

The pretty follies that themselves commit;
 For if they could, cupid himself, would blush
 To see me thus transformed to a boy.

Here is shown a most beautiful trait in Jessica's character. Modesty! That which every refined girl should display to a considerable degree, and which too many of our modern girls seem to be entirely without. The fact that she was received into Portia's home is proof enough that Jessica's character was that of a refined, gentle and elegant lady.

Act V in the Merchant of Venice, opens with the playful words of love between Lorenzo and Jessica, and rises, soon, to a sublime eloquence, when Lorenzo says:

“Look how the floor of heaven
 Is thick inlaid with patines of bright gold;
 There's not the smallest orb that thou behold'st
 But in his motion like an angel sings,
 Still quiring to the young-eyed cherubims;
 Such harmony is in immortal souls;
 But whilst this muddy vesture of decay
 Doth grossly close us in, we cannot hear it.”

From the lips of Lorenzo and Jessica as they sit in the “paler day” of an Italian moon, are breathed the lighter strains of the most playful poetry, mingled with the highest flights of the most elevated. Music and the odors of sweet flowers are around them. Happiness is in their hearts. Their thoughts are lifted by the beauties of the earth above the earth.” To say that they are content doesn't begin to express their situation, for supreme happiness is theirs.

The following from Collier best expresses my idea of Jessica:

“She is a child of nature, lost in an oriental love enthusiasm.”