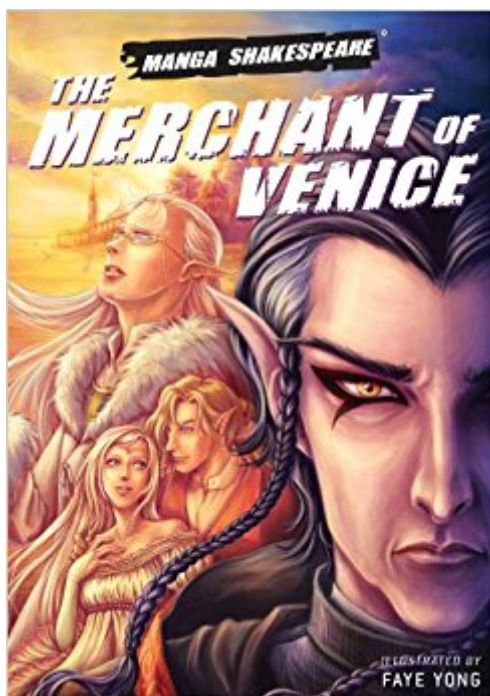


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Manga Shakespeare: The Merchant Of Venice



Synopsis

The Merchant of Venice, one of the Bard's most enduring plays, explores themes of forgiveness, prejudice, and fairness, all of which remain vital topics today. In the Manga Shakespeare version, the setting and themes of the play take on new meaning as adapted by the artists guiding the series. Whether readers are fans of the Bard or of manga, this is a story that will captivate and engage, even after four hundred years.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Faye Yong left Malaysia to pursue an illustration degree in the United Kingdom. She has a weakness for shoujo manga and anything with a happy ending.

We're reading Merchant of Venice for my 8th grade Advance class, but one of my students have an IEP with comprehending difficulties. So with the student's fascination with Manga I went searching for a great alternative for the unit and found it with this edition. It is a faithful retelling, with crisp images, and great way of modernizing text.

Great series! Piqued my kids' interest in Shakespeare

Shakespeare's play The Merchant of Venice has gotten a new perspective in an OEL manga. Some

things are changed--like the fact that the characters have elfish looks with long ears--but more often than not, the graphic novel sticks with its source material. When I first saw the elfish look, I thought this version might have tossed out the religious aspects in order to avoid the play's anti-Semitism, and instead showed the differences in characters through mystical means. That's not the case. It's never said why the characters look the way they do. It still takes place in Venice, and Shylock is still Jewish. The dialogue is not modern. It lifts directly from the Shakespeare, or it trims down lines, or it slightly reworks it. For instance, the play opens with Antonio saying, "In sooth I know not why I am so sad./ It wearies me, you say it wearies you./ But how I caught it, found it, or came by it,/ What stuff 'tis made of, whereof it is born,/ I am to learn." The graphic novel opens with Antonio saying, "I know not why I am so sad. How I came by it, I am to learn." It's the same story, of course. Antonio agrees to borrow money from Shylock so he can help his friend Bassanio have the funds to court Portia. Portia deals with her other suitors, and Shylock's daughter, much to his anger, elopes with a Christian man. When Antonio loses his ships (and therefore money), Shylock wants a pound of his flesh in return, and Portia saves the day in a courtroom scene. This is not meant to be a replacement read for the play, but a guide to help readers understand it. It doesn't get into all the nitty-gritty details or explain the meaning of every word and phrase. There are different books for that. It does, however, give a good overview and feel of the story. I think it could be especially helpful as a side read in high school English classes. Shakespeare's work is meant to be visual, but oftentimes these days people just read it out of a book. That's what makes the graphic novel idea interesting. Even if readers don't understand every word, they'll get the gist from the actions and expressions of the characters. Since manga tends to be expressive, it makes it very easy to understand what characters are thinking and feeling. Reviewed by Danica Davidson

With gorgeous manga-style illustrations, this version of THE MERCHANT OF VENICE is a compelling representation of the Bard's famous play about the Jewish moneylender. The three intertwined plots - Antonio's bond with Shylock, Bassanio's suit, and Jessica's escape from her cruel father - are all brought together in an undoubtedly less intimidating way than Shakespeare's original play. Having read and thoroughly dissected almost every single word of THE MERCHANT OF VENICE as a student recently, this manga still managed to provide me with new insights and details that might not have been noticed from reading the actual play. An interesting aspect of the volume: word choice. It reads like Shakespeare's original, although it isn't quite the same - yes, I dug out my copy of the play and compared the two. The manga uses the same writing style, vocabulary, and similar sentence structure, but is slightly more condensed. I vastly prefer this method to a simple

rewrite of the great Bard's words, as most of Shakespeare's lyricism was not lost. This is a great introduction into Shakespeare for those who feel the urge to curl up in a fetal position each time the Bard's name is mentioned. And for Shakespeare fanatics, the volume is a fresh new look at greedy Shylock, self-sacrificing Antonio, and beautiful and cunning Portia. Reviewed by: Cinnamon

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