



English Drama Fest 2013

Set Scene 1 (Othello)

The scene is taken from *Othello* Act 5 Scene 2 in which Othello murders Desdemona. Othello is overcome with both love and grief for his beautiful, young wife as he believes that Desdemona has been unfaithful to him. Despite Desdemona's truthful denial of betraying her husband and her desperate begging for mercy, Othello is still determined to kill her.

Othello Act 5 Scene 2

	Original Version	Modern Version
	<i>DESDEMONA asleep in bed Enter OTHELLO with a light</i>	<i>DESDEMONA is asleep in bed. OTHELLO enters with a candle.</i>
5	<p>OTHELLO</p> <p>It is the cause, it is the cause, my soul. Let me not name it to you, you chaste stars, It is the cause. Yet I'll not shed her blood, Nor scar that whiter skin of hers than snow And smooth as monumental alabaster. Yet she must die, else she'll betray more men. Put out the light, and then put out the light. If I quench thee, thou flaming minister, I can again thy former light restore</p>	<p>OTHELLO</p> <p>I have to do it, I have to do it. I have to keep my reason in mind. I won't say out loud what my reason is, but I have to do it. But I won't shed any of her blood or scar that beautiful skin, whiter than snow and smooth as the finest marble. But she's got to die, or she'll cheat on other men. Put out the light of the candle, and then put out the light of her heart. If I extinguish the candle, I can light it again if I regret it. But once I kill you, you beautiful, fake woman, I do not know the magic that could bring you back. When I've plucked this rose, I can't make it grow again; it will have no choice but to wither and die. Let me smell you while you're still on the tree. <i>(he kisses her)</i> Oh, that sweet breath almost convinces me not to kill you and carry out justice. One</p>
10	<p>Should I repent me. But once put out thy light, Thou cunning'st pattern of excelling nature, I know not where is that Promethean heat That can thy light relume. When I have plucked thy rose I cannot give it vital growth again,</p>	



English Drama Fest 2013

15 It must needs wither. I'll smell thee on the tree.
 Oh, balmy breath, that dost almost persuade
 Justice to break her sword! One more, one more.
 Be thus when thou art dead and I will kill thee
 And love thee after. *(kissing her)* One more, and that's the last.

20 So sweet was ne'er so fatal. I must weep,
 But they are cruel tears. This sorrow's heavenly,
 It strikes where it doth love. She wakes.

more, one more kiss. If you're this beautiful when
 you're dead, I'll kill you and then love you afterward.
(kissing her) One more, and this is the last. Such a sweet
 kiss was never so deadly. I have to cry, but I have to be
 cruel too. I'm acting like God in the Old Testament—I
 have to punish the one I love. She's waking up.

DESDEMONA
 Who's there? Othello?

DESDEMONA
 Who's there? Othello?

OTHELLO
 Ay, Desdemona.

OTHELLO
 Yes, Desdemona.

DESDEMONA
 Will you come to bed, my lord?

DESDEMONA
 Will you come to bed, my lord

OTHELLO
 Have you prayed tonight, Desdemon?

OTHELLO
 Have you said your prayers tonight, Desdemona

DESDEMONA
 Ay, my lord.

DESDEMONA
 Yes, my lord.

OTHELLO
 If you bethink yourself of any crime
 Unreconciled as yet to heaven and grace,
 Solicit for it straight.

OTHELLO
 If you can think of any crime you haven't confessed,
 then pray for forgiveness right away

DESDEMONA
 Alack, my lord, what do you mean by that?

DESDEMONA
 Oh, my lord, what do you mean by that?



English Drama Fest 2013

OTHELLO

Well, do it, and be brief. I will walk by.

I would not kill thy unprepared spirit.

No, heavens forbend, I would not kill thy soul!

OTHELLO

Well, hurry up and confess. Be quick about it. I'll wait over here. I don't want to kill you before you've readied your soul. No, I don't want to send your soul to hell when I kill you.

DESDEMONA

Talk you of killing?

DESDEMONA

You're talking about killing?

OTHELLO

Ay, I do.

OTHELLO

Yes, I am.

DESDEMONA

Then heaven

Have mercy on me!

DESDEMONA

Then heaven have mercy on me.

OTHELLO

Amen, with all my heart.

OTHELLO

Amen to that, from the bottom of my heart.

DESDEMONA

If you say, I hope you will not kill me.

DESDEMONA

If you really feel that way, then I hope you won't kill me.

OTHELLO

Humh!

OTHELLO

Hmmph!

DESDEMONA

And yet I fear you, for you're fatal then

When your eyes roll so. Why I should fear I know not,

Since guiltiness I know not. But yet I feel I fear.

DESDEMONA

You're scaring me. You terrify me when you have that look in your eyes. I don't know why I should be afraid, since I haven't done anything wrong. But I'm still afraid.

OTHELLO

OTHELLO



English Drama Fest 2013

Think on thy sins.

DESDEMONA

They are loves I bear to you.

OTHELLO

Ay, and for that thou diest.

DESDEMONA

That death's unnatural that kills for loving.

Alas, why gnaw you so your nether lip?

Some bloody passion shakes your very frame.

These are portents, but yet I hope, I hope

They do not point on me.

OTHELLO

Peace, and be still.

DESDEMONA

I will so. What's the matter?

OTHELLO

That handkerchief

Which I so loved and gave thee, thou gav'st

To Cassio.

DESDEMONA

No, by my life and soul!

Send for the man and ask him.

OTHELLO

Think of your sins.

DESDEMONA

My only sin was loving you too much.

OTHELLO

Yes, that's why you have to die.

DESDEMONA

You're wrong to kill me for loving you. Why are you chewing on your lower lip like that? You're shaking with emotion. These are bad omens, but I hope, I hope, they don't predict my future.

OTHELLO

Quiet. Stay still.

DESDEMONA

I will. What's this all about?

OTHELLO

You gave that handkerchief, the one I loved and gave to you, to Cassio.

DESDEMONA

No, I swear by my life and soul! Bring him here and ask him.

OTHELLO



English Drama Fest 2013

Sweet soul, take heed, take heed of perjury.
Thou art on thy deathbed.

DESDEMONA

Ay—but not yet to die!

OTHELLO

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

Oh, heaven 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 mak'st me call what I intend to do
A murder, which I thought a sacrifice!

My sweet darling, don't lie. You're on your deathbed.

DESDEMONA

I am? But I'm not dying yet!

OTHELLO

Yes, right now. So confess your sin freely now. Even if
you swear you're innocent of every accusation, you
won't change my mind or remove the thought that's
tormenting me. You're going to die.

DESDEMONA

Then heaven have mercy on me!

OTHELLO

Amen to that.

DESDEMONA

And you have mercy on me too! I never did anything
wrong to you in my life. I never loved Cassio, except with
the pure love that I feel for humankind. I never gave him
any token of romantic love.

OTHELLO

I saw him holding the handkerchief! You liar, you're
turning my heart to stone, and making me call what I'll
do murder, when I had been thinking of it as a sacrifice!
I saw the handkerchief.



English Drama Fest 2013

I saw the handkerchief.

DESDEMONA

He found it then,
I never gave it him. Send for him hither,
Let him confess a truth.

DESDEMONA

He found it somewhere, then. I never gave it to him. Tell
him to come here. He'll tell the truth

OTHELLO

He hath confessed.

OTHELLO

He's already done so.

DESDEMONA

What, my lord?

DESDEMONA

What, my lord?

OTHELLO

That he hath usèd thee.

OTHELLO

That he had sex with you.

DESDEMONA

How? Unlawfully?

DESDEMONA

What? Had sex with me?

OTHELLO

Ay.

OTHELLO

Yes.

DESDEMONA

He will not say so.

DESDEMONA

He wouldn't say that.

OTHELLO

No, his mouth is stopped. Honest Iago
Hath ta'en order for 't.

OTHELLO

No. He won't say anything anymore. Honest Iago's
arranged that.

DESDEMONA

Oh! My fear interprets. What, is he dead?

DESDEMONA

Oh, I'm scared. What, is he dead?

OTHELLO

OTHELLO



English Drama Fest 2013

Had all his hairs been lives My great revenge had stomach for them all.	If he had as many lives as he's got hairs on his head, I would've killed them all in revenge
DESDEMONA Alas, he is betrayed and I undone.	DESDEMONA Oh, he's been betrayed, and I've been ruined.
OTHELLO Out, strumpet! weep'st thou for him to my face?	OTHELLO What, you whore, are you crying for him right in front of me?
DESDEMONA Oh, banish me, my lord, but kill me not!	DESDEMONA Send me away, my lord, but don't kill me!
OTHELLO Down, strumpet!	OTHELLO Down , whore!
DESDEMONA Kill me tomorrow—let me live tonight!	DESDEMONA Kill me tomorrow—but let me live tonight.
OTHELLO Nay, if you strive—	OTHELLO No, if you struggle with me—
DESDEMONA But half an hour!	DESDEMONA Just half an hour!
OTHELLO Being done, there is no pause.	OTHELLO While I'm doing this, I can't pause for a moment.
DESDEMONA But while I say one prayer!	DESDEMONA Just let me say one prayer!
OTHELLO It is too late. (he smothers her)	OTHELLO It's too late. (he smothers her)



English Drama Fest 2013

EMILIA (within) My lord , my lord! What, ho! My lord, my lord!	EMILIA (offstage) My lord, my lord! Hello! My lord, my lord!
OTHELLO What noise is this?—Not dead? Not yet quite dead? I that am cruel am yet merciful, I would not have thee linger in thy pain. So, so.	OTHELLO What’s that noise? Aren’t you dead yet? I know I’m cruel, but I’m merciful too. I don’t want you to linger in pain.
EMILIA (within) What, ho! My lord, my lord!	EMILIA (offstage) Hello! My lord, my lord!
OTHELLO Who’s there?	OTHELLO Who’s there?
EMILIA (within) O good my lord, I would speak a word with you!	EMILIA (offstage) Oh my lord, I need to speak to you!
OTHELLO Yes, ’tis Emilia.—(to EMILIA) By and by.—She’s dead.— 'Tis like she comes to speak of Cassio’s death, The noise was high. Ha! No more moving? Still as the grave. Shall she come in? Were ’t good? I think she stirs again—No. What’s best to do? If she come in, she’ll sure speak to my wife— My wife! my wife! what wife? I have no wife. Oh, insupportable! Oh, heavy hour! Methinks it should be now a huge eclipse Of sun and moon, and that th' affrighted globe	OTHELLO Yes, it’s Emilia.(to EMILIA)—Just a minute!—She’s dead now.—Emilia’s probably come to tell me that Cassio’s been killed. The fight outside was loud. So! You’re not moving anymore? No, you’re as still as a grave. Should I let her in? Is that a good idea? I think she’s moving again—No. What should I do? If she comes in, she’ll try to speak to my wife. My wife, my wife! What wife? I don’t have a wife. Oh, this is unbearable! Oh, the horror! There should be a huge eclipse of the sun and the moon, now that Desdemona’s no longer on this



English Drama Fest 2013

Should yawn at alteration.

EMILIA

(within)

I do beseech you

That I may speak with you, O good my lord!

EMILIA

(offstage) Please, my lord. I need to speak with you. Oh, my good lord!

OTHELLO

I had forgot thee—Oh, come in, Emilia.

Soft, by and by. Let me the curtains draw.

Where art thou?

OTHELLO

I'd forgotten about you—Emilia, wait a moment, let me draw the curtains. (closes the bed curtains) Where are you? (unlocks the door)

Unlocks the door. Enter EMILIA

EMILIA enters.

EMILIA

O my good lord, yonder's foul murders done!

EMILIA

Oh, my lord, terrible murders have been committed over there!

OTHELLO

What, now?

OTHELLO

What? Just now?

EMILIA

But now, my lord.

EMILIA

Yes, just now, my lord.

OTHELLO

It is the very error of the moon,

She comes more nearer earth than she was wont

And makes men mad.

OTHELLO

It's because of the full moon. It comes too close to the earth and drives men crazy

EMILIA

Cassio, my lord, hath killed a young Venetian

EMILIA

Cassio's killed a young Venetian named Roderigo.



English Drama Fest 2013

Called Roderigo.	
OTHELLO Roderigo killed? And Cassio killed!	OTHELLO Roderigo's been killed? And Cassio's killed?
EMILIA No, Cassio is not killed.	EMILIA No, Cassio wasn't killed
OTHELLO Not Cassio killed! Then murder's out of tune, And sweet revenge grows harsh.	OTHELLO Cassio's not dead? Then the wrong man is dead, and sweet revenge has gone wrong.
DESDEMONA Oh, falsely, falsely murdered!	DESDEMONA Oh, I've been murdered unfairly
EMILIA Alas, what cry is that?	EMILIA Oh Lord, who's that crying?
OTHELLO That? What?	OTHELLO That? What?
EMILIA Out and alas, that was my lady's voice.	EMILIA Oh, no, that was my lady's voice.
Opens the bedcurtains	EMILIA opens the bedcurtains
Help! Help, ho, help! O lady, speak again! Sweet Desdemona! O sweet mistress, speak!	Help! Help! Oh, lady, speak again. Sweet Desdemona! Oh sweet mistress, speak!
DESDEMONA A guiltless death I die.	DESDEMONA I'm dying an innocent woman
EMILIA Oh, who hath done this deed?	EMILIA Oh, who did this thing?



English Drama Fest 2013

DESDEMONA

Nobody. I myself. Farewell.

Commend me to my kind lord. Oh, farewell!

Dies

DESDEMONA

No one. I did it myself. Give my love to my kind husband. Oh, goodbye!

DESDEMONA dies.