



**Desdemona**  
From *Othello*  
By William Shakespeare

Age Range: Adult, Young-Adult

Style: Dramatic, Classical

Monologue:

“Alas, Iago,  
What shall I do to win my lord again?  
Good friend, go to him. For by this light of heaven,  
I know not how I lost him.  
Here I kneel.  
If e’er my will did trespass ‘gainst his love,  
Either in discourse of thought or actual deed,  
Or that mine eyes, mine ears, or any sense  
Delighted them in any other form,  
Or that I do not yet, and ever did,  
And ever will—though he do shake me off  
To beggarly divorcement—love him dearly,  
Comfort forswear me!  
Unkindness may do much,  
And his unkindness may defeat my life,  
But never taint my love.  
I cannot say “whore”—  
It does abhor me now I speak the word.  
To do the act that might the addition earn,  
Not the world’s mass of vanity could make me.”

Play Synopsis:

Iago is furious about being overlooked for promotion and plots to take revenge against his General: Othello, the Moor of Venice. Iago manipulates Othello into believing his wife Desdemona is unfaithful, stirring Othello's jealousy. Othello allows jealousy to consume him, murders Desdemona, and then kills himself.

Read the Play Here:

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