

OTHELLO ACT III

SCENE I

At Othello & Desdemona's place...

Cassio comes in with a bunch of random musicians to play a cheery tune for Othello. Because *that* seems like a great idea...? (sigh, Cassio.)

Then a clown comes out and starts making puns. COMEDY RELIEF.

- Clown: "Hey, do you guys have any music that *can't* be heard? No? Then go away."

OK, but this one makes me laugh:

- Cassio: "Dost thou hear, my honest friend?"
- Clown: "No, I don't hear your honest friend. I only hear you." Lololol jokes.

Anywaaaaayyyy, Iago comes out and Cassio's like, "Hey, I'm trying to get hold of your wife Emilia, so she can get me in to talk to Desdemona." Iago says he'll send Emilia out, and he'll also make sure and get Othello out of the way too so that Cassio & Des can talk, because Iago is just *such a nice guy*.

- Emilia tries to encourage Cassio, telling him that Othello & Des are already talking about giving him his job back. Cassio insists that he still needs to talk to Desdemona alone if it's possible, and Emilia says she'll hook him up.

SCENE II

Meanwhile, Othello tells Iago to send some letters back to the Senate, and then come meet him up on the wall where he'll be walking.

SCENE III

Alright — this is the scene where everything starts to turn around.

So we start off with Desdemona reassuring Cassio that she'll do everything in her power to convince Othello to give him his job back. She won't let up about it till it's done.

"Therefore be merry, Cassio.

For thy solicitor shall rather die

Than give thy cause away." (26-28) -- ahahaha OH IRONY.

Then Othello & Iago show up, walking together in the distance. Cassio decides to hightail it out of there, feeling too nervous to talk to Othello himself.

Iago: "Hm, I don't like that!"

Othello: "What?"

Iago: "Nothing — or — I dunno."

Othello: "Hey, was that Cassio leaving my wife?"

Iago: "Cassio? No, no, surely it couldn't be. Why would Cassio sneak off so guilty-like?"

Othello: "Pretty sure it was him."

Planting the seeds already...

Des comes up to Othello like, "Hey, so, I really think you should give Cassio his job back. He's a really good guy, and believe me, I know an honest face when I see one." [*cough*] "Could we at least invite him over for dinner sometime? Pretty pretty please?"

Othello's like, "Sure, darling sweetie-pie. Anything for you." And she's all, "Hey now, boo, this is for *you*, not me." And he's like, "Okay yeah, whatever — you know I can't say no to you, sugar cakes. Now, I'm sorry, love, but would you mind giving me some alone time?" And she's like, "Of course, honey-bunches. Love you!" and leaves.'

As soon as she's gone, Othello starts commenting about how freaking much he loves her.

"Perdition catch my soul

But I do love thee! And when I love thee not,

Chaos is come again." (90-2)

** Dichotomy between order/chaos, heaven/hell, love/hate. When love is turned upside-down, the whole world becomes chaos or hell.*

Aaaannnnndddd here we go:

Iago: "Hey, Othello..."

Othello: "Wassup?"

Iago: "Was Cassio aware of you dating Desdemona back then?"

Othello: "Yup, beginning to end. Why?"

Iago: "Oh. Just curious, that's all."

Othello: "Why? What are you thinking?"

Iago: "I just didn't realize he even knew her before."

Othello: "Oh yes, and he even carried messages between us fairly often."

Iago: "Oh *really*?"

Othello: "Yes, really! What, is there something weird about that? Isn't Cassio an honest guy?"

Iago: "Honest, sir?"

Othello: "Yes, honest!"

Iago: "I mean, as far as I know..."

Othello: "What do you think?"

Iago: "Think, sir?"

Othello: "'Think, sir'! Is there an echo in here?"

"By heaven, he echoes me

As if there were some monster in his thought

Too hideous to be shown." (106-8)

Othello: "What's going on with you? Just a minute ago you said you didn't like it when you saw Cassio leave my wife? And when I said he was there when we were dating you were all like, '*Oh really*,' and made these faces like you had some horrible thoughts going through your brain. If you care about me, tell me what you're thinking!"

Iago: "My lord, you know how much I care about you..."

Othello: "Well, I think you do; for all I know, you're full of love & honesty, and you think before you speak. That's why you're really freaking me out right now! If a conman was doing this sort of thing, I'd say it was a trick. But in a good man they're a sign of some bad emotions that can't be fully repressed."

Iago: "... I think it's fine. Cassio's a good guy."

Othello: "Yeah, I think so too." *suspicious*

Iago: **“Men should be what they seem; or those that be not, would they might seem none!”**

** Men who aren't actually men (aka monsters & devils) shouldn't look like men.*

Othello: “Yes, men *should* be what they seem.

Iago: “Cassio’s a good guy. It’s fine.”

Othello: “Okay, but no, there’s more to this. Tell me what you’re thinking. Come on, give me the worst. I can take it.”

Iago: “Look, Othello, don’t make me say it. It was just a bad thought. We all get bad thoughts sometimes, right?”

Othello: “But if you think there’s something going on, then you’d be a bad friend not to tell me.”

Iago: “No, please, I beg you — I’m a suspicious person, and you’re not. So I’m sure I’m just misjudging the situation. Just ignore me, please. It would be better for both of us if you didn’t listen to me.”

Othello: “What are you talking about?”

Iago: [Something something about having a good name? I don’t quite get how it’s relevant, but it’s interesting since it’s the exact opposite of what he said to Cassio at the end of Act 2:]

**“Good name in man and woman, dear my lord,
Is the immediate jewel of their souls.
Who steals my purse steals trash; ‘tis something, nothing;
‘Twas mine, ‘tis his, and has been slave to thousands;
But he that filches from me my good name
Robs me of that which not enriches him
And makes me poor indeed.” (155-61)**

[He’s just suggesting that he doesn’t want to hurt Cassio and/or Des’s reputation(s).]

Othello: “Dammit, tell me what you’re thinking!”

Iago: “Nope.”

Othello: “Grr!”

Iago: **“O beware, my lord, of jealousy! It is the green-eyed monster, which doth mock the meat it feeds on.” (165-6)** A cuckold who knows he’s a cuckold is happy, because he knows the truth and therefore doesn’t love the one who wronged him. But no one’s more miserable than a man who merely suspects he might be cuckolded, but still loves his wife as much as ever.”

Othello: “Oh misery!” (*Could be like, “Oh God!” or “Oh, what misery that would be!”*)

Iago: “The poor who are content are as rich as anyone. But even the richest man is poor if he’s constantly worried about becoming poor. Save us from jealousy!”

Othello: “Why are you going on about this? Do I seem jealous to you? You think I’d spend all my time brooding over suspicions? If I ever have any doubts about my marriage, then that’ll be the end, and that’s it. It doesn’t make me jealous to point out that my wife is beautiful, friendly, an awesome cook, speaks her mind, sings, plays, dances, is generally the best... She’s virtuous, so all of these things are even more virtuous qualities in her! And I won’t let my own weaknesses convince me otherwise. After all, **“she had eyes, and chose me” (189)**. I would need some actual proof before I doubted her.”

Iago: “Oh good! Well, since you’re not a jealous person, then I feel like I can tell you what’s on my mind. Now, I don’t have any proof, but just *watch* Des & Cassio. Don’t be jealous, but don’t be overconfident either. I don’t want you to get taken advantage of because of your good nature. Just observe. I know what Venetian women are like. When it comes to sinning, their usual practice is not to avoiding doing it, but just to not get caught.”

Othello: “... Really?”

Iago: “I mean, she *did* deceive her father when she ran off with you.”

Othello: "Yeah, she did..."

Iago: "Who would think that one so young and innocent-seeming like her could be so crafty, and deceive her father so much that he thought it was *witchcraft*! Haha — but I'm sorry, sir. I've said too much. I just care about you, that's all."

Othello: "I owe you one, Iago."

Iago: "You seem kind of upset?"

Othello: "No, no, I'm fine. I'm fine."

Iago: "Ugh, no, I've upset you. Please remember, I'm only saying all these things because we're friends. Please don't read more into all these things than what's actually here."

Othello: "Don't worry, I won't."

Iago: "I didn't mean for anything bad to come of all of this. Cassio's my friend, too. I shouldn't have even said anything."

Othello: "Look, I'm fine. I'm... I'm *sure* Desdemona's honest."

Iago: "And may you both live long, happy lives together!"

Othello: "And yet, it's true I'm not really her type..." ("how nature erring from itself" 227)

Iago: "Mm, yes, good point! That's exactly what I was thinking. Look, she rejected all of those suitors who were own kind — all those white, Christian guys from her own country. She turned them all down! Who does that? Seems like there's something wrong with anyone who would... But, I'm sorry, I didn't mean *her* specifically, you know. Not necessarily. I do worry, though, that one day she's going to change her mind and decide she wants someone of her own kind after all."

Othello: "Leave me, Iago. I need to think. But let me know if you notice anything else."

Iago: "Of course, sir." [leaves]

Othello: "Oh Jesus, why did I ever get married???"

Iago: [comes back] "You know what, sir? I wouldn't even think about it anymore if I were you. If something's going on, then time will show it. If, for example, Desdemona suddenly gets really pushy about you getting Cassio his job back... well, there might be something more to that. But in the meantime, don't worry about it. Let me be the paranoid one, and you be happy. Mmkay?"

Othello: "I'm fine, Iago. Don't worry."

Iago: "Kay, bye."

Othello: [soliloquy, 258-78] "What a good friend, that Iago is. And he knows how to read people well. If it turns out she *is* cheating on me, then I'll cut off all ties with her immediately & send her away, even though it'll break my heart. Maybe it's because I'm black? Or because I don't have the right manners that all those fancy Venetian guys have...? Or maybe it's because I'm older?... I don't know. All I know is that I've been wronged and now my only choice is to loathe her! *Damn you, marriage!* I'd rather be a toad in a dungeon than to share the one I love with others. But that's the curse of great men; we're born to be betrayed."

[Then Desdemona comes in with Emilia, and as soon as he sees her he's like:]

Othello: "**If she be false, O, then heaven mocks itself! I'll not believe't.**" (277-8)

* *Again, the whole heaven/hell, good/evil, love/hate dichotomy*

OK, then Desdemona's like, "Hey, Othello, everyone's waiting for you to come to dinner?" And he's like, "**I am to blame**" (T_T). And she's all like, "Hey, are you feeling okay?" and he says he's got a pain in his forehead (i.e. **cuckold horns**). She says it's probably just because he's been working so late, and tries to wrap his head in her handkerchief (*what would that do, Desdemona?* -_-) . He's like, "No, I'm fine, don't

worry about it,” and pushes her hand away, making her drop the handkerchief. They go in to dinner, and she’s like, “I’m sorry you’re not feeling well, boo.”

Then Emilia picks up the handkerchief and is like, “SCORE!” because apparently Iago told her to get it for him, though she doesn’t know why.

- Also she reveals that it was Othello’s first gift to Desdemona when they were dating.

Iago comes back, and Emilia’s like, “Hey, I’ve got something for you!” And Iago’s like, “Yeah, I know. I’ve had it already, and so has everyone else. Whomp-whomp!” And she’s like, “*What’d you say?*” And he’s all, “I said you’re stupid.” And she’s just like, “Whatever, jerkface. I got that handkerchief you wanted so bad.” And then Iago’s like, “Ooh, SCORE!!!”

Emilia asks him what he’s going to do with it, and he’s all like, “None of your business, bitch.” And she says if he doesn’t have any good reason to have it, then she wants to give it back to Desdemona, who will go nuts when she realizes it’s gone. Iago says, “I’ve got a good reason. Now get out of here!”

As soon as she’s gone he’s all, “Mwahahaha, I’m going to hide this in Cassio’s bedroom! My evil scheme is coming together perfectly!”

“The Moor already changes with my poison:

Dangerous conceits are in their nature poisons,

Which at the first are scarce found to distaste,

But with a little act upon the blood

Burn like the mines of sulphur.” (325-9) — Theme of dangerous words/ideas

Othello comes back, and Iago’s like, “Yeah, look at him! Already he looks sick! No sleep medication on earth could ever bring back the peaceful sleep he enjoyed yesterday. Bwahaha!”

O: “Get away from me, Iago! You’ve set me on the rack! I can’t stand this. I wish I could go back to being ignorant, without worrying.”

I: “Oh geez, I’m sorry.”

O: “Even if the whole army slept with her, I’d be happy as long as I didn’t know! Goodbye, peace. Goodbye, certainty. Goodbye, everything I used to love in life.”

I: “Goodness me!”

O: “You asshole, for your own sake, you’d better *prove* she’s cheating on me. If you caused me all this pain for nothing, I swear to God I’ll kill you.”

[repeats that in about 3 different, increasingly threatening ways]

I: “Oh! So this is the thanks I get for telling the truth, huh? God help me, I’ll never help anyone out ever again!”

O: “No... no. I’m sorry. You should be truthful. My bad.”

O: “By the world, I think my wife be honest, and think she is not;

I think that thou art just, and think thou art not.” (384-5)

Othello asks for proof again, and Iago’s like, “Well, what do you want? You want to see them actually having sex? Not gonna happen, man.”

But then he makes up this BS story about how the other day, he was bunking with Cassio, and he overheard Cassio talking in his sleep about Desdemona. And then, uh... he says Cassio starting making out with him in his sleep, thinking he was Desdemona. Lol, okay Iago.

- And then Iago’s like, “But I’m sure it doesn’t mean anything. He was just dreaming.”

O: "I'll tear her to pieces!"

I: "Whoa, whoa, calm down. I mean, we still don't have any actual proof. But, uh, did your wife have a special handkerchief with strawberries on it?"

O: "Yeah, that was the first gift I gave to her."

I: "Preeettyy sure I saw Cassio wipe his face with it yesterday."

O: "What?! I'll kill her! It's true, it's all true! My love is gone -- come, vengeance, overthrow my love with hatred!!!"

I: "Now, sir, calm down -- "

O: "BLOOOODDDDD!!!"

I: "Look, maybe you'll feel different tomorrow."

Then Othello & Iago take an oath, where Othello swears revenge and Iago swears to serve him. And then Othello finally makes Iago his lieutenant, just like Iago wanted in the first place. But does that mean he's now gonna stop his evil plan? Hahaha nope.

SCENE IV

And then we have the clown again, because COMEDY RELIEF LOLLOL.

The clown is bothering Des & Emilia with his bad puns.

Desdemona starts freaking out because she realizes she lost her handkerchief. She's all like, "Where could I have put it, Emilia??" And Emilia's like, "I dunno..." **guilt**

Then Des. is like, "Well, good thing Othello's not the jealous type." And Emilia's like, "Really, he's not jealous?" (because she lives with Iago, remember, so this is a new concept to her). And Desdemona's like, "No, he doesn't have a jealous bone in his body!" Sigh.

Long story short, Othello comes in, and Desdemona's like, "Hey, so what's the update on the Cassio situation?" And Othello's like, "I dunno, I feel sick. Do you have my handkerchief?" And Desdemona's like, "Uh, not on me," And Othello's all, "WELL, WHERE IS IT???" And she's like, "Whoa, why are you freaking out?" And it escalates into a fight.

- He tells her that the handkerchief is magical, and if a wife gives it away to someone else, it'll turn her husband's love into hatred.
 - When Des hears that, she's like, "Well, then I wish I'd never even seen the thing!" And Othello is like, "Oh really? *Why do you say that, hm?!*" And Des is like, "I don't know! Why are you acting so weird?!"
- After Othello freaks out and leaves, Emilia looks at Desdemona like, "I thought you said he wasn't jealous?" And Des says, "I've never seen him act like this before! Geez, maybe that handkerchief was cursed after all." 0_0

They start trying to figure out what's got Othello all upset, and Desdemona theorizes that maybe it's something to do with the war that's got him all on edge. She basically bends over backwards to excuse his behavior. Emilia doesn't really buy it, but she's like, "Well, let's hope it's just stress, and not jealousy." And Des is like, "I never gave him any reason to be jealous!"

**Emilia: "But jealous souls will not be answered so;
They are not ever jealous for the cause,
But jealous for they're jealous. 'Tis a monster
Begot upon itself, born on itself." (155-8)**

- *Basically, jealousy isn't logical; it doesn't need a reason. Once it's born, it feeds itself.*
- *Also again with the motif of monsters & monstrosity*

Oh, and then we meet Cassio's girlfriend/prostitute, Bianca. She's all like, "Baby, where you been? I've missed you!!!" And he's like, "Oh, baby, yeah, I've totally missed you too. Hey, could you copy this for me?" And gives her Des's handkerchief. WHAT???

- Bianca's like, "Where'd you get this? You got some other girlfriend? Is that why you've been avoiding me?" And Cassio's like, "No, no, baby. Look, I just found it in my room and thought it was nice, so I want a copy. That's all."

THE PLOT THICKENS.