

 **SADDLEBACK**  
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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!

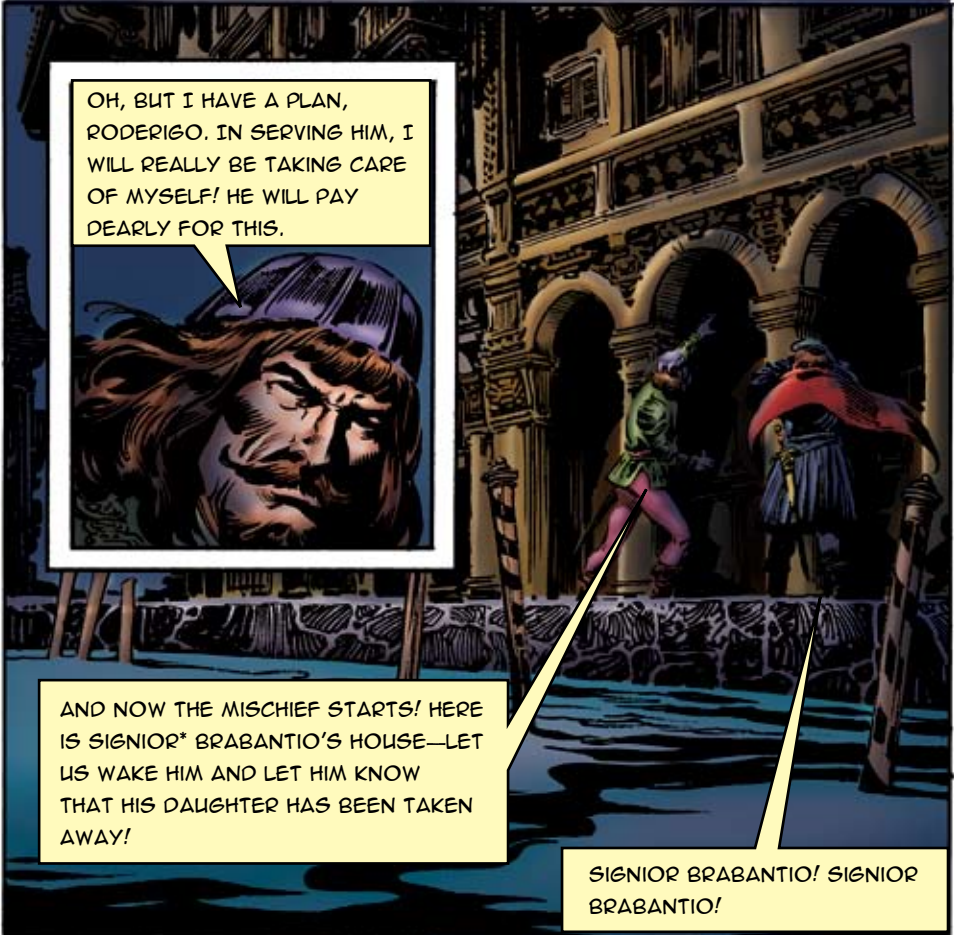
WELL, I WOULDN'T CONTINUE TO SERVE HIM IF I FELT THAT WAY.



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



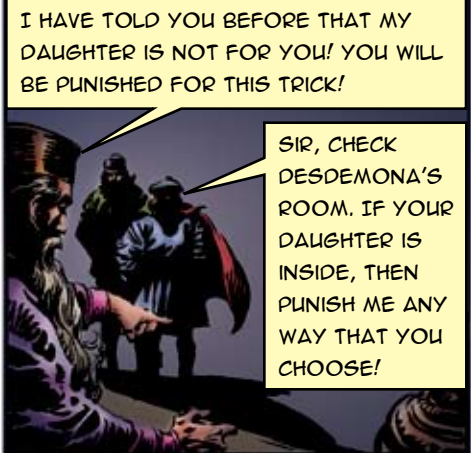
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF ALL THIS NOISE AT THIS HOUR OF THE NIGHT?

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



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 CAREFUL, 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

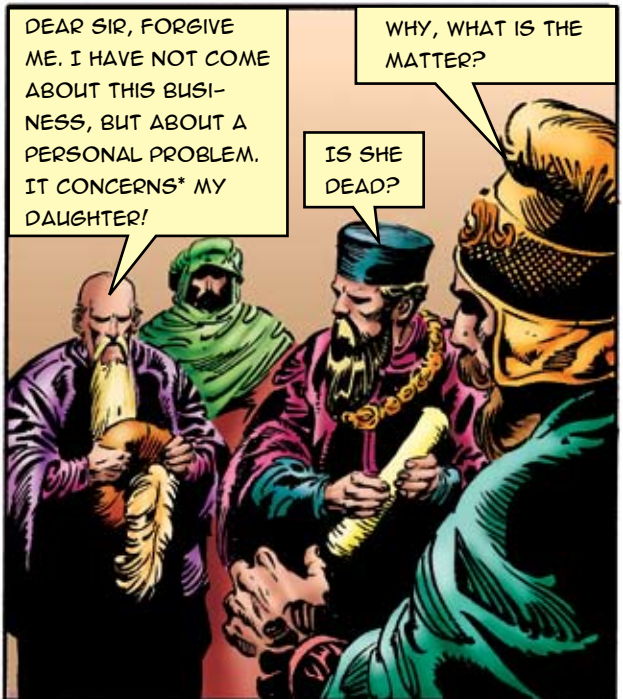


MEANWHILE, THE DUKE AND HIS ADVISORS WERE WAITING FOR OTHELLO.

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!

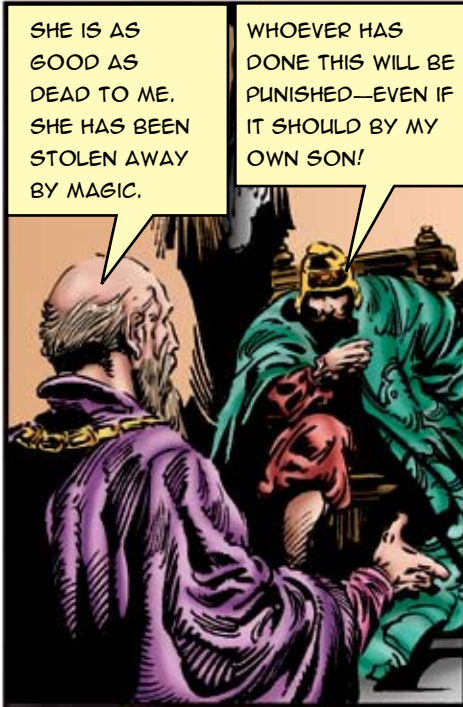


DEAR SIR, FORGIVE ME. I HAVE NOT COME ABOUT THIS BUSINESS, BUT ABOUT A PERSONAL PROBLEM. IT CONCERNS\* MY DAUGHTER!

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.

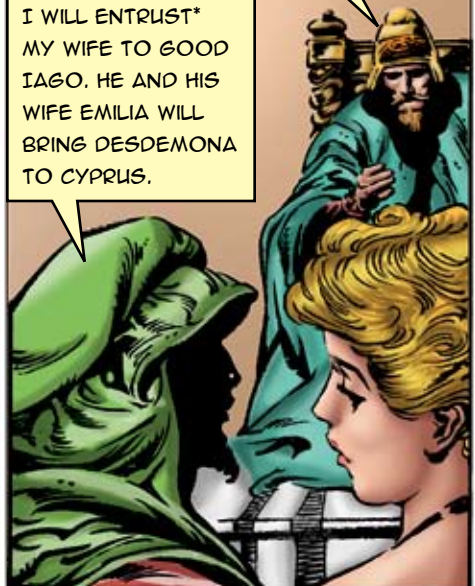


OTHELLO, YOU MUST SAIL AT ONCE FOR CYPRUS TO PROTECT IT FROM THE TURKS.

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

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

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



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

\* place something or someone in another's care

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