

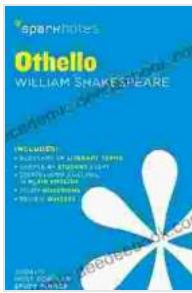
# Othello: SparkNotes Literature Guide 54

Othello is a tragedy by William Shakespeare, first performed in 1604. The play tells the story of Othello, a Moorish general in the Venetian army, who is manipulated by his ensign, Iago, into believing that his wife, Desdemona, is unfaithful. Othello, consumed by jealousy, murders Desdemona and is eventually killed by Iago.

The play is set in Venice and Cyprus. The main characters are:

- **Othello:** A Moorish general in the Venetian army. Othello is a noble and brave warrior, but he is also quick to anger and easily manipulated.
- **Desdemona:** Othello's wife. Desdemona is a beautiful and virtuous woman who loves Othello dearly.
- **Iago:** Othello's ensign. Iago is a cunning and malicious man who is motivated by jealousy and revenge.
- **Emilia:** Iago's wife and Desdemona's attendant. Emilia is a loyal and devoted woman who tries to help Desdemona, but she is ultimately unable to prevent her death.

The play opens with Othello and Desdemona celebrating their marriage. However, their happiness is short-lived. Iago, who is secretly in love with Desdemona, begins to poison Othello's mind with lies and suspicions. Othello, who is already insecure about his race and social status, is easily convinced that Desdemona is unfaithful.



## Othello SparkNotes Literature Guide (SparkNotes Literature Guide Series Book 54) by Jamie Ford

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 298 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 80 pages



Othello's jealousy grows until he is consumed by it. He murders Desdemona in a fit of rage, and then kills himself when he realizes the truth. Iago is eventually exposed and killed by Emilia.

Othello is a tragedy about the destructive power of jealousy. The play explores the themes of racism, sexism, and the dangers of unchecked emotion.

**Othello** is a complex and tragic figure. He is a brave and noble warrior, but he is also insecure and quick to anger. His jealousy of Desdemona is ultimately his unng.

**Desdemona** is a virtuous and innocent woman. She loves Othello dearly, but she is unable to save him from his own jealousy.

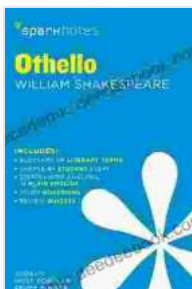
**Iago** is a cunning and malicious villain. He is motivated by jealousy and revenge, and he is willing to destroy anyone who gets in his way.

**Emilia** is a loyal and devoted woman. She tries to help Desdemona, but she is ultimately unable to prevent her death.

The main themes of Othello are:

- **Jealousy:** Othello's jealousy is the driving force of the play. It is a destructive emotion that consumes him and ultimately leads to his downfall.
- **Racism:** Othello is a Moorish general in a white-dominated society. His race makes him an outsider, and it is a factor in Iago's manipulation of him.
- **Sexism:** Desdemona is a woman in a patriarchal society. She is expected to be obedient to her husband, and she is not allowed to speak her mind.
- **The dangers of unchecked emotion:** Othello's jealousy is a powerful emotion that he is unable to control. It leads him to make rash decisions that ultimately have tragic consequences.

Othello is a powerful and tragic play that explores the destructive power of jealousy. The play is a timeless classic that continues to be studied and performed today.

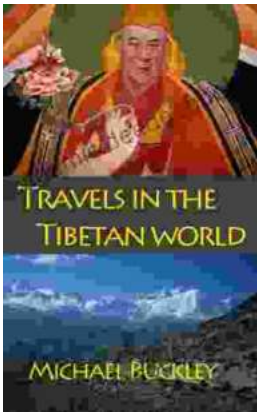


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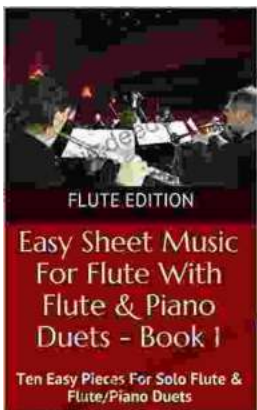
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