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Roderigo is unsure if he has the capacity for murder; he thus requests Iago to accompany him just in case. Roderigo even reveals to the audience in an aside that he is not motivated enough to murder Cassio. Meanwhile, Iago, in his aside, confesses that he doesn't care if Roderigo murders Cassio or vice-versa. For him, it will be more beneficial if they both kill each other. He also realizes that Roderigo has to die; otherwise Iago might be exposed. Roderigo attacks Cassio, who in turn stabs Roderigo in defense. Iago emerges, stabs Cassio in the leg, and flees before he can be identified. Othello hears about the brawl and is pleased that Iago has kept his word and attacked Cassio. He leaves to finish off Desdemona. Lodovico and Gratiano enter. They're followed by Iago, who is carrying a light. Cassio tells him that he has been attacked by someone. Iago spots Roderigo, who is still alive. Iago fakes a quarrel and kills Roderigo, who calls Iago an "inhuman dog" before he dies. Bianca enters and sees a wounded Cassio. Iago now attempts to pin this attack on Bianca, and calls her a "strumpet." Emilia enters, witnesses what has happened, and joins Iago in blaming Bianca. Iago then orders Emilia to report the incident to Othello and Desdemona. In this scene, Roderigo is unable to carry out Iago's plan; in what is certainly a tragic end, he is killed by Iago. Roderigo realizes that he's been manipulated only when Iago stabs him. Roderigo had given Iago his friendship, money, and loyalty only to be betrayed at the end. He is a timid and weak character without the determination to match his ambition: he fails to kill Cassio after plotting the murder with Iago; he is also unable to win Desdemona over. When Iago sees Roderigo's failed attempt to kill Cassio, Iago wounds Cassio, and under the pretext of saving Cassio, kills Roderigo. He even manages to project Bianca as Cassio's attacker. No one suspects Iago of foul play. Othello's brief appearance in this scene is marked by bloodthirst. Thinking Cassio is dead, he proceeds to kill with great fervor. Othello enters Desdemona's chamber with the intention of killing her. She looks serene, beautiful, and innocent, but Othello is undeterred. He tries to justify his intention with imageries and metaphors. Even when his rage somehow mellows, his opinion of Desdemona remains the same. Desdemona wakes up and asks Othello to join her in bed. Othello enquires whether she has prayed and tells her that she has to atone for her sins. Desdemona realizes that she cannot possibly do anything to change Othello's mind, but tells him once more that she is innocent. Othello sees this as an opening to let Desdemona know of the handkerchief, that he has found the enchanting object in Cassio's possession. She denies any offence and asks Othello to summon Cassio. Othello tells her that Cassio is dead. She pleads with him to not kill her, but Othello pays no heed. Emilia enters to let Othello know of the attempted assassination. Othello thus learns that Cassio is not dead. Emilia realizes that Desdemona has nearly been killed. Desdemona speaks her last words before dying. Although she is not guilty, she admits that she is, and that she herself is to blame for her plight. When Othello continues to speak ill of Desdemona, Emilia defends her. Othello lets Emilia know that Iago, her husband, knows the truth. Emilia is shocked to hear this, and she realizes at once what might have transpired. Emilia calls Iago a liar. Othello threatens to kill her, but she is not frightened by his threats. Instead, she accuses him of killing Desdemona. Montano, Gratiano, and Iago enter. Gratiano states that he is happy that Brabantio is not alive to witness Desdemona's tragic end. Emilia charges at Iago, and he admits his wrongdoings. He then stabs Emilia for exposing him and runs away. Emilia dies. When he is brought back, Othello stabs Iago, but Iago survives. Othello then asks everyone present at the scene to repeat the following lines: "I kissed thee ere I killed thee. No way but this,/Killing myself, to die upon a kiss." He then stabs and kills himself. Cassio becomes the leader in Cyprus, while Lodovico and Gratiano leave for Venice to carry the tragic news. Iago is taken into custody and will be tried for his crimes. Othello's farewell to Desdemona is rather ironic in nature: he is not only bidding farewell to his wife but also to his peace of mind and eventually to himself. Although he tries hard to see Desdemona as a sinner, he can only notice her innocence in her sleep, which, to be sure, doesn't deter him from killing her. He tries instead to justify the impending crime he is about to commit. Desdemona, on the other hand, surrenders herself to this destiny. It is quite ironic that the same handkerchief which symbolized her love for Othello is now the reason for her killing. Desdemona's last words are rather ambiguous. Mysteriously enough, her resignation deepens just moments before her death. Many critics opine that she may have called herself guilty to absolve her husband of blame and guilt, that doing so was an expression of love on her part. Emilia's death, too, can be compared with Desdemona's. Although she is not as devoted a wife as Desdemona, she, too, was betrayed by Iago. She is the voice of reason and values friendship and honor more than her marriage. Othello, who has always been worried about his public image, destroys his reputation. Toward the end of the play, he is seen by everyone as "a fallen Moor." His tarnished reputation is ample reason for him to murder Desdemona, though he eventually realizes that Iago had manipulated him all along. In his grand last speech, he compares his crime to throwing "a pearl away richer than all his tribe," although it doesn't justify the cruelty of his action. Othello struggles with his ideas of reputation and honor till the very end. 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Whether Roderigo kills Cassio or vice versa (or, even better, if they kill one another), Iago will be happy. Cassio enters; Roderigo tries to stab him, but misses. Cassio then draws on Roderigo and wounds him. Iago wounds Cassio in turn, and then disappears. Othello arrives on the scene, sees that Iago has done as he promised, and thinks Cassio is dead. This bolsters his resolve to see to Desdemona, and he exits. Lodovico and Gratiano enter, hearing the cries of both wounded men, but they aren't sure what to do. They are worried they are being tricked. Iago shows... Iago and Roderigo wait in a darkened street for Cassio to come. Iago has given Roderigo a sword. He tries to slip off in the darkness, but Roderigo asks him to stay near, in case he needs any help killing Cassio. Despite the plea, Iago gets away, and Roderigo is left mostly alone and noting to himself that he doesn't really have any ill will toward Cassio. Still, Iago's made a convincing enough argument that the man must die. Iago explains his devious plot (again, to us, not to Roderigo) in the cover of the shadows: If Roderigo lives, he'll demand all the jewels and gifts he gave to Iago, intended for Desdemona. (Of course, these were never delivered.) If Cassio lives, his goodness will only remind everyone that, by contrast, Iago is really evil. Also, Cassio is the only one (besides Desdemona) who has the power to clear up what's really going on to Othello. In short, Iago wants them both dead.Cassio then enters the street and Roderigo, hidden by darkness, tries to stab him. Cassio avoids the thrust, and wounds him back in self-defense. But then Iago arrives unseen and stabs Cassio in the leg. Cassio cries out for help from whatever dark alley they all happen to be in. Othello, apparently nearby in his own dark alley, hears the pitiful pleas.Thinking Iago has done away, as he promised, with Cassio, Othello is now full of the piss and vinegar required to go and murder his innocent, faithful beloved. But first, he makes a rousing speech about lust and blood and all that grave stuff. Then he exits, presumably to kill Desdemona. Lodovico and Gratiano, two Venetian gentlemen, come in when they hear Cassio screaming in the dark. Afraid this may be a trap, they hesitate, leaving Iago some time to enter with a light, the picture of confused innocence. Iago makes a big show of recognizing Cassio as a lieutenant and then vows to seek around in the dark for Cassio's assailant. Of course, Iago discovers Roderigo, and pretends not to know who he is. Then he conveniently and mortally stabs him. Iago, Lodovico, and Gratiano finally identify each other in the dark, and Iago informs the other two that Cassio has been wounded. They all head toward Cassio, and Iago takes off his shirt to bind Cassio's gashed leg. Bianca enters, in hysterics, to find her Cassio wounded. Iago tries to blame the whole messy situation on the poor strumpet, and then pretends to discover the man no one saw him stab. Iago feigns surprise at the fact that Cassio's assailant was none other than Roderigo, who he declares to be his great friend. As they all tend to the wounded Cassio, Iago asks Cassio if there was some beef with Roderigo. Cassio says he doesn't even know the guy, and Iago quickly has the two Venetian gentlemen turn their eyes towards Bianca, who Iago suggests is somehow involved in this whole sordid matter. Emilia comes in, and Iago sums up a version of the story through his lying teeth: Roderigo, who is now dead, joined with some other fellows, who have now escaped, to assault Cassio, who is now wounded. Iago, who is now telling the story, is still lying, so everything's fairly status quo.Iago then instructs Emilia to inform Othello and Desdemona of all of these very surprising events. Left alone, Iago comments that this night will make him or break him. As it's already broken Roderigo, Cassio, Othello, and Desdemona, take a guess where the odds are stacked.