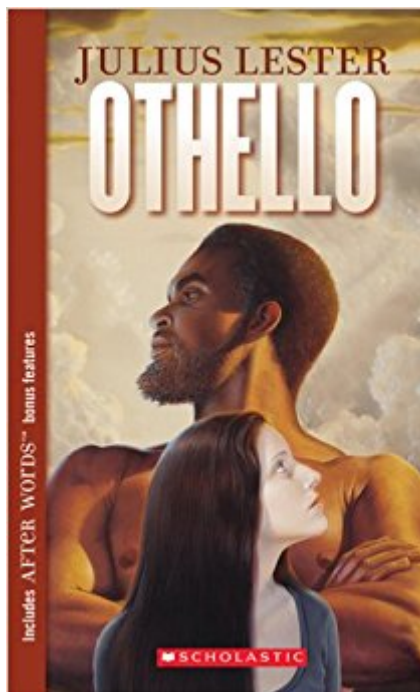


The book was found

Othello (Point Signature Editions)



Synopsis

Julius Lester's "beautiful and powerful" (SLJ, starred review) modern retelling of OTHELLO, now in a striking After Words edition. Othello is a powerful general, revered by his soldiers and honored by his peers. But his strength cannot contain his jealousy and rage when he believes his beautiful wife, Desdemona, has been unfaithful. As deception leads to tragedy, nobody is safe . . . Award-winning author Julius Lester takes one of Shakespeare's most intense plays and brings modern life to this saga of two doomed, passionate souls and a kingdom torn apart by secrets, lies, and violence.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 770L (What's this?)

Series: Point signature editions

Mass Market Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Paperbacks (February 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0590419668

ISBN-13: 978-0590419666

Product Dimensions: 6.9 x 4.2 x 0.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,044,936 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #82 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Renaissance](#) #19276 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues](#) #69050 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

More than a retelling, this aptly termed "reconceptualization" provocatively modernizes Shakespeare's play. As in the original, the middle-aged general Othello the "moor" and young European noblewoman Desdemona fall in love and marry secretly. But Lester (To Be a Slave; John Henry) transplants the action from Venice and Cyprus to Elizabethan England and turns Iago and Emily into Africans like Othello, so that the three of them share a distinctly non-European point of view. Iago's envy of Othello and ability to whip him into a jealous rage at Desdemona are thus cast in a new light, though the tragic outcome remains the same. While the ending feels abrupt, Lester's novel succeeds in holding up a mirror to contemporary society. Phrases and passages directly

based on Shakespeare's language are printed in a different typeface, a device that may distract the reader but eases comparisons with the original work. Ages 8-12. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 8 Up? In this beautiful and powerful novelization of Shakespeare's play, Lester has kept the plot intact but made some other changes crucial to his purpose. He shifts the setting from Venice to England and, most significantly, makes Othello, Iago, and Iago's wife all definitively black. They share a three-way friendship that originated in their native Africa. It is important that Iago is black and thereby released from any racist intent; the author is then able to maintain the focus of the tragedy on the weaknesses of the human soul and on problems of perception versus reality. But through the enhanced character development afforded by the novel form, Lester has also explored problems of racial alienation. His prose is an incredibly skillful blend of his own words and Shakespeare's, both paraphrased and quoted directly, interwoven seamlessly into a narrative that transmutes the musical feeling of Shakespeare's language into modern English. This is a book to be enjoyed on its own but is sure to send many readers back to the original with a heightened understanding of and appreciation for it. This wonderful achievement is a must for all libraries. Margaret Cole, Oceanside Library, NYC Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

amazing book

One of my main concerns in looking at the reviews for this novel were that most of them reviewed not this version of the play, but were reviewing the actual play by Shakespeare himself. While I considered it kind of funny that people would take the time to give a bad review to a play that has been considered one of the great treasures of English literature for centuries, I thought it was somewhat tragic that they would give a bad review based solely in some cases on what could only be called a synopsis of the original work. True, the author went through the trouble of changing the race of a couple of characters, and in effect ruined a lot of the drama of the original work, but largely this is simply a poorly written synopsis of a literary classic. The problem with all such watered down versions of the original works is that they are not the original work. The original work, while it may be hard to understand, is a work of art, anything that merely gives the gist of the action in the original play is going to necessarily lose a lot of the original language and the original art. This novel is no different. Read the original!

When I first found out that the book Othello was originally a Shakespeare play, I immediately thought 'I don't want to read some Elizabethan garbage...' but after enduring the first few boring chapters I came to notice that the book was actually a modern of version of Othello, with also an extremely interesting plot. Some of the original lines from Shakespeare appeared in the book, and instead of loathing the complex language I came to appreciate the intricacy that Shakespeare had put into the words. Altogether, I thought Othello was a great entertaing read.

At first, when I saw this book I was upset someone would try to remake a great Shakespeare play in another written form. However, Lester thoroughly explains himself and his reasons for wanting to make this play a novel. 'Othello: a novel' explores a different face of the play that has been hidden. It adds new characters, removes others, and places them in England instead of Italy but the plot and all of the deceitfulness it entails remains intact. Shakespeare had a way of using common themes that live today but still eluded boredom and cliché. And Lester continues this tradition in his novel with his beautiful and unique use of simile and metaphor. It's a great book to read that should not be overlooked!

the book Othello was alright i think that it would of been better if it spoke the way that we speak in present day. It is a book that deals with alot of controversy in tragedy and romance it also deals with betrayel. Iago Othellos best friend betrays him during the whole book. towards the end of the abook it gets better though.

I haven't read Shakespeare's version of Othello... yet. Hey, I'm only 13, I don't get the "thees" and "thous"! 'Othello, the Novel', is the NIV of Shakespeare. This story brought me to tears at the end. Any book that can make me cry, I'm sure, is book worth your reading. Geez, what was Iago's problem?

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