

Act 1 Scene 1

Bassanio: Antonio, my friend! There you are.

Gratiano: What makes you sigh, Antonio? Is your mind tossing on the ocean along with all your merchandise as it makes its way to Venice?

Antonio: No, thank heaven. I have nothing to worry about there.

Gratiano: I know what will make you happy. You should come out with me tonight, go grab some drinks and meet a few ladies. It'll be fun. No? You Bassanio? Alright, well, I'm off.

[Exit Gratiano]

Bassanio: Ignore Gratiano. He's always inappropriate like that. But I'm glad I found you, I wanted to tell you about-

Antonio: Your secret lady?

Bassanio: Yes, as promised. Her name is Portia. She's a beautiful lady, with a big house and lots of money. All I want is to court her, but I am in debt and I have no money to woo her with. She would never choose me .

Antonio: Are you asking me for money?

Bassanio: If you could spare some, please.

Antonio: Well, all my fortune is at sea right now. But you are my best friend, and I will do my best to help.

Bassanio: Thank you, great Antonio!

Antonio: Let's see what my credit in Venice will do; we might find you a sum of money to win your Portia with.

Act 1 Scene 2

Portia: Nerissa, my little body is weary of searching.

Nerissa: You are the perfect example that even those with great fortune can experience great misery. I say, those who live in the mean live long and happy lives.

Portia: Well said. I, for example, have a great amount of money but I am constricted to the will of my dead father. I may neither choose who I want nor refuse who I dislike. My will is hindered by that of my father. Do you think that is fair?

Nerissa: Your father was virtuous, so even if you are not fond of the lottery that he created—the choice between the three chests of gold, silver, and lead—I am sure that no man will choose the right one unless he is the one you should rightly love. Have you felt warmth toward any of the suitors you've met yet?

Portia: There's one that only talks about his horse and how he can shoe it himself. I think his mother had an affair with a blacksmith. Another... well, God made him, so there must be something good about him. I haven't found it yet. And the German; well, he's a drunk. We should put a glass of wine on the wrong chest just because I know he will pick it. I do not want any of these men.

Nerissa: However, by your father's will, one might win you if he chooses the chest which contains your portrait. What about the Venetian, Bassanio?

Portia: I remember him well, and I remember him worthy of praise.

[knocking sound]

Did you hear that? I think my first group of suitors is here.

Act 1 Scene 3

Bassanio: This is Signoir Antonio.

Shylock: I am debating my present funds. How many months do you desire?

Antonio: Shylock, albeit I neither lend nor borrow by taking nor by giving of excess. Yet, to supply the ripe wants of my friend I'll break custom. Three thousand ducats and for three months.

Shylock: Three thousand ducats. 'Tis a good round sum. Three months from twelve, then let me see the rate –

Antonio: Well, Shylock. Shall we be in your debt?

Shylock: Signoir Antonio, in the past you have called me misbeliever, cutthroat dog, and spat upon my robes, and all for using what is mine. Now it appears you need my help.

Antonio: I am likely to call thee so again, to spit on thee again, to spurn thee, too. If thou will lend this money, lend it not as to thy friends, but lend it rather to thine enemy. For if he breaks the bond, who better than you to exact the penalty.

Shylock: Why look how you storm! I would be friends with you and have your love, forget the shames that you have stained me with, supply your present wants and take no jot of interest for my money. This is kind I offer.

Bassanio: This is kindness!

Shylock: Go with me to a notary, seal me there your bond; let the forfeit be nominated for an equal pound of your fair flesh, to be cut off and taken in what part of your body pleaseth me.

Antonio: I'll seal to such a bond. And say there's much kindness in you.

Bassanio: Antonio, you shall not seal to such a bond for me.

Antonio: Why, fear not, man. I will not forfeit it! Within these two months I do expect return of thrice three times the value of this bond. **[To Shylock]** Yes Shylock, I will seal to this bond.

Act 2 Scene 1

Morocco: Please don't judge me on my dark skin. My blood is just as red as those vanilla faces from the north.

Portia: Your skin color has nothing to do with this. I'm not sure if you heard but my daddy set up a little game and if you win, I'm yours. Your chances are as good as any.

Morocco: Look lady, I'm kind of a big deal and I would do anything to have you. Leaving it up to chance just means a more unworthy man may get you.

Portia: Buddy, you gotta give it a college try but if you fail you have to bounce and by the way you can never get married... ever.

Morocco: Alrighty, let's give it a shot.

Act 2 Scene 5

Shylock: I am going to dinner with the Christians. Lock up after me and watch over the house. I dreamt of money bags last night, and that's a bad omen! I can't be losing any money while I'm gone.

Jessica: Of course father. **[Exit Shylock.]** *(Aside)* He has no idea of my plans with Lorenzo.

Act 2 Scene 4

Lorenzo: We will sneak away at supper, get disguised at my house and return in an hour.
Gratiano: We are so unprepared.
Balthazar: Lorenzo, here is a letter from Jessica.
Lorenzo: Excellent, she is in on the plan. I figured as much. She is a true blue. **[Balthazar exits]**
Gratiano: So what did the letter from Jessica say?
Lorenzo: She has instructed me on how to get her from her father's house. She also has told me what belongings he has that we can take. She is a stand up girl even though her father is a scumbag.

Act 2 Scene 6

Gratiano: Is this Shylock's house? I thought Lorenzo was meeting us here an hour ago! I can't believe he is late.
Lorenzo: Dear friend, thank you for your patience. There's Jessica, my true love, in her father's room. Come down here so I can be with you.
Jessica: My love indeed! Here in this casket is a mountain of heavy but priceless treasure. I will put on some more jewelry and be right down.
[Exit Jessica]
Antonio: You know, I was thinking. If all the Jews suddenly decided to become Christian, we'd have to raise the price of pork.
Gratiano: What are you saying about my love?
It's simple really. If all Jews, who do not eat pork, became Christian and decided to eat pork, we would quickly run out of pigs to slaughter. Therefore, we must raise the price of pork.
[Enter Jessica]
There is Jessica now. We must leave before Shylock catches us.
[Exit Jessica and Lorenzo]
And it is time I find Bassanio and go with him to Belmont. I feel the winds changing. I desire no more delight than to be under sail and gone tonight.

Act 2 Scene 7&9

Portia: Draw the curtain and choose a casket. Choose the right one and I am yours.
Morocco: Let god help me in my judgment. I will choose the golden one. **[Pause]** This scroll basically says all that looks good isn't really so.
Portia: Then you chose wrong. You may go now.
[Exit Morocco; Enter Arragon]
Portia: Choose right and I am yours. If you choose wrong you must leave right away.
Arragon: Wow! A lot is at stake. I must choose right. I choose the silver one.
Portia: You thought too long for the wrong answer. I must ask you to leave now.
[Exit Arragon; there is a knock]
Nerissa: Who could it be now?
Portia: Do I dare hope it is the Venetian, Bassanio?

Act 3 Scene 1&3

Shylock: I have been robbed!

Antonio: Oh woest me!
Shylock: I have been robbed!
Antonio: So? My ships are gone. Rumor has it they are destroyed.
Shylock: What? Really? Ha! Then you must forfeit your flesh to me! Who cares if I've been robbed!
Antonio: What? No!
Shylock: Guards! Catch this man!

Act 3 Scene 2&4

Portia: Wait, before choosing, I don't want you to choose wrong.
Bassanio: Let me choose now.
Portia: If you truly love me you will choose right.
Bassanio: I understand. **[Chooses the lead casket]** What is this scroll? It says if you have chosen not by looks but from the heart, you have chosen right.
Portia: What is mine is now yours, and all of me belongs to you. This ring I give you is a sign of our love.

[Enter Gratiano and Nerissa]

Nerissa: My lady, I have found my one true love! With your permission we would like to be married.
Gratiano: What do you say, Bassanio!
Bassanio: I am surprised.
Portia: If you truly love each other, I cannot say no.

[Enter Balthazar]

Balthazar: Signior Bassanio, a letter from Venice.
Bassanio: What is this? A letter from my dear friend Antonio. His ships are lost and now he must forfeit his bond to Shylock! I must go save my dearest friend, and Gratiano's too! He is the one that got a loan for me to come here to court you.
Portia: Fine, but you must marry me first, and then you may leave for Venice. I will even give you the money you need to save him from his fate.
Bassanio: You are kind, my love! **[Exit Bassanio]**
Portia: Balthazar, you will take a letter in haste to Padua. Make sure my cousin Doctor Bellario gets it. Whatever he gives you take them to Venice where I'll be waiting
Balthazar: Right away, Miss.
Portia: Come on, Nerissa. I will ask Bassanio's friend Lorenzo to watch our house and tell everyone we are headed to a monastery. But we'll see our lovers before they know it.
Nerissa: Will they see us?
Portia: They will but in a matter they would not suspect. We will be disguised as men, and I'll bet you anything I'll be the prettier fellow of the two. I'll talk like a man and tell clever lies of how honorable women fell sick and died after I denied them my love.
Nerissa: Why are we dressing as men?
Portia: What kind of question is that? Never mind, come on, we need to hurry. I'll tell you everything on the way.

[They exit]

Act 4 Scene 1

Duke: Be seated peasants. After reading this case Shylock, I'm beginning to think you're crazy. Why must you take this man's flesh?

Shylock: I think I'll make a nice scarf with it, or maybe a purse. What does it matter? It was in the contract.

Bassanio: Listen Shylock, a pound of this man's flesh is worthless. Take this offer of twice the amount of money and call this off.

Shylock: Even if you offered me six times the amount, I wouldn't take the money.

Bassanio: You Jew!

Shylock: What am I doing wrong? You Venetians have your slaves, which you bought and who serve you. Would you set them free if I told you to? No. Don't I own this man's flesh?

Duke: Enough of this. Call in the doctor of law.

Bassanio: Don't worry Antonio. I'll let the Jew take my flesh before I ever let him touch you.

Antonio: I am just glad you are here. I can die in peace now.

[Enter Nerissa and Portia]

Duke: Are you two come from Bellario?

Nerissa: Yes, this letter shows it.

Duke: And you are the doctor he sends in his place?

Portia: Yes. He has made me familiar with the case. Are you Shylock the Jew, and you the merchant Antonio who agreed to this bond? **[They nod]** Then the Jew must have mercy.

Shylock: Why must I?

Portia: As instigator of this bond, you are the only one who can show mercy; not the court, judges or even myself.

Shylock: I refuse. I want that is mine.

Bassanio: Here, I have three times the amount of money we borrowed. Take it.

Shylock: No. Antonio must forfeit a pound of his flesh to me.

Portia: Then let it be noted Shylock refuses the sum for the forfeit. The law is the law, and the contract must be kept. A pound of flesh nearest the heart is to be taken by the Jew.

Shylock: Good call Big Dog!

Antonio: I am ready.

Portia: I see you have the scales. Do you have a surgeon or rags to stop the bleeding.

Shylock: No, it wasn't in the contract.

Antonio: Well Bassanio, it's been real, it's been fun, but I'm gonna be honest... This ain't gonna be real fun.

Bassanio: Oh Antonio, I'd give up all I have, even my wife, to keep you alive!

Portia: Oh no you didn't!

Gratiano: I wish my wife was dead and in heaven so she could change the fates!

Nerissa: Say what!

Shylock: Enough. I am ready to take this man's flesh.

Portia: You may proceed, Shylock. But if you spill a drop of Antonio's blood, the court may take your land and property for intentionally harming a Venetian.

Gratiano: Haha! Good call Big Dog!

Shylock: Seriously? Then I'll just take my money.

Portia: You've already refused the money before the court.

Gratiano: Take it!

Shylock: Then I have nothing! You may as well kill me!

Portia: It is up to the man nearly killed to decide your fate.
Antonio: I'll take half his property, but leave the rest to the man married to the Jew's daughter. And while you're at it, baptize Shylock and make him Christian: **[Exit Shylock]**
Bassanio: Bro, take these stacks we were gonna pay the Jew with.
Portia: I can't. I am happy to have just saved your friend's life.
Bassanio: Isn't there something we can give you to show our appreciation?
Portia: How about that ring you're wearing?
Bassanio: No way, bro. Sorry.
Portia: Seriously? I just saved your friend's life, you make me beg for some cheap gift and then refuse to give it to me? Jerk. I'm outta here.
Antonio: Really dude? You just couldn't give him that crappy ring? Aren't I more important than some gift your wife gave you?
Bassanio: I guess. Gratiano, go give this to the man.

Act 4 Scene 2

Gratiano: Hey bro, good news. Bassanio wants me to give you this ring.
Portia: On no he didn't!
Gratiano: Oh yes he did. **[Exit Gratiano]**
Nerissa: Let me see if I can get my dead beat husband's ring too.
Portia: Oh you should, that would be hilarious.

Act 5 Scene 1

[Enter Lorenzo, Jessica]

Lorenzo: What a beautiful night.
Jessica: Is it as beautiful as me?
Lorenzo: No. It is even more beautiful than you. **[Exit Jessica]** Who comes so fast in the silence of the night?

[Enter Portia and Nerissa]

Lorenzo: Dear Lady, welcome home.
Nerissa: We have been praying for our husbands' safe return.
Lorenzo: They haven't arrived yet.
Portia: Good. Go Lorenzo and let the servants prepare food. Remind them to not say anything of our leaving for the monastery. **[Exit Lorenzo, Enter Balthazar]**
Balthazar: I have been sent to announce the arrival of your husband, Lord Bassanio. **[Exit Balthazar, Enter Bassanio, Antonio and Gratiano]**
Portia: Welcome home my lord!
Bassanio: Portia, this is my best friend Antonio.
Portia: You are welcome here too, Signoir Antonio.
Gratiano: I swear I gave my ring to the judge's clerk.
Nerissa: Liar! You gave it to another woman! Madam, my husband has been cheating on me! I bet yours has too!
Portia: What now? Certainly Bassanio is incapable of such a thing.
Bassanio: Of course not.
Portia: Then where is your ring?
Bassanio: Well...
Nerissa: Adulterer!

Bassanio: No! I gave my ring to the judge who saved Antonio as a thank you gift.
Antonio: It's true.
Portia: I will never let you sleep in my room until you get back that ring.
Bassanio: What?
Nerissa: Same here.
Gratiano: What?
Portia: Oh, I can't take it anymore. Here is a letter from my cousin Bellario, that shows that in Venice, I played the judge, and Nerissa my clerk.
Bassanio: You were there and I didn't know it.
Gratiano: Then that must mean-
Nerissa: Yes, we have your rings.
Portia: But you must swear to never lose it again.
Bassanio&
Gratiano: I swear! I swear!

[Enter Balthazar]

Balthazar: A letter. **[Exit Balthazar]**
Portia: Good news Antonio! Your ships are not lost and have all landed in Venice. You are now rich! Huzzah!