

# Othello by William Shakespeare

M/F UA

SCENE II. A bedchamber in the castle: DESDEMONA in bed asleep;

**OTHELLO**

Peace, and be still!

**DESDEMONA**

I will so. 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.

**OTHELLO**

Sweet soul, take heed,  
Take heed of perjury; thou art on thy deathbed.

**DESDEMONA**

Ay, but not yet to die.

**OTHELLO**

Yes, presently:  
Therefore confess thee freely of thy sin;  
For to deny each article with oath  
Cannot remove nor choke the strong conception  
That I do groan withal. Thou art to die.

**DESDEMONA**

Then Lord have mercy on me!

**OTHELLO**

I say, amen.

**DESDEMONA**

And have you mercy too! 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.

DEMONA

He found it then;  
I never gave it him: send for him hither;  
Let him confess a truth.

OTHELLO

He hath confess'd.

DESDEMONA

What, my lord?

OTHELLO

That he hath used thee.

DESDEMONA

How? unlawfully?

OTHELLO

Ay.

DESDEMONA

He will not say so.

OTHELLO

No, his mouth is stopp'd;  
Honest Iago hath ta'en order for't.

DESDEMONA

O! my fear interprets: what, is he dead?

OTHELLO

Had all his hairs been lives, my great revenge  
Had stomach for them all.

DESDEMONA

Alas! he is betray'd and I undone.

OTHELLO

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

DESDEMONA

O, banish me, my lord, but kill me not!

OTHELLO

Down, strumpet!

DESDEMONA

Kill me to-morrow: let me live to-night!

OTHELLO

Nay, if you strive--

DESDEMONA

But half an hour!

OTHELLO

Being done, there is no pause.

DESDEMONA

But while I say one prayer!

OTHELLO

It is too late.

*He stifles her*