT MY WIFE IS DEAD! MY WIFE—WHAT WIFE? I NO LONGER HAVE A WIFE!

SIR, I BEG YOU. I MUST SPEAK WITH YOU!



I WILL PULL THE CURTAINS AND OPEN THE DOOR.

COME IN, EMILIA. WHAT'S THE MATTER?

SIR, CASSIO HAS KILLED A YOUNG MAN OF VENICE CALLED RODERIGO.



AND CASSIO IS KILLED?

NO, CASSIO IS NOT KILLED.

OH, WRONGLY, WRONGLY MURDERED!



WHOSE CRY IS THAT?

THAT WAS DESDEMONA'S VOICE! SWEET DESDEMONA, SPEAK! WHO DID THIS TO YOU?

I, MYSELF. FAREWELL!

This panel shows Othello, a man with a beard and a green cloak, looking at Desdemona, a woman in a pink dress with her hair in a large bun. He has a concerned and questioning expression. She looks distressed and is looking away from him.

NO—I KILLED HER!

THEN SHE IS AN ANGEL AND YOU ARE A DEVIL!

This panel is a close-up of Desdemona and Othello. Desdemona is on the left, looking at Othello with a look of intense shock and disbelief. Othello is on the right, looking back at her with a grim, determined expression.

SHE WAS FALSE!*

SHE WAS TRUE!

This panel shows Othello and Desdemona from a slightly different angle. Othello is on the left, looking at Desdemona with a look of accusation. Desdemona is on the right, looking back at him with a look of defiance and pain.

YOUR HUSBAND PROVED TO ME THAT SHE WAS FALSE. HE KNEW IT ALL!

MY HUSBAND?

This panel shows Othello and Desdemona in a close embrace. Othello is on the left, looking at Desdemona with a look of intense anger and accusation. Desdemona is on the right, looking at him with a look of shock and confusion.

* unfaithful



IF MY HUSBAND SAID THAT, MAY HIS SOUL ROT FOREVER! YOU MAY KILL ME TOO, BUT I WILL SPEAK THE TRUTH. HELP! HELP! OTHELLO HAS MURDERED HIS WIFE!

AT THAT, PEOPLE RUSHED INTO THE ROOM.



WHAT IS THE MATTER?

IAGO, YOU HAVE DONE IT NOW. THESE MURDERS ALL LEAD BACK TO YOUR PLANNING!

PROVE THAT YOU ARE HONEST IF YOU CAN! OTHELLO SAID YOU TOLD HIM THAT HIS WIFE WAS FALSE!



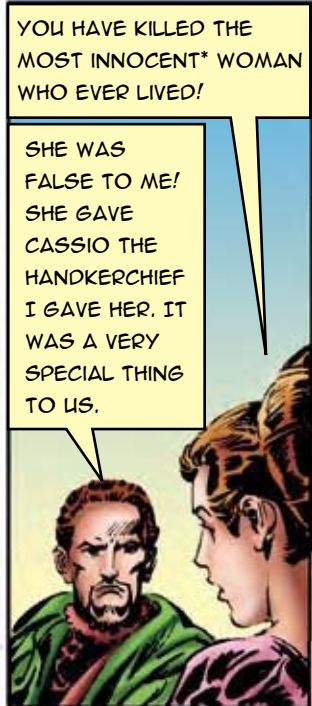


DID YOU TELL HIM THAT?

I ONLY TOLD HIM WHAT I THOUGHT. NOW BE QUIET!



I WILL SPEAK! DESDEMONA LIES HERE—MURDERED IN HER BED BECAUSE OF YOUR LIES!



YOU HAVE KILLED THE MOST INNOCENT* WOMAN WHO EVER LIVED!

SHE WAS FALSE TO ME! SHE GAVE CASSIO THE HANDKERCHIEF I GAVE HER. IT WAS A VERY SPECIAL THING TO US.



OH, NO!



IF IT COSTS ME MY LIFE, I WILL TELL THE TRUTH!

* having done nothing wrong

IAGO BEGGED ME TO STEAL THE HANDKERCHIEF, BUT I FOUND IT AND GAVE IT TO HIM.

YOU LIE!



WITH THAT, IAGO PLUNGED HIS SWORD INTO EMILIA AND RAN OUT OF THE ROOM.

SOMEONE STAND AT THE DOOR AND GUARD OTHELLO WHILE WE GO AFTER IAGO!



OH DESDEMONA, DESDEMONA!

THE MEN SOON CAME BACK WITH IAGO.

I KNOW YOU ARE A DEVIL, SO I CAN ONLY HURT YOU—I CAN'T KILL YOU.



TAKE OTHELLO'S SWORD!

AT THIS, CASSIO DREW NEAR AS LODOVICO QUESTIONED OTHELLO.

DID YOU AND IAGO PLAN TO KILL CASSIO?

YES, WE DID.





DEAR OTHELLO, I NEVER GAVE YOU REASON TO HATE ME SO!

I DO BELIEVE IT NOW. BUT WHY DID IAGO DO THIS TO ME?

WHAT YOU KNOW, YOU KNOW. I WILL NEVER SPEAK AGAIN.



WE WILL MAKE HIM TALK.

WAIT! THE LETTERS FOUND IN RODERIGO'S POCKET SHOW HOW IAGO USED HIM TO STIR UP TROUBLE FOR CASSIO. THEY SAY ALSO THAT IAGO TOOK RODERIGO'S MONEY AND JEWELS, PRETENDING TO GIVE THEM TO DESDEMONA.



CASSIO, HOW DID YOU GET MY WIFE'S HANDKERCHIEF?

I FOUND IT IN MY ROOM. IAGO CONFESSED* THAT HE PUT IT THERE.

* admitted



NOW YOU MUST COME WITH US, OTHELLO. CASSIO WILL BE IN CHARGE HERE IN CYPRUS.



I HAVE LOYALLY* SERVED THE STATE OF VENICE. WHEN YOU TELL THEM WHAT I HAVE DONE, PLEASE SPEAK OF ME AS ONE THAT LOVED NOT WISELY, BUT TOO WELL.



ONCE, IN ANOTHER LAND, I PROTECTED A MAN OF VENICE FROM A TURK WHO HAD ATTACKED HIM. I KILLED THE TURK—LIKE THIS.

THEN OTHELLO PULLED A HIDDEN KNIFE FROM HIS SHIRT AND STABBED HIMSELF.

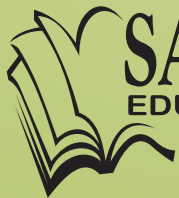
* faithfully, well



* the ruler of a state

Othello

A beautiful love story turns to tragedy when jealousy takes root. The powerful general, Othello, finds himself hurting the one person he loves most in the world, his wife, Desdemona, when he misplaces his trust in Iago. Treacherous and vindictive, Iago is enraged at being passed over for a promotion and plots his revenge against Othello setting off a chain of events that ends in the ultimate sacrifice.



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