**THE MERCHANT OF VENICE** William Shakespeare

Insert the name of the character in the blank:

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| Portia, Antonio, Shylock, Bassanio, Nerissa, Jessica, Gratiano, Lorenzo, Prince of Morocco, |

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a Venetian merchant, complains to his friends of a melancholy that he cannot explain. His friend \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is desperately in need of money to court \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a wealthy heiress who lives in the city of Belmont. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ asks \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_for a loan in order to travel in style to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s estate. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ agrees, but is unable to make the loan himself because his own money is all invested in a number of trade ships that are still at sea. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ suggests that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ secure the loan from one of the city’s moneylenders and name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as the loan’s guarantor. In Belmont, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ expresses sadness over the terms of her father’s will, which stipulates that she must marry the man who correctly chooses one of three caskets. None of Portia’s current suitors are to her liking, and she and her lady-in-waiting, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, fondly remember a visit paid some time before by \_\_\_.

In Venice, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ approach \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a Jewish moneylender, for a loan. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nurses a long-standing grudge against \_\_\_\_\_\_, who has made a habit of berating \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and other Jews for their usury, the practice of loaning money at exorbitant rates of interest, and who undermines their business by offering interest-free loans. Although \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ refuses to apologize for his behavior, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ acts agreeably and offers to lend \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ three thousand ducats with no interest. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ adds, however, that should the loan go unpaid, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be entitled to a pound of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s own flesh. Despite \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s warnings, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ agrees. In \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s own household, his servant Launcelot decides to leave Shylock’s service to work for Bassanio, and Shylock’s daughter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ schemes to elope with Antonio’s friend \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. That night, the streets of Venice fill up with revelers, and Jessica escapes with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by dressing as his page. After a night of celebration, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and his friend \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ leave for Belmont, where \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ intends to win \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s hand.

In Belmont, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_welcomes the prince of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who has come in an attempt to choose the right casket to marry her. The prince studies the inscriptions on the three caskets and chooses the gold one, which proves to be an incorrect choice. In Venice, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is furious to find that his daughter has run away, but rejoices in the fact that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s ships are rumored to have been wrecked and that he will soon be able to claim his debt. In Belmont, the prince of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ also visits \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He, too, studies the caskets carefully, but he picks the silver one, which is also incorrect. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ arrives at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s estate, and they declare their love for one another. Despite \_\_\_’s request that he wait before choosing, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ immediately picks the correct casket, which is made of lead. He and Portia rejoice, and Gratiano confesses that he has fallen in love with Nerissa. The couples decide on a double wedding. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gives \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a ring as a token of love, and makes him swear that under no circumstances will he part with it. They are joined, unexpectedly, by Lorenzo and Jessica. The celebration, however, is cut short by the news that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has indeed lost his ships, and that he has forfeited his bond to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ immediately travel to Venice to try and save \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s life. After they leave, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tells \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that they will go to Venice disguised as men.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ignores the many pleas to spare Antonio’s life, and a trial is called to decide the matter. The duke of Venice, who presides over the trial, announces that he has sent for a legal expert, who turns out to be \_\_\_\_\_ disguised as a young man of law. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ asks \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to show mercy, but he remains inflexible and insists the pound of flesh is rightfully his. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ offers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ twice the money due him, but Shylock insists on collecting the bond as it is written. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ examines the contract and, finding it legally binding, declares that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is entitled to the merchant’s flesh.

Shylock ecstatically praises her wisdom, but as he is on the verge of collecting his due, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ reminds him that he must do so without causing Antonio to bleed, as the contract does not entitle him to any blood. Trapped by this logic, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hastily agrees to take \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s money instead, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ insists that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ take his bond as written, or nothing at all. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ informs \_\_\_\_\_ that he is guilty of conspiring against the life of a Venetian citizen, which means he must turn over half of his property to the state and the other half to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The duke spares \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s life and takes a fine instead of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s property. Antonio also forgoes his half of Shylock’s wealth on two conditions: first, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ must convert to Christianity, and second, he must will the entirety of his estate to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ upon his death. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ agrees and takes his leave.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who does not see through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s disguise, showers the young law clerk with thanks, and is eventually pressured into giving \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the ring with which he promised never to part. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gives \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who is disguised as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s clerk, his ring. The two women return to Belmont, where they find Lorenzo and Jessica declaring their love to each other under the moonlight. When \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ arrive the next day, their wives accuse them of faithlessly giving their rings to other women. Before the deception goes too far, however, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ reveals that she was, in fact, the law clerk, and both she and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ reconcile with their husbands. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are pleased to learn of their inheritance from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and the joyful news arrives that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s ships have in fact made it back safely. The group celebrates its good fortune.