



Elements of Classical Comedy in the *Merchant of Venice*

- I. The use of disguise
 - Jessica disguises herself as a boy to runaway with Lorenzo
 - Portia and Nerissa disguise themselves as lawyer and clerk to save Antonio
- II. Mistaken Identity
 - Portia and Nerissa are thought to be a lawyer and clerk at court
- III. Use of stock characters
 - The Young lovers: Jessica & Lorenzo
 - The Old Man (generally a miser): Shylock
 - Servants: Nerissa, Clown (Shylock's Servant)
 - Messengers
- IV. Use of witty language
- V. Comical misunderstanding
 - Portia & Nerissa make their husbands believe that they had sexual intercourse with the lawyer and clerk (themselves in disguise) in order to get their rings back
- VI. Happy Ending
 - Bassanio picks the right caskets and marries rich and beautiful Portia
 - Antonio is saved from death, his ships reach Venice safely, he receives part of Shylock's wealth