

OTHELLO'S LAMENT

by Allison Duggins

Oh, my aching corner!

That Vincent is a heavy brute, isn't he?

It's bad enough when Father drops *Shakespeare's Collected Works*, *Gray's Anatomy* and *War and Peace* in the middle of my mahogany tabletop.

Why does he sit there kicking my legs, when James is sitting across from me with no one there taking up his space.

I wish the pipes or Catherine would suddenly summon him and get him off me.

One of these days I'm going to collapse, maybe that will put me out of my misery.

Oh no ... here comes Father with more books.

I'm doomed.