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
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| 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**
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| 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**
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| 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**
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