



CHARACTERS

OTHELLO, a noble Moor

BRABANTIO, Desdemona's father

CASSIO, Othello's lieutenant

IAGO, a villain

RODERIGO, a Venetian gentleman

DUKE OF VENICE

MONTANO, Governor of Cyprus

LODOVICO, a Venetian nobleman

GRATIANO, a Venetian nobleman

DESDEMONA, Othello's wife and Brabantio's daughter

EMILIA, Iago's wife

SOME WOMEN

SOME NOBLEMEN (3)

SERVANT

TAVERN MAN

SOLDIERS

Scene I

A street in Venice.

RODERIGO So, you hate Othello as much as I do.

IAGO Of course, I do. Everyone knows that I should be his new lieutenant. However, he has chosen Michael Cassio.

RODERIGO By heaven! How can you follow him then? How can you help him?

IAGO I follow him to get revenge.

RODERIGO And what about me? I love Desdemona but she loves Othello. I know they are together at this moment.

IAGO Tell her father. Brabantio's daughter with a Moor..., he will get furious.

RODERIGO Here is her father's house. I'll tell him. *(Shouting.)* Brabantio! Signior Brabantio! Hoa!

WOMAN 1 Please, stop shouting. This is not a tavern.

WOMAN 2 It's incredible, my friend. Nowadays, people are so rude.

WOMAN 1 Buff! Let's go to the market.

WOMAN 2 Yes, I need some beans and bread.

Brabantio enters.

BRABANTIO What is the matter there? Who are you?

RODERIGO My name is Roderigo.

BRABANTIO What do you want?

RODERIGO Sir, your beautiful daughter is in love with Othello, the Moor. They are together now.

BRABANTIO With the Moor? Where did you see her? Do you think they are married?

RODERIGO I think they are.

BRABANTIO Do you know where we can find them?

RODERIGO I think I can find the Moor. Come with me!

Scene II

The duke's palace.

NOBLEMAN 1 We are in danger. We must do something.

NOBLEMAN 2 Yes, my duke. The situation is horrible.

NOBLEMAN 3 People say Turkish army is really big.

DUKE Valiant Othello, I need your help against the Turks. Turkish ships are sailing towards Cyprus. We are in great danger.

SERVANT My lord, some noblemen want to see you.

DUKE Tell them to come.

SERVANT Inmediately, my duke.

Brabantio and Iago enter.

BRABANTIO Pardon me, my lord. I have a very big problem.

DUKE What's the matter?

BRABANTIO My daughter! Oh, my daughter!

DUKE Dead?

BRABANTIO Stolen, my lord. She has been stolen from me using magic.

DUKE Who? He will pay for it.

BRABANTIO Here is the man, this Moor.

DUKE What can you say to this, Othello?

BRABANTIO Nothing, but this is so.

OTHELLO It's true, I have taken this man's daughter. I have married her; but it's not magic, it's simply love.

BRABANTIO My daughter in love with a Moor! That's not possible

OTHELLO Send for Desdemona and let her explain.

DUKE Bring Desdemona immediately.

OTHELLO Iago, you know where she is. (*Iago leaves.*) Until she comes, let me explain how I got her love.

DUKE Tell us.

OTHELLO His father, Brabantio, loved me; he often invited me. He enjoyed hearing about my battles, so I spent hours at his house. I met his daughter, Desdemona, and we fell in love.

SERVANT My duke, Desdemona is here.

Desdemona and Iago enter.

BRABANTIO Come here, my daughter. Tell these noble men who is the most important person for you in this room.

DESDEMONA Father, I love you. But here is my husband, Othello, and he's the most important for me now.

BRABANTIO That's all, my lord. My heart is broken. I'm happy I have no other child. Let's talk about Cyprus.

DUKE The Turks are sailing towards Cyprus. Othello, you are our best captain, you must go to Cyprus at once.

OTHELLO I'll take care of the Turks, but let me ask you a favour: I want a place to live for my wife.

DUKE She can stay with her father.

BRABANTIO No, never!

OTHELLO I don't want either.

DESDEMONA My good duke, I love Othello. Let me go with him.

OTHELLO I agree with her.

DUKE You decide, but you must leave tonight.

OTHELLO With all my heart.

Everybody leaves but Iago.

IAGO This is my plan: I'll go to Cyprus and tell Othello and Roderigo that Michael Cassio is in love with Desdemona. I'm sure the Moor will get jealous and so will Roderigo.

Scene III

Cyprus.

IAGO I bring bad news, my friend. Desdemona is in love with Cassio.

RODERIGO With him? That's not possible.

IAGO He is handsome, young and has all those things that a woman loves.

RODERIGO I can't believe that in her.

IAGO Don't worry, I have a plan. Find some occasion to get Cassio angry.

RODERIGO Well.

IAGO Provoke him. He may hit you, it will cause a big mess and Cassio will be in trouble.

RODERIGO I'll do that.

Scene IV

Iago is drinking. Cassio and Montano enter.

IAGO My good friends, Cassio and Montano, how are you?

CASSIO Welcome, Iago.

IAGO Let's have a drink and talk.

CASSIO Not tonight, good Iago. I'm very bad at drinking, and I must do my work.

IAGO Please, just one cup.

CASSIO Ok, just one cup.

IAGO Please, more wine for my friends.

TAVERN MANS Yes, my lord, immediately. Enjoy the wine gentlemen.

They drink and sing a lot.

MONTANO Excellent wine.

WOMAN 3 Hello, good gentlemen.

WOMAN 4 Would you be so kind to invite two thirsty women?

IAGO Leave us alone. This meeting is just for men.

WOMAN 3 Let's go, my friend. We are not we are not welcome here.

WOMAN 4 Yes, they are too stupid for us.

CASSIO Well then, I must go. You mustn't think that I'm drunk. *(He's really drunk.)*

Cassio leaves and Roderigo enters.

IAGO *(To Roderigo.)* This is your opportunity. Go after Cassio, go! *(Roderigo leaves.)*

MONTANO What's that noise?

Cassio enters pursuing Roderigo.

RODERIGO Help, help!

MONTANO What's the matter, Cassio?

CASSIO Let me kill this idiot!

MONTANO *(Trying to defend Roderigo from Cassio.)* Come, come; you are drunk!

CASSIO Drunk?

IAGO *(To Roderigo.)* Run away quickly, go!

Roderigo leaves. Cassio and Montano pull out their swords and fight. Cassio wounds Montano.

MONTANO Cassio, why?

IAGO *(Shouting.)* Help, help!

Othello enters.

OTHELLO What's the matter here?

MONTANO I'm bleeding. I'm hurt to death.

OTHELLO Iago, who began this?

IAGO I'm not sure.

CASSIO I beg your pardon, I can't speak.

MONTANO General, I'm hurt but Iago can inform you.

IAGO It's very hard to tell this: Montano and myself were talking, there comes a man crying out for help and Cassio following him. Montano tried to stop Cassio and... you can see.

OTHELLO Cassio, I love you; but you'll never be my lieutenant any more. Soldiers, help Montano.

SOLDIERS Yes, captain.

Everybody leaves but Iago and Cassio.

IAGO Are you hurt, lieutenant?

CASSIO Reputation, reputation, reputation! I have lost my reputation!

IAGO I'll tell you what you should do. Our general's wife is now the general.

CASSIO What do you mean?

IAGO Othello loves Desdemona... Ask her for help and she will convince her husband. You'll be lieutenant again.

CASSIO It's a good advice.

Cassio leaves.

IAGO My plan is working!

Scene V

A garden in the castle.

EMILIA Good morning, good lieutenant. I'm sorry for your problem; but don't worry, Desdemona is going to help you.

CASSIO Please, help me to have a word with Desdemona alone.

EMILIA She is coming now.

Desdemona enters.

CASSIO Madam. *(He bows.)*

DESDEMONA Don't worry, my good Cassio, I'm going to help you.

CASSIO I'm so upset about what I did.

DESDEMONA My husband and you will be friends again.

CASSIO Whatever happens, I'll be your servant forever.

EMILIA Madam, my lord is coming.

CASSIO Goodbye, madam.

DESDEMONA No, stay.

CASSIO Madam, not now.

Cassio leaves and Othello and Iago enter.

OTHELLO Was not Cassio?

IAGO Cassio, my lord?

DESDEMONA How are you, my dear husband?

OTHELLO Not too bad.

DESDEMONA I've been talking to your lieutenant Cassio.

OTHELLO He is not my lieutenant more.

DESDEMONA He is a good man and wants to be forgiven... Please, talk to him.

OTHELLO Not now.

DESDEMONA When? Soon?

OTHELLO I don't know. Please, leave me alone.

DESDEMONA Think about it, my lord. *(Desdemona and Emilia leave.)*

IAGO General, do you trust Cassio?

OTHELLO Cassio? What do you mean?

IAGO Pay attention to your wife, observe her with Cassio.

OTHELLO What?

IAGO They seem to be very close.

OTHELLO I can't believe it. My own wife, Desdemona, loving Cassio!

IAGO Be careful, general. Jealousies are dangerous.

Othello leaves angrily and Emilia enters.

EMILIA Dear husband, I have something for you.

IAGO For me? What can you have, stupid woman?

EMILIA Do you remember the handkerchief that Othello first gave to Desdemona? I have found it.

IAGO You are great! Give it to me. *(He takes the handkerchief.)*

EMILIA What will you do with it?

IAGO It's not your business. Go, leave me alone. *(Emilia leaves.)* I'll leave this handkerchief in Cassio's room.

Othello enters.

OTHELLO *(Shouting.)* Iago! Iago!

IAGO *(Putting the handkerchief in his pocket.)* Yes, my lord.

OTHELLO I can't sleep, I can't stop thinking about what you said.

IAGO I am sorry to hear this.

OTHELLO Give me a proof. Give me a proof or I'll kill you.

IAGO Do you remember the handkerchief you gave Desdemona?

OTHELLO Yes, it was my first gift.

IAGO I saw Cassio with it.

OTHELLO Oh, blood, blood, blood! I want revenge, I want you to kill Cassio. Now you are my lieutenant.

IAGO Then, Cassio is dead.

Iago leaves. Desdemona and Emilia enter.

DESDEMONA How are you, my husband? Do you feel better?

OTHELLO Better...? Great, I feel really great. Could you lend me your handkerchief?

DESDEMONA Here you have, my lord.

OTHELLO This is not the one that I gave you. Where is it?

DESDEMONA It's not here but...

OTHELLO Go for it and let me see it. *(Othello leaves.)*

EMILIA I think he is jealous.

DESDEMONA It's terrible, I don't know where the handkerchief is.

Scene VI

Outside the castle.

IAGO Hello, Roderigo!

RODERIGO Iago, you are not helping me. I have spent all my money but Desdemona doesn't love me.

IAGO My friend, we have a good chance tonight.

RODERIGO What is it?

IAGO Tonight, Cassio is going for a walk. You may kill him, I'll help you.

RODERIGO Killing him? Are you sure?

IAGO Trust me. Desdemona will be yours tomorrow.

RODERIGO Then, I'll do it for love.

IAGO Stand here, he will come soon.

RODERIGO Stay by me, I may need your help.

IAGO I'll hide here and help you if you fail. *(He hides.)*

Cassio enters.

RODERIGO Villain, you are dead! *(He stabs Cassio.)*

CASSIO My coat is better than you thought. What about yours? *(He stabs Roderigo.)*

RODERIGO Oh, I'm dead!

Iago enters, stabs Cassio from behind and leaves.

CASSIO I'm hurt forever! Help! Help!

Lodovico and Gratiano enter.

CASSIO Help, please, help!

GRATIANO Look at that!

RODERIGO Nobody comes, I will bleed to death.

LODOVICO Two men crying.

Iago enters.

IAGO What's the matter?

LODOVICO We don't know.

CASSIO Here, here! Help me!

IAGO Who are you?

CASSIO Iago? I have been attacked by villains.

IAGO My lieutenant! What villains have done this?

CASSIO That's one of them! *(He points his finger to Roderigo.)*

IAGO Oh, villain! *(He stabs Roderigo.)*

RODERIGO Oh, inhuman dog! *(He dies.)*

IAGO How are you, Cassio?

CASSIO I'm badly hurt.

IAGO Kind gentlemen, let's help poor Cassio. *(They carry him out of the stage.)*

Scene VII

Desdemona's bedroom.

DESDEMONA Who is there? Othello?

OTHELLO *(Outside the stage.)* Yes, Desdemona.

DESDEMONA Come with me.

Othello enters.

OTHELLO Have you said your prayers, Desdemona?

DESDEMONA What do you mean?

OTHELLO You are going to die.

DESDEMONA Are you going to kill me?

OTHELLO Yes, I am.

DESDEMONA But why?

OTHELLO That handkerchief that I gave you, you gave it to Cassio.

DESDEMONA No, I didn't! Send for him.

OTHELLO Are you ready to die?

DESDEMONA Kill me tomorrow! Let me live tonight!

OTHELLO It's too late. *(He smothers her.)*

Emilia knocks at the door.

EMILIA My lord, my lord!

OTHELLO Who is there?

EMILIA Oh, my good lord! Can I have a word with you?

OTHELLO This is Emilia. What's the matter with you now?

Emilia enters.

EMILIA My lord, Cassio has killed a young Venetian called Roderigo.

OTHELLO Roderigo dead? And Cassio dead?

EMILIA No, Cassio is not dead.

DESDEMONA *(Crying.)* Oh, my God! I die!

EMILIA What cry is that? Desdemona?

OTHELLO I have killed her.

EMILIA You are a devil!

OTHELLO She loved Cassio. Ask your husband.

EMILIA My husband?

OTHELLO Yes, she told me everything.

EMILIA My husband!

OTHELLO Yes, Iago, your husband.

EMILIA *(Shouting.)* He's a traitor. Help, help! Othello has killed Desdemona!

Montano, Gratiano, Lodovico and Iago enter.

MONTANO What's the matter?

EMILIA Iago, Othello says you told him that Desdemona was in love with Cassio.

IAGO Yes, I did. And now, shut up, stupid!

EMILIA Never! Desdemona lies dead here!

ALL Oh, no!

OTHELLO It's true. I killed her. She loved Cassio. She gave him the handkerchief I had given her.

EMILIA He is lying.

IAGO Shut up and go home!

EMILIA I won't. I found the handkerchief and gave it to Iago.

IAGO Stupid woman! *(He stabs Emilia.)*

GRATIANO He has killed his wife!

OTHELLO You are a devil! *(Othello tries to kill Iago.)*

LODOVICO Take that sword from him! *(Montano and Gratiano hold Othello.)*

IAGO I'm hurt but not killed.

LODOVICO Othello, come with us. You have lost your power, Cassio rules in Cyprus. And you, Iago, you will be in prison for the rest of your life.

OTHELLO A word or two before you go: when you return to Venice, speak of me as I am. A man who loved too much and was betrayed. *(Suddenly, he takes a dagger out and stabs himself.)* I love you, Desdemona. *(He dies.)*

LODOVICO *(To Iago.)* Look at this! This is your work. I wish the most terrible punishment for you. Let's go, I must inform the duke about this painful event. *(They leave.)*