



SADDLEBACK
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING


Saddleback's
Illustrated Classics

Othello

**WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE**



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!

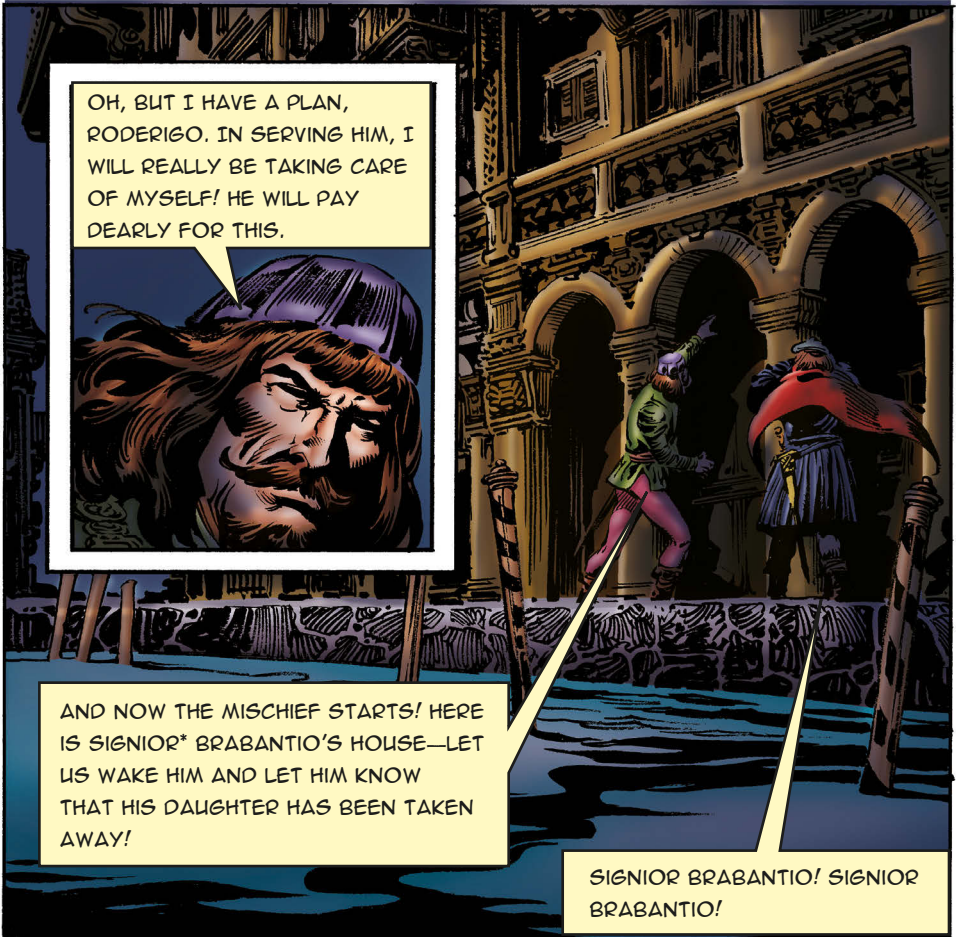
WELL, I WOULDN'T
CONTINUE TO
SERVE HIM IF I
FELT THAT WAY.



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

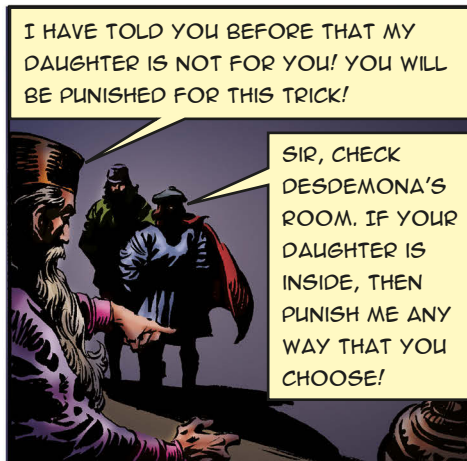


AND NOW THE MISCHIEF STARTS! HERE
IS SIGNIOR* BRABANTIO'S HOUSE—LET
US WAKE HIM AND LET HIM KNOW
THAT HIS DAUGHTER HAS BEEN TAKEN
AWAY!



SIGNIOR BRABANTIO! SIGNIOR
BRABANTIO!

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



* 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!

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



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

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

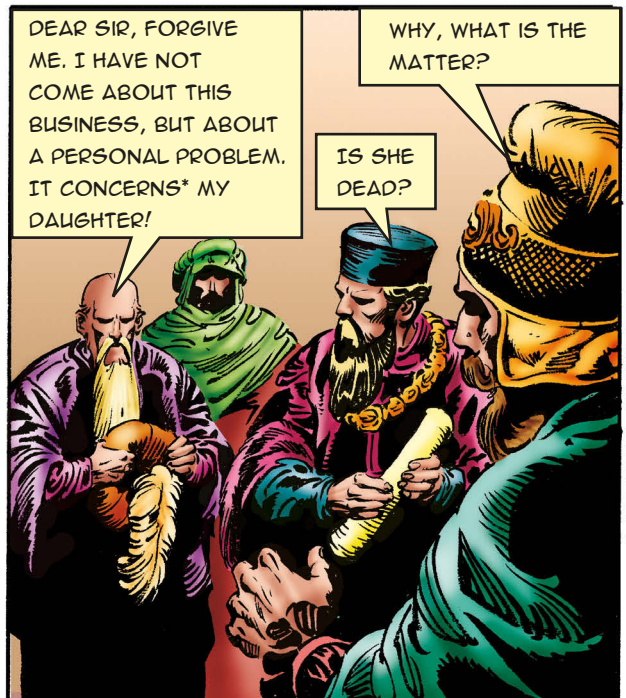
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU DIDN'T, IAGO. I LOVE HIS DAUGHTER DESDEMONA, AND I THINK THAT HE WILL COME TO SEE MY SIDE OF THINGS.





* an island in the Mediterranean Sea near Turkey

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



* 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.

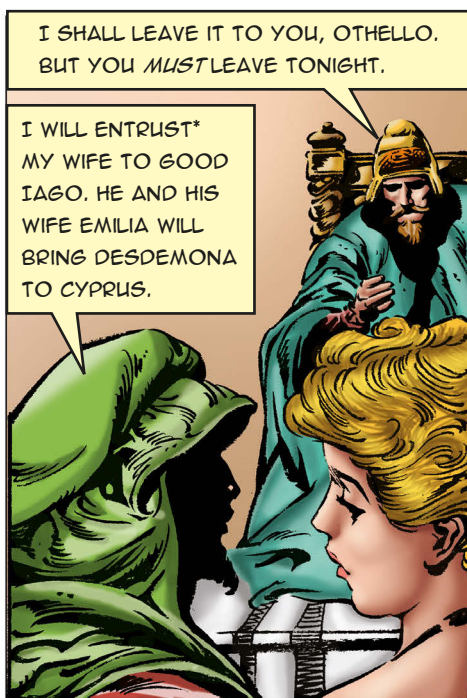
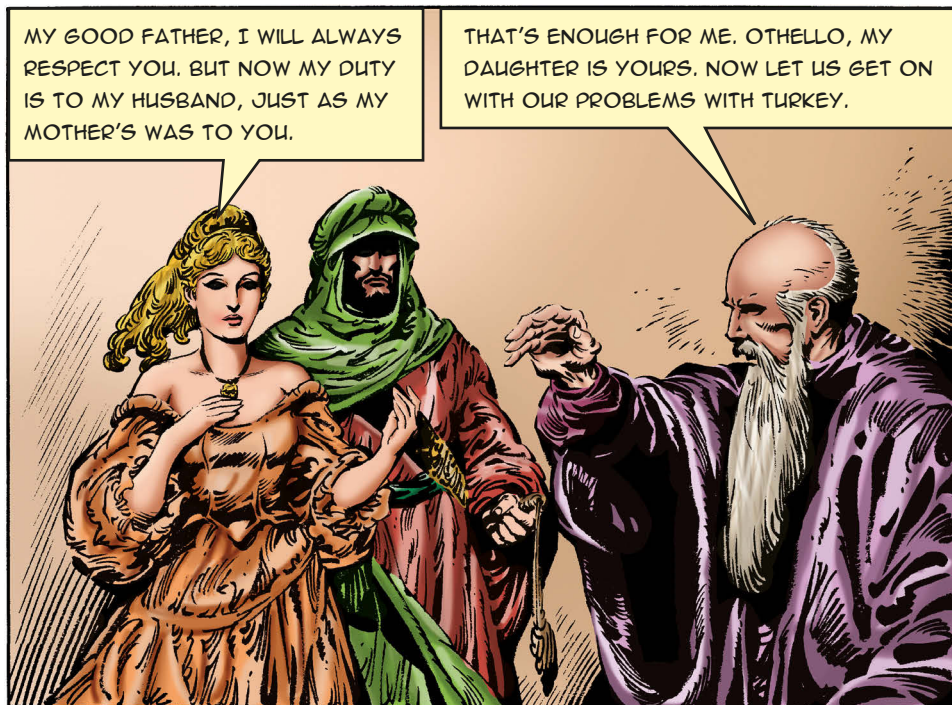


I THINK MY VERY OWN
DAUGHTER WOULD
HAVE DONE THE SAME.



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





* 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

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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