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# The Merchant Of Venice



## Synopsis

With elegant, contemporary artwork and a faithful but succinct adaptation, this graphic novel casts a classic drama in a provocative new light. Here is the tale of young Bassanio, who, to win the love of fair Portia, entangles his dearest friend, Antonio, in a dangerous bargain with the moneylender Shylock. Only Bassanio's heartfelt efforts and a clever intervention by Portia will save Antonio from paying Shylock "a pound of flesh." Moody and mesmerizing, this graphic novel adaptation of one of Shakespeare's more controversial plays boasts a chic modern cast, high drama, and all the dark, familiar beauty of Venice.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1050 (What's this?)

Paperback: 80 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (May 22, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 076363025X

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Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 0.3 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #566,124 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts > Theater #84 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Drama & Theater #687 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Classics

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

In this graphic novel version of Shakespeare's THE MERCHANT OF VENICE, the key points of the novel have been condensed into a more linear storyline. The core characters, key plot points, and most famous pieces of dialogue remain in tact. The illustrations have updated the setting of the story to a more modern period than the period in which Shakespeare originally set the play. I really enjoyed the illustration and color scheme of Hinds' version. The grey color pattern and rough and sometimes jagged illustrations embody the overall tone and mood of the play very well.

Shakespeare purists will probably hate this book because it does cut out a few secondary plot

points and a great amount of dialogue. However, I really enjoyed the book and found Hinds' version of THE MERCHANT OF VENICE to be a great example of adapting a complex Shakespearean work into the format of a contemporary graphic novel. Recommended for English teachers and anyone else interested in seeing Shakespeare's play adapted into a different format.

"Based on the play by William Shakespeare," it says, so I guess I was expecting a "Classics Illustrated" vanilla version of the story, but I was wrong. Hinds sticks closely to the original plot, even occasionally using some of the Bard's own words, but his Venetians are all in modern dress and speak colloquial 21st-century English. He also leaves out a few scenes here and there, to tighten things up, and the comic relief characters of Launcelot Gobbo and his aged father are completely missing. (That's okay, they don't really add much to the story.) All in all, if you haven't read \_Merchant\_ in the decades since you left school, this adaptation will bring it all back to you, and in both an entertaining and an educational way.

I'm an illustration fanatic. We are living in a golden age of book publishing. This book deserves a sixth star, for the historical yet modern illustrations Gareth Hinds delivers. In the scenery and costuming for this book, he goes one better than in his extraordinary "Romeo and Juliet." Romeo and Juliet This book is an adaptation of the Shakespeare. Not every scene is included, nor every character, yet the book reads just right. So much of the original Shakespeare is here - the beautiful memorized passages. "Signor Antonio, many a time and oft..." "Hath not a Jew...?" "The quality of mercy is not strained..." After studying the original play, and performing it or seeing it done, why not give this gift to your favorite theater-goer? It makes a wonderful keepsake and a beautiful gift. Extraordinary work. More books like this, please.

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