

# William Shakespeare - *Othello*

## The plot

Othello, a Moorish general of Venice, has promoted Cassio as his lieutenant and Iago, who was hoping for the promotion himself, makes plots against both Cassio and Othello to have revenge. Othello has secretly married Desdemona, the beautiful daughter of Venetian senator Brabantio, and Iago determines to use Desdemona as the means of his revenge. Once in Cyprus, where the Duke sends Othello, Iago starts his action, involving Desdemona, his wife Emilia, Cassio and Roderigo, a former suitor of Desdemona. Because of a fight with Roderigo, Cassio is demoted.

So he is persuaded to go and visit Desdemona, who could convince Othello to reinstate him. The meeting is used by Iago to plant the seed of doubt and jealousy in Othello's mind.

To make things worse, Desdemona loses her handkerchief, which Iago will use to better his plan: he makes Othello believe Cassio got it from Desdemona herself. Othello is now convinced of her infidelity, orders to kill Cassio, does not believe his wife and strangles her. Emilia will discover the crime but will also find out Iago is the real villain, before being stabbed by her own husband. Iago is therefore imprisoned to be judged, while Othello realises he murdered an innocent Desdemona and stabs himself in front of Cassio. He dies on Desdemona's bed, beside her.