1.1: Venice. A street.

RODERIGO I take it much unkindly that thou, Iago, who hast had my purse as if the strings were thine, shouldst know of this. Thou told’st me thou didst hold him in thy hate.

IAGO Despise me, if I do not. Three great ones of the city, in personal suit to make me his lieutenant. 'Certes,' says he, 'I have already chose my officer.' And what was he? Forsooth, one Michael Cassio, a Florentine, that never set a squadron in the field, nor the division of a battle knows. And I--God bless the mark!--his Moorship’s ancient. Now, sir, be judge yourself, whether I in any just term am affined to love the Moor.

RODERIGO I would not follow him then.

IAGO O, sir, content you; I follow him to serve my turn upon him: we cannot all be masters, nor all masters cannot be truly follow’d. For, sir, it is as sure as you are Roderigo, were I the Moor, I would not be Iago: in following him, I follow but myself. I am not what I am.

RODERIGO What a full fortune does the thicklips owe if he can carry’t thus!

IAGO Call up her father, rouse him: make after him, poison his delight, proclaim him in the streets; incense her kinsmen.

RODERIGO Here is her father’s house; I’ll call aloud. What, ho, Brabantio! Signior Brabantio, ho!

IAGO Awake! what, ho, Brabantio! thieves! thieves! thieves! Look to your house, your daughter and your bags! Thieves! thieves!

[Iago and Roderigo wake up Brabantio, whose daughter has just been married to the Moor, Othello. They use some racist terms, and Brabantio is really upset—not about the racist terms but about the fact that his daughter may have married Othello, which Brabantio would not approve of. We find out that Brabantio knows Roderigo because he’s been after Desdemona; Brabantio does not like him, either. Iago leaves to find Othello and pretend to be his friend (which he does repeatedly throughout the play), and Roderigo and Brabantio go off to find Othello, Desdemona, and the Duke, who they hope will set things straight.]

1.2: Another street. Enter OTHELLO, IAGO, and Attendants with torches [They meet Cassio, Othello’s newly-promoted lieutenant. Othello confirms that he has married Desdemona, and they see her father coming.]

CASSIO Here comes another troop to seek for you.

IAGO It is Brabantio. General, be advised; he comes to bad intent.

Enter BRABANTIO, RODERIGO, and Officers with torches and weapons

BRABANTIO Down with him, thief! [They draw swords on both sides.] O thou foul thief, where hast thou stow’d my daughter? Damn’d as thou art, thou hast enchanted her with drugs or minerals that weaken motion. Lay hold upon him: if he do resist, subdue him at his peril.

OTHELLO Where will you that I go to answer this your charge?
BRABANTIO To prison, till fit time of law and course of direct session call thee to answer.

OTHELLO What if I do obey? How may the duke be therewith satisfied, whose messengers are here about my side, upon some present business of the state to bring me to him?

First Officer 'Tis true, worthy signior; the duke’s in council and your noble self, I am sure, is sent for.

BRABANTIO How! the duke in council! In this time of the night! Bring him away: mine’s not an idle cause: the duke himself, or any of my brothers of the state, cannot but feel this wrong as ’twere their own; for if such actions may have passage free, bond-slaves and pagans shall our statesmen be.

Exeunt

1.3: A council-chamber. The DUKE and Senators sitting at a table; Officers attending [There is a fleet of Turkish ships heading for Cyprus. The Duke and senators discuss sending Othello, a mighty warrior, to defend Cyprus.] Enter BRABANTIO, OTHELLO, IAGO, RODERIGO, and Officers

DUKE OF VENICE Valiant Othello, we must straight employ you against the general enemy Ottoman. [To BRABANTIO] I did not see you; welcome, signior; we lack’d your counsel and your help tonight.

BRABANTIO So did I yours.

DUKE OF VENICE Why, what’s the matter?

BRABANTIO My daughter! O, my daughter!

DUKE OF VENICE Dead?

BRABANTIO Ay, to me; she is abused, stol’n from me, and corrupted.

DUKE OF VENICE Whoe’er he be that in this foul proceeding hath thus beguiled your daughter of herself and you of her, the bloody book of law you shall yourself read in the bitter letter after your own sense, yea, though our proper son stood in your action.

BRABANTIO Humbly I thank your grace. Here is the man, this Moor, whom now, it seems, your special mandate for the state-affairs hath hither brought.

DUKE OF VENICE We are very sorry for’t. [To OTHELLO] What, in your own part, can you say to this?

OTHELLO Most potent, grave, and reverend signiors, my very noble and approved good masters, that I have ta’en away this old man’s daughter, it is most true; true, I have married her: the very head and front of my offending hath this extent, no more. Rude am I in my speech, yet, by your gracious patience, I will a round unvarnish’d tale deliver of my whole course of love; what drugs, what charms, what conjuration and what mighty magic, for such proceeding I am charged withal, I won his daughter.

First Senator But, Othello, speak: did you by indirect and forced courses subdue and poison this young maid’s affections?
OTHELLO I do beseech you, send for the lady to the Sagittary, and let her speak of me before her father: if you do find me foul in her report, the trust, the office I do hold of you, not only take away, but let your sentence even fall upon my life. And, till she come, as truly as to heaven I do confess the vices of my blood, so justly to your grave ears I'll present how I did thrive in this fair lady's love, and she in mine.

Exit Iago to get Desdemona

DUKE OF VENICE Say it, Othello.

OTHELLO Her father loved me; oft invited me; still question’d me the story of my life, from year to year, the battles, sieges, fortunes, that I have passed. This to hear would Desdemona seriously incline: but still the house-affairs would draw her thence: which ever as she could with haste dispatch, she’ld come again, and with a greedy ear devour up my discourse. I did consent, and often did beguile her of her tears, when I did speak of some distressful stroke that my youth suffer’d. My story being done, she thank’d me, and bade me, if I had a friend that loved her, I should but teach him how to tell my story, and that would woo her. Upon this hint I spake: she loved me for the dangers I had pass’d, and I loved her that she did pity them. This only is the witchcraft I have used: here comes the lady; let her witness it.

Enter DESDEMONA, IAGO, and Attendants [Desdemona confirms that she loves Othello. Brabantio is saddened but accepts the marriage, although he is clearly not happy about it. He exits, saying, "Look to her, Moor, if thou hast eyes to see: she has deceived her father, and may thee." Othello doesn’t believe Desdemona will ever betray his love. Everyone leaves except for Roderigo and Iago.]

RODERIGO Iago,— What will I do, thinkest thou? I will incontinently drown myself.

IAGO Come, be a man. Drown thyself! It cannot be that Desdemona should long continue her love to the Moor, nor he his to her: these Moors are changeable in their wills: fill thy purse with money. She must change for youth: when she is sated with his body, she will find the error of her choice: she must have change, she must. I have told thee often, I hate the Moor: my cause is hearted; thine hath no less reason. Let us be conjunctive in our revenge against him: if thou canst cuckold him, thou dost thyself a pleasure, me a sport. We will have more of this to-morrow. Adieu.

RODERIGO Where shall we meet i’ the morning?

IAGO At my lodging. No more of drowning, do you hear?

RODERIGO I am changed: I’ll go sell all my land.

Exit

IAGO I hate the Moor: and it is thought abroad, that ’twixt my sheets he has done my office: I know not if’t be true; but I, for mere suspicion in that kind, will do as if for surety. He holds me well; the better shall my purpose work on him. Cassio’s a proper man: let me see now: to get his place and to plume up my will in double knavery—How, how? Let’s see:— after some time, to abuse Othello’s ear that he is too familiar with his wife. He hath a person and a smooth dispose to be suspected, framed to make women false. the Moor is of a free and open nature, that thinks men honest that but seem to be so, and will as tenderly be led by the nose as asses are. Hell and night must bring this monstrous birth to the world’s light.


2.1: A Sea-port in Cyprus. [Some sailors in Cyprus talk about how the Turkish army never got the chance to attack because a storm sank all their boats. They see Cassio coming, and they know he is nervous because his ship got separated from Othello’s; he’s afraid for Othello’s safety. Iago, Iago’s wife Emila, and Desdemona talk about Othello as well as being married. Desdemona and Cassio move aside to speak privately. Cassio takes Desdemona’s hand and kisses it.]

IAGO [Aside] He takes her by the palm: ay, well said, whisper: with as little a web as this will I ensnare as great a fly as Cassio. Ay, smile upon her, do; I will gyve thee in thine own courtship. You say true; ’tis so, indeed: if such tricks as these strip you out of your lieutenancy, it had been better you had not kissed your three fingers so oft, which now again you are most apt to play the sir in. Very good; well kissed! an excellent courtesy! ’tis so, indeed. Yet again your fingers to your lips? would they were clyster-pipes for your sake! [Aloud] The Moor! I know his trumpet.

DESDEMONA Let’s meet him and receive him.

Enter OTHHELLO and Attendants

OTHELLO O my fair warrior!

DESDEMONA My dear Othello!

OTHELLO O my soul’s joy! If it were now to die, ’twere now to be most happy; for, I fear, my soul hath her content so absolute that not another comfort like to this succeeds in unknown fate.

DESDEMONA The heavens forbid but that our loves and comforts should increase, even as our days do grow!

OTHELLO Amen to that, sweet powers! I cannot speak enough of this content; it stops me here; it is too much of joy: and this, and this, the greatest discords be [Kissing her] that e’er our hearts shall make!

IAGO [Aside] O, you are well tuned now! But I’ll set down the pegs that make this music, as honest as I am.

OTHELLO Come, let us to the castle. News, friends; our wars are done, the Turks are drown’d. I prithee, good Iago, go to the bay and disembark my coffers. Come, Desdemona, once more, well met at Cyprus.

Exeunt OTHHELLO, DESDEMONA, and Attendants [Iago and Roderigo discuss a new plan: Get Othello to believe that Desdemona is sleeping with Cassio. Roderigo leaves, and Iago reveals to us that he hates Othello because he thinks Othello may have slept with Emilia, although he has no proof.] Exit.

[2.2: An announcement is made that Othello and Desdemona have been recently married; there will be a party in Cyprus.]
2.3: A hall in the castle. Enter OTHELLO, DESDEMONA, CASSIO, and Attendants. Othello is tired but wants to be with Desdemona, since they haven’t had a real wedding night yet. They leave. Iago and Cassio are alone, and Iago tries to get Cassio to drink more wine, but Cassio won’t. A doorbell rings, and Cassio leaves to open the door.

IAGO [Aside] If I can fasten but one cup upon him, with that which he hath drunk to-night already, he’ll be as full of quarrel and offence as my young mistress’ dog.

Re-enter CASSIO; with him MONTANO and Gentlemen; servants following with wine. [After more prodding from Iago and Montano, Cassio drinks. They start to talk about who would be saved first if someone were to attack.]

CASSIO The lieutenant is to be saved before the ancient. Let’s have no more of this; let’s to our affairs. --Forgive us our sins! --Gentlemen, let’s look to our business. Do not think, gentlemen. I am drunk: this is my ancient; this is my right hand, and this is my left: I am not drunk now; I can stand well enough, and speak well enough. You must not think then that I am drunk.

Exit

MONTANO To the platform, masters; come, let’s set the watch.

IAGO You see this fellow that is gone before; he is a soldier fit to stand by Caesar and give direction: and do but see his vice. I fear the trust Othello puts him in.

MONTANO But is he often thus? It were well the general were put in mind of it.

IAGO I do love Cassio well; and would do much to cure him of this evil--But, hark! what noise?

Cry within: ’Help! help!’ Re-enter CASSIO, driving in RODERIGO

CASSIO You rogue! you rascal!

MONTANO What’s the matter, lieutenant?

CASSIO A knave teach me my duty! I’ll beat the knave into a twiggen bottle.

RODERIGO Beat me!

CASSIO Dost thou prate, rogue? [Striking RODERIGO]

MONTANO Nay, good lieutenant; [Staying him] I pray you, sir, hold your hand.

CASSIO Let me go, sir, or I’ll knock you o’er the mazzard.

MONTANO Come, come, you’re drunk.

CASSIO Drunk!

They fight. Exit Roderigo. Re-enter OTHELLO and Attendants.

OTHELLO What is the matter here?
MONTANO Zounds, I bleed still; I am hurt to the death. [Faints]

OTHELLO Hold, for your lives! Why, how now, ho! from whence ariseth this? Honest Iago, that look' st dead with grieving, speak, who began this? on thy love, I charge thee.

IAGO I do not know.

OTHELLO How comes it, Michael, you are thus forgot?

CASSIO I pray you, pardon me; I cannot speak.

OTHELLO Now, by heaven, give me to know how this foul rout began, who set it on; and he that is approved in this offence, though he had twinn'd with me, both at a birth, shall lose me. Iago, who began't?

IAGO I had rather have this tongue cut from my mouth than it should do offence to Michael Cassio. There comes a fellow crying out for help: and Cassio following him with determined sword, to execute upon him. Sir, this gentleman steps in to Cassio, and entreats his pause: myself the crying fellow did pursue, when I came back I found them close together, at blow and thrust. But men are men; the best sometimes forget: though Cassio did some little wrong to him, as men in rage strike those that wish them best, yet surely Cassio, I believe, received from him that fled some strange indignity, which patience could not pass.

OTHELLO I know, Iago, thy honesty and love doth mince this matter, making it light to Cassio. Cassio, I love thee but never more be officer of mine. [Re-enter DESDEMONA] Look, if my gentle love be not raised up! I'll make thee an example.

DESDEMONA What's the matter?

OTHELLO All's well now, sweeting; come away to bed. Iago, look with care about the town, and silence those whom this vile brawl distracted. Come, Desdemona: 'tis the soldiers' life to have their balmy slumbers waked with strife.

Exeunt all but IAGO and CASSIO. [Cassio complains that his reputation is ruined, but Iago counsels him to ask Desdemona for help, since she would be able to change Othello's mind. Cassio leaves.]

IAGO Whiles this honest fool plies Desdemona to repair his fortunes and she for him pleads strongly to the Moor, I'll pour this pestilence into his ear, that she repeals him for her body's lust; and by how much she strives to do him good, she shall undo her credit with the Moor. So will I turn her virtue into pitch, and out of her own goodness make the net that shall enmesh them all.

[Roderigo comes back and complains that he's running out of money and that he wants to go back to Venice. Iago convinces him to stay and wait it out.] Exeunt.

[3.1: Before the castle. Enter CASSIO and some Musicians. Cassio has a weird conversation with a Clown. Iago comes in and says that his wife, Emilia, is on her way to help him. Emilia enters and promises Cassio that she will arrange a private meeting with Desdemona.] Exeunt.
[3.2: Othello sends letters.]

3.3: The garden of the castle. *Enter DESDEMONA, CASSIO, and EMILIA*

DESDEMONA Be thou assured, good Cassio, I will do all my abilities in thy behalf.

EMILIA Good madam, do: I warrant it grieves my husband, as if the case were his.

DESDEMONA O, that’s an honest fellow. Do not doubt, Cassio, but I will have my lord and you again as friendly as you were.

CASSIO Bounteous madam, whatever shall become of Michael Cassio, he’s never any thing but your servant.

EMILIA Madam, here comes my lord.

CASSIO Madam, I’ll take my leave.

DESDEMONA Why, stay, and hear me speak.

CASSIO Madam, not now: I am very ill at ease, unfit for mine own purposes.

*Exit CASSIO. Enter OTHELLO and IAGO.*

IAGO Ha! I like not that.

OTHELLO What dost thou say? Was not that Cassio parted from my wife?

IAGO Cassio, my lord! No, sure, I cannot think that he would steal away so guilty-like, seeing you coming.

DESDEMONA How now, my lord! I have been talking with a suitor here, a man that languishes in your displeasure, your lieutenant, Cassio. Good my lord, I prithee, call him back.

OTHELLO Went he hence now?

DESDEMONA Ay; so humbled that he left part of his grief with me, to suffer with him. Good love, call him back.

OTHELLO Not now, sweet Desdemona; some other time.

DESDEMONA But shall’t be shortly?

OTHELLO The sooner, sweet, for you.

DESDEMONA Shall’t be to-night at supper?

OTHELLO No, not to-night.

DESDEMONA To-morrow dinner, then?
OTHELLO  I shall not dine at home; I meet the captains at the citadel.

DESDEMONA  Why, let it not exceed three days: in faith, he's penitent. When shall he come?

OTHELLO  Prithee, no more: let him come when he will; I will deny thee nothing. Whereon, I do beseech thee, grant me this, to leave me but a little to myself.

DESDEMONA  Shall I deny you? no: farewell, my lord.

OTHELLO  Farewell, my Desdemona: I'll come to thee straight.

DESDEMONA  Emilia, come. Be as your fancies teach you; whate'er you be, I am obedient.

Exeunt DESDEMONA and EMILIA

OTHELLO  Excellent wretch! Perdition catch my soul, but I do love thee!

IAGO  Did Michael Cassio, when you woo'd my lady, know of your love?

OTHELLO  He did, from first to last: why dost thou ask?

IAGO  For a satisfaction of my thought; no further harm. I did not think he had been acquainted with her.

OTHELLO  O, yes; and went between us very oft. Discern'st thou aught in that? Is he not honest? If thou dost love me, show me thy thought.

IAGO  My lord, you know I love you. I think Cassio's an honest man.

OTHELLO  By heaven, I'll know thy thoughts.

IAGO  I speak not yet of proof. Look to your wife; observe her well with Cassio.

OTHELLO  Dost thou say so?

IAGO  She did deceive her father, marrying you; and when she seem'd to shake and fear your looks, she loved them most. She that, so young, could give out such a seeming, to seal her father's eyes up close as oak- he thought 'twas witchcraft--but I am much to blame; I humbly do beseech you of your pardon for too much loving you.

OTHELLO  I am bound to thee for ever.

IAGO  I see this hath a little dash'd your spirits.

OTHELLO  Not a jot, not a jot.

IAGO  Cassio's my worthy friend-- my lord, I see you're moved.

OTHELLO  No, not much moved: I do not think but Desdemona's honest.
IAGO Long live she so! and long live you to think so!

OTHELLO And yet, how nature erring from itself,--

IAGO I do not in position distinctly speak of her; though I may fear her will, recoiling to her better judgment, may fall to match you with her country forms and happily repent.

OTHELLO Farewell, farewell: if more thou dost perceive, let me know more; set on thy wife to observe: leave me, Iago:


OTHELLO Why did I marry? This honest creature doubtless sees and knows more, much more, than he unfolds.

IAGO [Returning] My lord, I would I might entreat your honour to scan this thing no further; leave it to time: though it be fit that Cassio have his place, for sure, he fills it up with great ability, yet, if you please to hold him off awhile, you shall by that perceive him and his means: note, if your lady strain his entertainment with any strong or vehement importunity; much will be seen in that. In the mean time, let me be thought too busy in my fears-- as worthy cause I have to fear I am-- and hold her free, I do beseech your honour.

OTHELLO Fear not my government.

IAGO I once more take my leave.

Exit

OTHELLO This fellow's of exceeding honesty, and knows all qualities, with a learned spirit, of human dealings. If I do prove her haggard, though that her jesses were my dear heartstrings, I'd whistle her off and let her down the wind, to pray at fortune. O curse of marriage, that we can call these delicate creatures ours, and not their appetites! Desdemona comes:

Re-enter DESDEMONA and EMILIA [Othello complains he has a headache; Desdemona tries to put her handkerchief around his head, but it drops to the floor, unnoticed. Othello and Desdemona leave.]

EMILIA I am glad I have found this napkin: this was her first remembrance from the Moor: my wayward husband hath a hundred times woo'd me to steal it.

Re-enter Iago

IAGO How now! what do you here alone?

EMILIA Do not you chide; I have a thing for you. What will you give me now for the same handkerchief that the Moor first gave to Desdemona; that which so often you did bid me steal?

IAGO Hast stol'n it from her?

EMILIA No, 'faith; she let it drop by negligence. And, to the advantage, I, being here, took't up. Here it is.
IAGO A good wench; give it me.

EMILIA What will you do with ’t, that you have been so earnest to have me filch it?

IAGO [Snatching it] Why, what’s that to you?

EMILIA Give’t me again: poor lady, she’ll run mad when she shall lack it.

IAGO Be not acknown on ’t; I have use for it. Go, leave me. [Exit EMILIA] I will in Cassio’s lodging lose this napkin, and let him find it. Look, where he comes!

Re-enter OTHELLO. [Othello has obviously been thinking more about the possibility of Desdemona cheating. He forces Iago to tell him more. Iago asks if Desdemona had a handkerchief; Othello confirms that he gave her one as a present. Iago says that Cassio has it now, and Othello assumes that it is proof of the affair. He makes Iago his new lieutenant.] Exeunt.

3.4: Before the castle. Enter DESDEMONA, EMILIA, and Othello. [Othello asks Desdemona about the handkerchief. She says that she has it, but it’s not with her right now. Othello insists that she get it, but Desdemona wants to talk to Othello about promoting Cassio again. Othello storms off, still yelling about the handkerchief.]

EMILIA Is not this man jealous?

DESDEMONA I ne’er saw this before. Sure, there’s some wonder in this handkerchief: I am most unhappy in the loss of it.

EMILIA Look you, Cassio and my husband!

Enter CASSIO and IAGO

DESDEMONA How now, good Cassio! what’s the news with you?

CASSIO Madam, my former suit: I do beseech you that by your virtuous means I may again exist, and be a member of his love whom I with all the office of my heart entirely honour: I would not be delay’d.

DESDEMONA My advocation is not now in tune; my lord is not my lord; nor should I know him, were he in favour as in humour alter’d.

IAGO Is my lord angry?

EMILIA He went hence but now, and certainly in strange unquietness.

IAGO Can he be angry? I will go meet him: there’s matter in’t indeed, if he be angry.

DESDEMONA I prithee, do so.

Exit IAGO. [Desdemona and Emilia speak for a while about husbands. They leave Cassio.] Enter BIANCA.

BIANCA Save you, friend Cassio!
CASSIO How is it with you, my most fair Bianca? I’ faith, sweet love, I was coming to your house.

BIANCA And I was going to your lodging, Cassio. What, keep a week away?

CASSIO Pardon me, Bianca: I have this while with leaden thoughts been press’d: but I shall, in a more continuante time, strike off this score of absence. Sweet Bianca, [Giving her DESDEMONA’s handkerchief] take me this work out.

BIANCA O Cassio, whence came this? This is some token from a newer friend: to the felt absence now I feel a cause: is’t come to this? Well, well.

CASSIO You are jealous now that this is from some mistress, some remembrance: no, in good troth, Bianca.

BIANCA Why, whose is it?

CASSIO I know not, sweet: I found it in my chamber. I like the work well: ere it be demanded— as like enough it will—I’ld have it copied: take it, and do’t; and leave me for this time.

[They speak a bit and then go their separate ways.] Exeunt.

4.1: Cyprus. Before the castle. Enter OTHELLO and IAGO [Iago and Othello discuss whether or not the loss of the handkerchief makes Desdemona guilty. Iago promises to get Cassio to admit his affair with Desdemona. Othello hides behind a curtain (or something) after Iago gets Cassio.]

IAGO How now, Cassio! How do you now, lieutenant?

CASSIO The worser that you give me the addition whose want even kills me.

IAGO Ply Desdemona well, and you are sure on’t. [Speaking lower] Now, if this suit lay in Bianca’s power, how quickly should you speed!

CASSIO Alas, poor caitiff!

OTHELLO [to himself] Look, how he laughs already!

IAGO I never knew woman love man so.

CASSIO Alas, poor rogue! I think, i’ faith, she loves me.

OTHELLO [To himself] Now he denies it faintly, and laughs it out.

IAGO She gives it out that you shall marry hey: do you intend it?

CASSIO Ha, ha, ha! I marry her! what? a customer! Prithee, bear some charity to my wit: do not think it so unwholesome. Ha, ha, ha!

IAGO ’Faith, the cry goes that you shall marry her.
CASSIO  Prithée, say true. This is the monkey’s own giving out: she is persuaded I will marry her, out of her own love and flattery, not out of my promise. She was here even now; she haunts me in every place. I was the other day talking on the sea-bank with certain Venetians; and thither comes the bauble, and, by this hand, she falls me thus about my neck—So hangs, and lolls, and weeps upon me; so hales, and pulls me: ha, ha, ha!

OTHELLO  [To himself] Now he tells how she plucked him to my chamber. O, I see that nose of yours, but not that dog I shall throw it to.

CASSIO  Well, I must leave her company.

IAGO  Before me! look, where she comes.

Enter BIANCA

BIANCA  Let the devil and his dam haunt you! What did you mean by that same handkerchief you gave me even now? This is some minx’s token. There; give it your hobby-horse.

CASSIO  How now, my sweet Bianca! how now! how now!

OTHELLO  [To himself] By heaven, that should be my handkerchief!

BIANCA  An you’ll come to supper to-night, you may; an you will not, come when you are next prepared for.

Exit. Cassio leaves after her.

OTHELLO  [Advancing] How shall I murder him, Iago?

IAGO  Did you perceive how he laughed at his vice? And did you see the handkerchief?

OTHELLO  Was that mine?

IAGO  Yours by this hand: and to see how he prizes the foolish woman your wife! she gave it him, and he hath given it his whore.

OTHELLO  I would have him nine years a-killing. A fine woman! a fair woman! a sweet woman!

IAGO  Nay, you must forget that.

OTHELLO  Ay, let her rot, and perish, and be damned to-night; for she shall not live: my heart is turned to stone.

IAGO  Strangle her in her bed, even the bed she hath contaminated.

OTHELLO  Good, good: the justice of it pleases: very good.

IAGO  And for Cassio, let me be his undertaker: you shall hear more by midnight.

OTHELLO  Excellent good.
IAGO  I am very glad to see you, signior. Welcome to Cyprus.

LODOVICO  I thank you. How does Lieutenant Cassio?

DESDEMONA  Cousin, there’s fall’n between him and my lord an unkind breach: but you shall make all well.

LODOVICO  Is there division ’twixt my lord and Cassio?

DESDEMONA  A most unhappy one: I would do much to atone them, for the love I bear to Cassio.

OTHELLO  Fire and brimstone!

DESDEMONA  My lord? What, are you angry?

LODOVICO  May be the letter moved him; for, as I think, they do command him home, deputing Cassio in his government.

OTHELLO  Indeed!

DESDEMONA  My lord? Why, sweet Othello,—

OTHELLO  [Striking her] Devil!

DESDEMONA  I have not deserved this.

OTHELLO  If that the earth could teem with woman’s tears, each drop she falls would prove a crocodile. Out of my sight!

DESDEMONA  I will not stay to offend you.  [Going]

LODOVICO  Truly, an obedient lady: I do beseech your lordship, call her back.

OTHELLO  Mistress!

DESDEMONA  My lord?

[Othello asks Lodovico what he would do with Desdemona if she were a whore. Desdemona is embarrassed, and Othello sends her away and then storms off in a different direction, leaving Lodovico with Iago.]

LODOVICO  Is this the noble Moor whom our full senate call all in all sufficient? Is this the nature whom passion could not shake? whose solid virtue the shot of accident, nor dart of chance, could neither graze nor pierce?

IAGO  He is much changed.

LODOVICO  Are his wits safe? is he not light of brain? What, strike his wife! I am sorry that I am deceived in him.
4.2: A room in the castle. [Othello questions Emilia about Desdemona's supposed affair with Cassio. Emilia says that she knows nothing about it. He sends her to get Desdemona. He questions Desdemona, but never says Cassio's name and never actually accuses her of adultery. He calls her a whore, and she answers that she doesn't deserve to be treated that way. He is obviously not satisfied and storms off. Emilia comes back in to comfort Desdemona, who has no idea why her husband is acting jealous and crazy. Iago also comes in. Emilia and Desdemona question him, hoping that he can explain Othello's strange behavior, but he cannot (or pretends he cannot) help them. The women leave, and Roderigo enters.]

RODERIGO I do not find that thou dealest justly with me. I will indeed no longer endure it, nor am I yet persuaded to put up in peace what already I have foolishly suffered.

IAGO Will you hear me, Roderigo? You charge me most unjustly.

RODERIGO With nought but truth. I have wasted myself out of my means. The jewels you have had from me to deliver to Desdemona would half have corrupted a votarist: you have told me she hath received them and returned me expectations and comforts of sudden respect and acquaintance, but I find none.

IAGO Very well.

RODERIGO I tell you 'tis not very well. I will make myself known to Desdemona: if she will return me my jewels, I will give over my suit and repent my unlawful solicitation; if not, assure yourself I will seek satisfaction of you.

IAGO Why, now I see there's mettle in thee, and even from this instant to build on thee a better opinion than ever before. Give me thy hand, Roderigo: thou hast taken against me a most just exception; but yet, I protest, I have dealt most directly in thy affair.

RODERIGO It hath not appeared.

IAGO I grant indeed it hath not appeared, and your suspicion is not without wit and judgment. But, Roderigo, if thou hast that in thee indeed, which I have greater reason to believe now than ever, I mean purpose, courage and valour, this night show it: if thou the next night following enjoy not Desdemona, take me from this world with treachery and devise engines for my life.

RODERIGO Well, what is it? Is it within reason and compass?

IAGO Sir, there is especial commission come from Venice to depute Cassio in Othello's place.

RODERIGO Is that true? Why, then Othello and Desdemona return again to Venice.

IAGO O, no; he goes into Mauritania and takes away with him the fair Desdemona, unless his abode be lingered here by some accident: wherein none can be so determinate as the removing of Cassio.

RODERIGO How do you mean, removing of him?

IAGO Why, by making him incapable of Othello's place; knocking out his brains.
RODERIGO And that you would have me to do?

[Iago talks Roderigo into murdering Cassio. They make some basic plans, but nothing specific.] Exeunt.

4.2: A room in the castle. [Othello tells Desdemona to get ready for bed. There is anger in his voice. He leaves, and Emilia enters. Desdemona and Emilia talk about whether it's possible for a woman to WANT to cheat on her husband. Desdemona doesn’t think it’s possible; Emilia does, especially if she could improve life for her and her husband. Desdemona puts sheets on the bed from her wedding night and wears the nightgown she wore that night, too.] Exeunt.

5.1: A Street. Enter Iago and Roderigo.

RODERIGO Be near at hand; I may miscarry in’t.

IAGO Here, stand behind this bulk; straight will he come: wear thy good rapier bare, and put it home: quick, quick; fear nothing; I’ll be at thy elbow: it makes us, or it mars us; think on that, and fix most firm thy resolution.

RODERIGO Be bold, and take thy stand.

[to himself]

I have rubb’d this young quat almost to the sense, and he grows angry. Now, whether he kill Cassio, or Cassio him, or each do kill the other, every way makes my gain: live Roderigo, he calls me to a restitution large of gold and jewels that I bobb’d from him, as gifts to Desdemona; it must not be: if Cassio do remain, he hath a daily beauty in his life that makes me ugly; and, besides, the Moor may unfold me to him; there stand I in much peril: no, he must die. But so: I hear him coming.

Enter CASSIO

RODERIGO Villain, thou diest! [Makes a pass at CASSIO]

CASSIO That thrust had been mine enemy indeed, but that my coat is better than thou know’st I will make proof of thine. [Draws, and wounds RODERIGO]

RODERIGO O, I am slain!

IAGO from behind wounds CASSIO in the leg and exits. Cassio does not see who injured him.

CASSIO I am maim’d for ever. Help, ho! murder! murder! [Falls. Enter LODOVICO and GRATIANO. It is very dark, and they cannot see Cassio or Roderigo, although they can hear them.] What, ho! no watch? no passage? murder! murder! O, help!

LODOVICO Hark!

RODERIGO O wretched villain! Nobody come? then shall I bleed to death.

Re-enter IAGO, with a light

GRATIANO Here’s one comes in his shirt, with light and weapons.
IAGO Who’s there? whose noise is this that ones on murder?

LODOVICO We do not know.

IAGO Did not you hear a cry?

CASSIO Here, here! for heaven’s sake, help me!

IAGO What’s the matter? What are you here that cry so grievously?

CASSIO Iago? O, I am spoil’d, undone by villains! Give me some help.

IAGO O me, lieutenant! what villains have done this?

CASSIO I think that one of them is hereabout, and cannot make away.

RODERIGO O, help me here!

CASSIO That’s one of them.

IAGO O murderous slave! O villain! [Stabs RODERIGO]

RODERIGO O damn’d Iago! O inhuman dog!

IAGO Signior Lodovico? I cry you mercy. Here’s Cassio hurt by villains. How is’t, brother!

CASSIO My leg is cut in two.

IAGO Marry, heaven forbid! Light, gentlemen; I’ll bind it with my shirt.

Enter BIANCA

BIANCA What is the matter, ho? who is’ that cried? O my dear Cassio! my sweet Cassio! O Cassio, Cassio, Cassio! Alas, he faints! O Cassio, Cassio, Cassio!

IAGO Gentlemen all, I do suspect this trash to be a party in this injury. Patience awhile, good Cassio. Come, come; lend me a light. Know we this face or no? Alas my friend and my dear countryman Roderigo! no--yes, sure: O heaven! Roderigo.

[They accuse Bianca of having a hand in Cassio’s attempted murder; Iago gets nervous.]

IAGO [To himself] This is the night that either makes me or fordoes me quite.

Exeunt

5.2: A bedchamber in the castle: DESDEMONA in bed asleep; a light burning. Enter OTHELLO. [He debates with himself about killing Desdemona, but he vows to do it anyway. He kisses her lightly.]
DESDEMONA Who’s there? Othello?

OTHELLO Have you pray’d to-night, Desdemona?

DESDEMONA Alas, my lord, what do you mean by that?

OTHELLO I would not kill thy unprepared spirit; no; heaven forfend! I would not kill thy soul.

DESDEMONA Talk you of killing? Then heaven have mercy on me!

OTHELLO Amen, with all my heart!

DESDEMONA If you say so, I hope you will not kill me. And yet I fear you; for you are fatal then when your eyes roll so: why I should fear I know not, since guiltiness I know not; but yet I feel I fear. What’s the matter?

OTHELLO That handkerchief which I so loved and gave thee thou gavest to Cassio.

DESDEMONA No, by my life and soul! Send for the man, and ask him. I never did offend you in my life; never loved Cassio but with such general warranty of heaven as I might love: I never gave him token.

OTHELLO By heaven, I saw my handkerchief in’s hand. O perjured woman! thou dost stone my heart, and makest me call what I intend to do a murder, which I thought a sacrifice: I saw the handkerchief.

DESDEMONA I never gave it him: send for him hither; let him confess a truth.

OTHELLO He hath confess’d, that he hath used thee.

DESDEMONA How? unlawfully? He will not say so.

OTHELLO No, his mouth is stopp’d; honest Iago hath ta’en order for’t.

DESDEMONA What, is he dead? Alas! he is betray’d and I undone.

OTHELLO Out, strumpet! weep’st thou for him to my face?

DESDEMONA Kill me to-morrow: let me live to-night! But half an hour!

OTHELLO It is too late. [He stifles her. He realizes that he has killed her. Emilia knocks on the door, and it takes Othello a while to open the door.]  

OTHELLO O, come in, Emilia; soft; by and by. What’s the matter with thee now?

EMILIA O, my good lord, yonder’s foul murders done! Cassio hath kill’d a young Venetian call’d Roderigo.

OTHELLO Roderigo kill’d! and Cassio kill’d!

EMILIA No, Cassio is not kill’d.

OTHELLO Not Cassio kill’d! then murder’s out of tune, and sweet revenge grows harsh.
DESDEMONA [very faintly, almost dead.] O, falsely, falsely murder’d!

EMILIA Alas, what cry is that? Out, and alas! that was my lady’s voice. Sweet Desdemona! O sweet mistress, speak!

DESDEMONA A guiltless death I die.

EMILIA O, who hath done this deed?

DESDEMONA Nobody; I myself. Farewell. Commend me to my kind lord: O, farewell! [/Dies.]

OTHELLO 'Twas I that kill’d her. She turn’d to folly, and she was a whore. She was false as water. Cassio did top her; ask thy husband else. Thy husband knew it all.

EMILIA My husband! That she was false to wedlock?

OTHELLO Ay, ’twas he that told me first: an honest man he is, and hates the slime that sticks on filthy deeds. My friend, thy husband, honest, honest Iago.

EMILIA If he say so, may his pernicious soul rot half a grain a day! he lies to the heart: she was too fond of her most filthy bargain. Help! help, ho! help! The Moor hath kill’d my mistress! Murder! murder!

Enter MONTANO, GRATIANO, IAGO, and others

EMILIA O, are you come, Iago? you have done well, that men must lay their murders on your neck.

GRATIANO What is the matter?

EMILIA Disprove this villain, if thou be’st a man: he says thou told’st him that his wife was false: I know thou didst not, thou’rt not such a villain: speak, for my heart is full.

IAGO I did.

EMILIA You told a lie, an odious, damned lie; upon my soul, a lie, a wicked lie. She false with Cassio!

IAGO With Cassio, mistress. Go to, charm your tongue.

EMILIA I will not charm my tongue; I am bound to speak: my mistress here lies murder’d in her bed,— and your reports have set the murder on. Villany, villany, villany!

IAGO What, are you mad? I charge you, get you home.

EMILIA Good gentlemen, let me have leave to speak: perchance, Iago, I will ne’er go home.

OTHELLO O! O! O! [He falls on the bed.] O, she was foul! Iago knows that she with Cassio hath the act of shame a thousand times committed; Cassio confess’d it: and she did gratify his amorous works with that recognizance and pledge of love which I first gave her; I saw it in his hand: it was a handkerchief, an antique token my father gave my mother.
The [Very] Abridged Othello

EMILIA  O heaven! O heavenly powers!

IAGO  Come, hold your peace. Be wise, and get you home.

EMILIA  I will not. I'll speak.

IAGO tries to stab EMILIA. Gratiano stops Iago and yells at him for attacking a woman.

EMILIA  O thou dull Moor! that handkerchief thou speak'st of I found by fortune and did give my husband; for often, with a solemn earnestness, more than indeed belong'd to such a trifle, he begg'd of me to steal it. She give it Cassio! no, alas! I found it, and I did give't my husband.

IAGO  Filth, thou liest!

EMILIA  By heaven, I do not, I do not, gentlemen.

OTHELLO  Are there no stones in heaven but what serve for the thunder?--Precious villain! [He runs at IAGO. IAGO stabs EMILIA, and exits. Emilia falls on the bed next to Desdemona while Gratiano and Montano chase after Iago. Emilia dies. Othello finds a hidden dagger in a drawer and gets ready to kill himself. Gratiano and Montano re-enter with Iago as prisoner. Lodovico forces Iago to look Othello in the eyes.]

OTHELLO  I look down towards his feet; but that's a fable. If that thou best a devil, I cannot kill thee.

[Wounds IAGO. Lodovico takes the dagger away so that Othello cannot kill himself.]

IAGO  I bleed, sir; but not kill'd.

OTHELLO  I am not sorry neither: I'd have thee live; for, in my sense, 'tis happiness to die.

LODOVICO  This wretch hath part confess'd his villany: did you and he consent in Cassio's death?

OTHELLO  Ay.

CASSIO  Dear general, I never gave you cause.

OTHELLO  I do believe it, and I ask your pardon. Will you, I pray, demand that demi-devil why he hath thus ensnared my soul and body?

IAGO  Demand me nothing: what you know, you know: from this time forth I never will speak word.

OTHELLO  How came you, Cassio, by that handkerchief that was my wife's?

CASSIO  I found it in my chamber: and he himself confess'd but even now that there he dropp'd it for a special purpose which wrought to his desire.

LODOVICO  You must forsake this room, and go with us: your power and your command is taken off, and Cassio rules in Cyprus. Come, bring him away.

OTHELLO  [To Desdemona] I kiss'd thee ere I kill'd thee: no way but this; killing myself, to die upon a kiss.
[OTHELLO stabs himself. Falls on the bed, and dies.]

CASSIO  This did I fear, but thought he had no weapon; for he was great of heart.

LODOVICO  [To IAGO] O Spartan dog, look on the tragic loading of this bed; this is thy work: the object poisons sight; let it be hid.

Exeunt