THE 4 SUBPLOTS

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| BOND | * Antonio allows his friend Bassanio to use his name in good faith in order to borrow money. * Bassanio seeks out Shylock (an unethical jewish money lender) to borrow 3,000 ducats   *This links* ***Bassanio and Portia*** *(needs money for love)* ***to Shylock*** *(the lender) through* ***Antonio’s money*** *(lent in good faith to his friend Bassanio that cannot be payed – he must comply with the bond)*   * Shylock detests Antonio because he condemns Jews. * Loan must be paid in 3 months with condition that Antonio will forfeit a pound of flesh (taken near his heart) * Rumor: Antonio’s ship is missing * No pleas for mercy * Portia disguised as a lawyer and Nerissa her clerk try to save Antonio * Trial scene * Shylock receives a fine (½ now in trust to Antonio who gives it to Jessica , ½ when Shylock dies goes to Jessica) and agrees to become a Christian |
| CASKET | * **Portia is heiress of Belmont** * **Her father’s will states that her husband must be chosen by lottery** * **3 Caskets (gold, silver, lead)** * **Suitors who chose wrongly must leave and never marry** * **Moroccan Prince chooses the gold casket** * **Prince of Arragon → the silver one** * **Bassanio → lead casket → gives a ring → pledge of love** |
| RING | * **Portia and Bassanio’s engagement same time as Gratiano and Nerissa**   *This links Act 5 to the rest of the play and allows the play to end on a comic way*   * **Vow → He promises he will never take the ring off** * **Women → scold their husbands for giving away their rings** * **Truth is revealed** |
| ELOPMENT | * **Link between the fortunes of Jew and Gentile** * **Betrayal → elope with Lorenzo** * **Jessica disguised as Lorenzo’s torch bearer at costume ball (boy’s costume)** * **She will smuggle money and jewellry for her dowry** * **Shylock discovers plot** * **In Genoa, Jessica is spending money** * **Jessica stays in Belmont** |