

Shylock Bassanio Portia Antonio

Love
Romance
Sacrifice
Friendship
Wittiness
Humour
Hatred
Revenge
Jealousy

*A Graphic Novel by
Shipra Gupta*

Merchant
Of
Venice

The Merchant of Venice

*A Graphic Novel by
Shipra Gupta*



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Preface

William Shakespeare is remembered as one of the most popular and greatest writers in the English language and is known for his wide array of influential works including *154 sonnets, 2 narrative poems and 38 plays*. He was born in 1564 to a middle-class glover in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. His works, being so popular have been translated into every major language and continue to mesmerise us all, irrespective of age, caste, religion or culture. Some popular ones include *Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, Merchant of Venice and Othello*.

The Merchant of Venice is one of the most popular comedies written by Shakespeare. This play is often performed on stage all over the globe and has inspired several films as well. It is known for its dramatic scenes, wonderful characters and plenty of witty dialogues. With shades of romance, offbeat humour, oodles of wit and sarcasm, and an undertone of melancholy, this play has all the ingredients of a great story.

The Merchant of Venice was probably written in either 1596–97. Its Italian setting and marriage plot are typical of Shakespeare's earlier comedies, but the *characters of Portia*, Shakespeare's *first fabulous (beautiful and intelligent) heroine*, and the *unforgettable villain, Shylock* took the play to an all new level. It is the story of *Bassanio, a young Venetian* who wishes to woo the *beautiful and rich Portia* and for this, needs money. He approaches *Antonio, a wealthy Merchant of Venice*, who himself is short of cash and suggests that Bassanio name him as the guarantor and take a loan from Shylock, the Jewish moneylender. ***Thus begins a classic tale of love, hatred and revenge...***