

Othello abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 1

Braggadocio

Situation: Iago continues to falsely influence Othello, silently saying “my medicine, work! Thus credulous fools are caught.” Cassio enters, making light of Bianca, having asked her to “take me this work out” of the handkerchief he found in his room. Bianca is jealous, Bianca being Cassio’s girlfriend in Cyprus.

IAGO: How do you, lieutenant.

CASSIO: The worse you give me the title whose want even kills me.

IAGO: Ply Desdemona well, and you are sure on ‘t. Now if this suit lay in Bianca’s power, how quickly should you succeed.

CASSIO: I never knew woman love man so.

Cassio to Iago

Alas, the poor rogue, in faith I think she
Loves me. I have heard people gossip we
May marry, but that’s her own giving out.
She is persuaded I will marry her
For her own flattery, and she doth tout
It about; it’s not my plan. There we were,
Venetian friends, talking on the sea-bank
When from nowhere should appear but this rank
Bauble, throwing her arms about my neck
and there she hangs and lolls and weeps upon
Me, like a strumpet who for bread doth beck
Men on, beguiling many. She dotes on
Michael Cassio. When I hear of her
I cannot restrain myself from laughter.

Bianca enters.

BIANCA: What did you mean by that same handkerchief you gave me even now? A likely piece of work that you should find it in our chamber and know not who left it there! I’ll take out no work on ‘t.

CASSIO: How now, my sweet Bianca? How now? How now?

OTHELLO: By heaven, that must be my handkerchief!