

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

10 Events

1. In Venice Bassanio plans with his friend Antonio to raise money to become a suitor to Portia in Belmont.
2. In Belmont, Portia and Nerissa review the caskets of Gold, Silver and Lead where her dead father has left a portrait of her as a guessing game for suitors.
3. Bassanio makes a deal to borrow money from Shylock and Antonio is the guarantor – if he fails to pay up he must forfeit a pound of his own flesh.
4. In Belmont, the Prince of Morocco chooses the wrong casket.
5. Bassanio plans to travel to Belmont with his friend Gratiano and Launcelot who deserts Shylock to serve Bassanio. Jessica, Shylock's daughter, steals her father's money and escapes with her lover Lorenzo.
6. The Prince of Aragon chooses the wrong casket.
7. Shylock hearing of his daughter's escape with his money, takes comfort in the thought of calling up his debt of flesh from Antonio whose fortune has been lost at sea.
8. In Belmont, Bassanio chooses the right casket and Nerissa falls in love with Gratiano. The women give their lovers rings. Just as everyone is celebrating, news arrives of Antonio's predicament.
9. In a court of law in Venice, Shylock demands that the Duke enforce his bond for a pound of Antonio's flesh. Portia, disguised as a legal expert with Nerissa disguised as her clerk, makes the case for mercy which Shylock rejects and then finally tricks him with the detail of the law. The Duke passes sentence that Shylock's bond is equal to plotting murder and that he will pay the death penalty unless he agrees to Antonio's conditions that he give half his fortune to his daughter and be converted to a Christian. Bassanio and Gratiano thank the legal experts by giving them the rings they have been given.

10. Back in Belmont and no longer disguised, Portia and Nerissa demand to see their rings and then reveal their story as they hand back the rings. All the lovers are happy as news arrives that Antonio's fortune is not lost at sea after all.