

The Merchant of Venice

Why should a man, who says that if you cut him he bleeds and if you tickle him he laughs, set a pound of flesh as the penalty in a bond for money lent. Sure, it gives Portia her "spill not a drop of Christian blood" defence, but could he mean it? Is it a symbol for one man's trust in another? Why prosecute his claim? Well, they were going to get him anyway, and, besides, why spoil the storyline? In the sub-plot, the right boys married the right girls. The borrower's ships came home, but he didn't repay his debt.

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