

Love and Wealth Many works of literature deal with conflicts between love and money. In *The Merchant of Venice* Shakespeare takes a more unusual approach to this subject, treating love as just another form of wealth. Shylock, in contrast, is a miser who hoards both his gold and his love and loses his daughter and his riches simultaneously. On the other hand, those who are too possessive, too greedy, will get pleasure neither from the pursuit of romantic love nor from the accumulation of wealth. Not only do Antonio's ships come in at the end of the play, but Bassanio's fortunate marriage enriches Antonio as well, bringing him Portia's loyalty and friendship. Bassanio sets out to win Portia's love, solving his money problems at the same time.