

Othello .. who is really responsible?

[Literature](#), [Character](#)



Who is responsible for the death of Othello? That is the question any investigator would be interested in hearing the answer. As an attorney, all my evidence points to Othello's supposed right hand man, Iago. There are many reasons why I feel that Iago is the main person responsible for the horrible deaths that incur in such a short period of time but the most obvious would be that he is an evident sociopath. A sociopath can be described as somebody affected with a personality disorder made obvious by being overly aggressive, violent and antisocial thoughts and behaviors and a lack of empathy. Living with this disease and not knowing made Iago a very cold and calculating man with no respect for anyone, especially his superior officer and supposed best friend Othello. Unfortunately, Othello truly believed that Iago was a faithful friend and because of that Othello gave him all of this trust. Knowing this, Iago completely took advantage of Othello and outwardly displayed the image of the picture perfect friend. However, internally, Iago was seething with hatred toward Othello and Cassio and everyone else for that matter. The hatred mainly goes back to when Othello was to make the decision of who would be his second in command and when Cassio was given that title it drove Iago over the edge so much that he was willing to do whatever it takes to get that position he thought he so rightfully deserved. As life went on, Iago was always at Othello's side and was always available to manipulate any situation in Othello's life so that Iago always came out the hero and everyone else the villain. He was especially good at playing with Othello's emotions when it came to Desdemona. Iago knows that Desdemona is the love of Othello's life and used his extreme jealousy issues and insecurities about their relationship to his advantage. Like Iago

stated in the play, " Watch your wife. Watch how she is with Cassio. Just watch- don't be either completely suspicious or completely trustful. I wouldn't want to see you taken advantage of because you're such an open and trusting guy. Watch out! " (p. 145) With that being said, you can see how good Iago was at taking something so small and blowing it out of proportion to turn Othello against anyone who is not Iago. Many would say that Othello was not murdered that he in fact committed suicide. I believe that without the help of Iago, Othello would not have died the way that he did. Iago is no different than the bullies that tease fellow students and then those bullied children go home and commit suicide. Iago put so many outrageous and far fetched ideas in everyone's head that it was hard for people to not believe him since he came off as this trustworthy and noble man. Then there is the murders of Roderigo, Desdemona and Emilia. Not only did Iago get into Othello's head but he also corrupted Rodrigo. Iago was able to manipulate poor Roderigo, who was young and foolish man that was in love with Desdemona as well. Iago played on Roderigo's emotions and eventually got to him so desperate that Iago was able to talk him into killing Cassio. Rodrigo was not expecting for Cassio to be wearing armor and therefore being unprepared and nervous was killed by Cassio. The death of Roderigo could have been avoided if Iago was not so convincing in his promises. He played with yet another person's head. As we know Iago knew Othello very well and was able to make Othello's jealousy grow and get out of control to the point that Othello actually killed his beloved wife. I believe that if not for Iago and his powerful words Desdemona would not have faced such an untimely death by the hands of her loving husband. Then there is

Iago's wife, Emilia. Emilia was Desdemona's servant and very close friend. Emilia was also very untrustworthy of her husband, Iago. As she stated when speaking of her husband to Othello about what has been said about Desdemona, " If he said that then I hope his malicious soul rots in hell forever. He's lying through his teeth! She was too attached to her filthy marriage to ever do such a thing like that! " (p. 287) Then there is the attempted murder of Cassio. Iago tried so many different maneuvers to have him out of the picture for good. Iago turned to young and foolish Rodrigo to carry out his plans of murder simply because Iago was too cowardly to take care of it by himself. He convinced Roderigo that murdering Cassio would bring him that much closer to closing the deal and finally getting the woman he longed for, Desdemona. Iago was not expecting that Cassio would be wearing armor and Iago definitely was not expecting the only injury that his nemesis would sustain would be leg injury and even more so that Cassio would survive. In conclusion, I believe that Iago is a man that is guilty of many crimes. He is guilty of murder of Roderigo, he is of three counts of conspiracy to commit murder, three counts of encouraging a crime and failure to report a crime. While in the play, Iago was sentenced to whatever torture was thought of by the men in power. Today, on the other hand, Iago would face not only prison time but more than likely would face the death penalty. I believe that would have been the best punishment for a man with such a cold and calculating demeanor.