

Edmund is one of the most controversial characters. His peculiar change of heart, rare among Shakespearean villains, is enough to make the audience wonder, amid the carnage, whether Edmund's villainy sprang not from some innate cruelty but simply from a thwarted, misdirected desire for the familial love that he witnessed around him. He is an excellent schemer, a cunning character eager to seize any opportunity and willing to do anything to achieve his goals with no feelings for others. His treachery is not merely for self-interest; it is a conscious rebellion against the social order that has denied him the same status as Gloucester's legitimate son, Edgar. He, in fact, desires the status equal to Edgar, the legitimate son of Gloucester. After this ambiguous statement, he seems to repent of his ...villainy and admits to having ordered Cordelia's death