

ROMEO AND JULIET

By William Shakespeare

Adapted by Diana Stewart
Illustrated by Charles Shaw


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ACT I

Scene 1

The scene is a public road in Verona, Italy, in the sixteenth century. Servants from the House of Capulet and the House of Montague have met on the street and started a fight. Benvolio, a cousin of Romeo Montague, enters. He draws his sword to stop the fighting.

BENVOLIO. Stop, fools! Put up your swords. You don't know what you are doing!

(Tybalt enters and draws his sword. He is a cousin of Juliet Capulet.)

TYBALT. Turn, Benvolio; look upon thy death.

BENVOLIO. I only keep the peace. Put up thy sword.

TYBALT. What, sword drawn and talk of peace? I hate the word peace as I hate hell, all Montagues, and thee. Fight, coward!

(Benvolio has no choice but to fight Tybalt. A crowd gathers, including Lord and Lady Capulet and Lord and Lady Montague. As the fighting gets more violent, the Prince of Verona enters with his followers. He is furious with both the noble families.)

PRINCE. Stop, you enemies to peace!

On pain of torture, throw your weapons to the ground
And hear the sentence of your Prince.

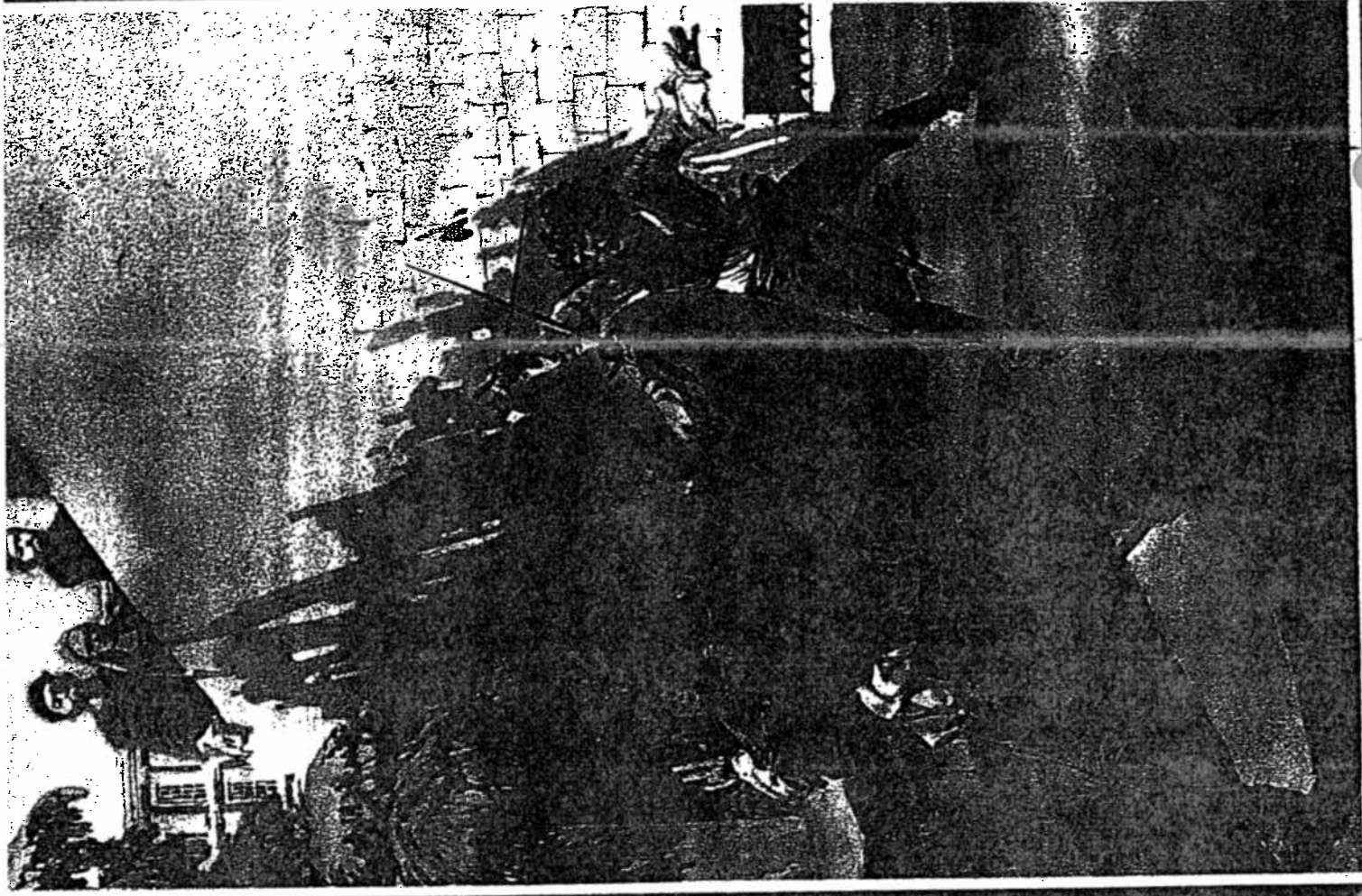
Three fights by the Capulets and Montagues

Have broken the quiet of our streets.

If ever you disturb our streets again,

Your lives shall pay.

You, Capulet, shall go along with me;



And Montague, come to me this afternoon.
On pain of death, all men depart.

(They all exit but Benvolio. He greets Romeo, Lord Montague's son, as he enters.)

BENVOLIO. Good morrow, cousin.

ROMEO. Is the day so young?

BENVOLIO. It is just nine.

ROMEO. Ay me! Sad! hours seem long.

BENVOLIO. What sadness makes Romeo's hours long?
In love?

ROMEO. Out—

BENVOLIO. Of love?

ROMEO. Out of her favor where I am in love.

BENVOLIO. Tell me, who is it that you love?

ROMEO. Cousin, I do love a woman. But she hath sworn to
love no man.

BENVOLIO. Be ruled by me; learn to forget her.

ROMEO. O, teach me how I should forget to think!

BENVOLIO. Forget by letting thine eyes examine other
beauties.

ROMEO. He that is struck with love cannot forget the trea-
sure of his heart. Farewell. Thou canst not teach me
to forget.

(They exit.)

Scene 2

A street in Verona. Lord Capulet enters with Count
Paris—a young nobleman of Verona who wants to marry
Lord Capulet's daughter Juliet.

PARIS. But now, my lord, what say you? Will you give me
the fair Juliet for my wife?

CAPULET. My child hath not seen the end of fourteen years;
Let two more summers pass

Before we think her ripe to be a bride.

Woo her, gentle Paris, win her heart.

This night I hold a feast.

I have invited many a guest,

And you among them. Come, go with me.

*(Capulet calls his servant over and gives him a paper with the
names of the guests to be invited to the party that evening.)*

CAPULET. Go, sirrah, through fair Verona;

Find those persons whose names are written there.

*(Capulet exits with Paris. The servant looks at the paper, but
he cannot read. He sees Benvolio and Romeo entering and
goes to them for help. He gives Romeo the list of names and
asks him to read it aloud.)*

ROMEO. *(After having read the list)* A fair assembly. Where
should these guests come?

SERVANT. To our house.

ROMEO. Whose house?

SERVANT. My master's. My master is the great rich Capulet;
and if you be not of the house of Montague, I pray
come and drink a cup of wine tonight.

*(As the servant leaves, Benvolio has an idea. He and Romeo
will go to the Capulet party. Then Romeo can compare his
love with all the other beautiful girls. This should cure his
lovesickness.)*

BENVOLIO. *(To Romeo)* At this same feast of Capulet's

Comes the fair Rosaline whom thou so loves;

Go tonight, and compare her face with some that I
shall show.

ROMEO. I'll go along, no such sight to be shown,
But to rejoice in the beauty of mine own.

(They exit.)

Scene 3

The setting is a room in the Capulet house. Juliet's mother is talking to the old nurse who has raised Juliet from a baby.

LADY CAPULET. Nurse, where is my daughter? Call her forth to me.

NURSE. What, Juliet!

JULIET. (Entering) How now? Who calls?

NURSE. Your mother.

JULIET. Madam, I am here. What is your wish?

LADY CAPULET. Tell me, daughter Juliet, what think you of marriage?

JULIET. It is an honor that I dream not of.

LADY CAPULET. Well, think of marriage now. The brave Paris seeks you for his love. What say you? Can you love the gentleman?

(They are interrupted by a servingman.)

SERVANT. Madam, the guests are come, supper served up. I beg you follow straight.

LADY CAPULET. We follow thee. Juliet, the Count Paris awaits you.

(They exit.)

Scene 4

The scene is a hall in Capulet's house. Present are Lord

and Lady Capulet, Juliet, Tybalt, and the guests dressed in costumes and masks. Music begins and the company dances. Romeo and Benvolio are there in disguise. Romeo is looking at the girls, trying to find his beloved Rosaline, when he sees Juliet. All thought of Rosaline goes out of his head.

ROMEO. (To a servant) What lady is that which doth grace the hand of yonder knight?

SERVANT. I know not, sir.

ROMEO. O, she teaches the torches to burn bright!

Did my heart love till now?
For I never saw true beauty till this night.

(Tybalt is standing near with Lord Capulet. He recognizes Romeo's voice.)

TYBALT. This voice belongs to a Montague.

(To a servant) Get me my sword, boy.

Now, by the honor of my kin,
To strike him dead I hold it not a sin.

CAPULET. Why, how now, cousin? Why do you storm so?

TYBALT. Uncle, this is a Montague, our foe.

CAPULET. Young Romeo is it?

TYBALT. 'Tis he, that villain Romeo.

CAPULET. Be merry, gentle cousin, let him alone.

And, to say truth, Verona brags of him
To be a good and well-mannered youth.

Therefore be patient; take no notice of him.

TYBALT. I'll not endure him!

CAPULET. He shall be endured! Am I the master here, or you? Go to! Go to! You are too quick to anger.

(Tybalt is furious that Romeo has come to the party uninvited. Too angry to stay and enjoy the dance, he leaves.)

Romeo continues to watch Juliet from across the room. Their eyes meet. Both of them are struck with love. Romeo makes his way to her side. Gladly she goes with him to dance in a quiet corner.)



ACT II

Scene 1

ROMEO. (Touching Juliet's hand) If I profane with my unworthy hand
This holy shrine, the fine is this:
My lips will ready stand
To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss.

JULIET. Good pilgrim, you do blame your hand too much,
Which well-mannered devotion shows in this,
For saints have hands that pilgrims' hands do touch,
And palm to palm is the pilgrim's kiss.

ROMEO. O, then, dear saint, let lips do what hands do!
(They kiss.)

NURSE. Madam, your mother wants a word with you.

ROMEO. (To the nurse after Juliet has gone) Who is her mother?

NURSE. Why, sir, her mother is the lady of the house.

ROMEO. Is she a Capulet? Oh dear heart!

(The end of the party has arrived. Lord Capulet wishes his guests good night. As they leave, Juliet calls her nurse to her side and points out Romeo.)

JULIET. Come here, nurse. Who is yond gentleman?

NURSE. His name is Romeo, and a Montague, the only son of your great enemy.

JULIET. My only love! Monstrous love it is to me
That I must love an enemy.

NURSE. What is this? What is this?

JULIET. A rhyme I learnt from one I danced with.

NURSE. Come, let's away; the strangers all are gone.
(They exit.)

The scene is the orchard at the back of Capulet's house. Romeo has climbed the orchard wall in the hope of getting one more look at his beloved Juliet. His hope is rewarded when Juliet appears at the window to her room.

ROMEO. But soft! What light through yonder window
breaks?

It is the East, and Juliet is the sun!

It is my lady! Oh, it is my love!

Oh, that she knew she were!

See how she leans her cheek upon her hand!

Oh, that I were a glove upon that hand,

That I might touch that cheek!

JULIET. Ay me!

(She is unhappy because Romeo is a Montague.)

ROMEO. She speaks!

JULIET. O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?

Deny thy father and refuse thy name;

Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,

And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

ROMEO. (To himself) Shall I hear more, or shall I speak
at this?

JULIET. 'Tis but thy name that is my enemy.

Thou art thyself, even though a Montague.

What's in a name? That which we call a rose

By any other name would smell as sweet.

Romeo, throw off thy name,

And for thy name, take all myself.

ROMEO. I take thee at thy word:
Call me but love, and I'll be new named;
Henceforth I never will be Romeo.

JULIET. What man art thou, thus hidden in the night?

ROMEO. By a name
I know not how to tell thee who I am.
My name, dear love, is hateful to myself
Because it is an enemy to thee.

JULIET. Art thou not Romeo, and a Montague?

ROMEO. Neither, fair maid, if either thee dislike.

JULIET. How camest thou hither, tell me, and why?
The orchard walls are high and hard to climb,
And the place death, considering who thou art,
If any of my kinsmen find thee here.

ROMEO. Alack, there lies more danger in thine eyes
Than twenty of their swords! Look but sweet,
And I am protected from their anger.

JULIET. By whose directions foundest thou this place?

ROMEO. By love.

JULIET. O gentle Romeo,
If thou dost love, say it faithfully.

ROMEO. What shall I swear by?

JULIET. Do not swear at all. Although I joy in thee,
I have no joy of this love tonight.
It is too rash, too sudden.
Good night, good night! As sweet rest
Come to thy heart as that within my breast!

ROMEO. O, will thou leave me so unsatisfied?

JULIET. What satisfaction canst thou have tonight?

ROMEO. The exchange of thy love's faithful vow for mine.

JULIET. If that thy aim of love be honorable,
Thy purpose marriage, send me word tomorrow,
And all my fortunes at thy foot I'll lay
And follow thee my lord throughout the world.

ROMEO. My sweet!

JULIET. Good night, good night! Parting is such sweet
sorrow
That I shall say good night till it be morrow.

Scene 2

The scene is Friar Lawrence's cell. The Friar is Romeo's old friend and teacher. Romeo has told the Friar of his love for Juliet, and the holy man has agreed to marry them. He hopes that this will end once and for all the feud between the two families. Romeo has sent word to Juliet through her nurse for her to meet him at the Friar's cell. Friar Lawrence and Romeo enter.

FRIAR. So smile the heavens upon this marriage
That afterward with sorrow chide us not!

ROMEO. Amen, amen! But come what sorrow,
It cannot equal the joy
That one short minute gives me in her sight.

(Enter Juliet.)

FRIAR. Here comes the lady.

JULIET. Good-day to you, father.

FRIAR. Romeo shall thank thee, daughter, for us both.
Come, come with me, for by your leaves,
You shall not stay alone till Holy Church make two
in one.

(They exit.)



ACT III

Scene 1

The scene is a public street in Verona, later in the day of Romeo and Juliet's wedding. Romeo enters from one side with Benvolio and Mercutio, his friends. From the other side come Tybalt and his friends.

BENVOLIO. By my head, here come the Capulets.

MERCUTIO. By my heel, I care not.

TYBALT. Gentlemen, good-day. A word with you.

Romeo, the love I bear thee can afford
No better term than this: thou art a villain.

(Romeo does not want to quarrel with Tybalt because he is Juliet's cousin. He tries to walk past him.)

ROMEO. Tybalt, villain am I none.

Therefore farewell. I see thou knowest me not.

TYBALT. Boy, this shall not excuse the injuries

That thou has done me; therefore turn and draw.

ROMEO. I do protest I never injured thee,

And so, good Capulet—which name I value
As dearly as mine own—be satisfied.

MERCUTIO. (Angry that Romeo is taking such insults from Tybalt)

Tybalt, you rascalcher!

TYBALT. What wouldst thou have with me?

MERCUTIO. Good King of Cats, nothing but one of your
nine lives.

(Tybalt and Mercutio draw their swords and begin to fight.)

ROMEO. Gentle Mercutio, put thy sword up.
Draw, Benvolio; beat down their weapons.
Gentlemen, for shame! Stop this outrage!
Tybalt, Mercutio, the Prince hath
Forbid this fighting in Verona streets.
Stop, Tybalt! Good Mercutio!

(Romeo tries to stop the fight. He comes between the two men, but he only gets in Mercutio's way. Tybalt sees an opening and thrusts his sword under Romeo's arm and into Mercutio. As Mercutio falls, Tybalt turns and runs.)

MERCUTIO. I am hurt.

BENVOLIO. What, art thou hurt?

MERCUTIO. Ay, ay, a scratch, a scratch.

ROMEO. Courage, man. The hurt cannot be much.

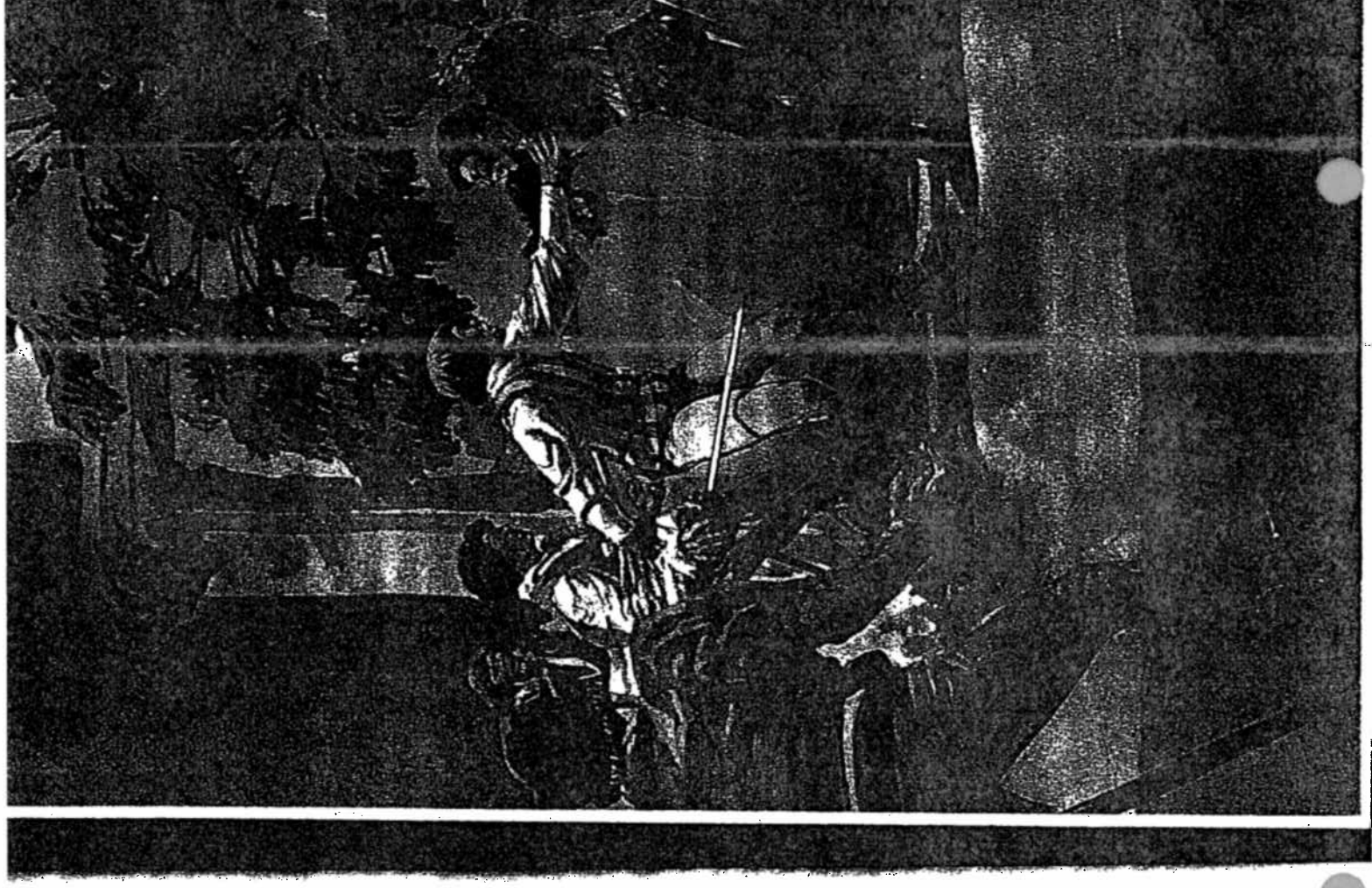
MERCUTIO. No, 'tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a church door; but 'tis enough, it will serve. A plague on both your houses! Zounds, a dog, a rat, a mouse, a cat, to scratch a man to death! Why the devil came you between us, Romeo? I was hurt under your arm.

ROMEO. I thought all for the best.

MERCUTIO. Help me into some house, Benvolio,
Or I shall faint. A plague on both your houses!

(Benvolio helps Mercutio to exit. Romeo is left to curse himself for a coward.)

ROMEO. My friend hath got this mortal hurt
In my behalf—my reputation stained
With Tybalt's slander—Tybalt, that an hour
Hath been my cousin. O sweet Juliet,
Thy beauty hath made me weak!
(Benvolio returns from the house.)



BENVOLIO. O Romeo, brave Mercutio is dead! And here comes the furious Tybalt back again.

ROMEO. Tybalt alive in victory, and Mercutio dead?
(Tybalt enters.)

ROMEO. Now, Tybalt, take the "villain" back again That late thou gavest me; for Mercutio's soul Is but a little way above our heads, Waiting for thine to keep him company. Either thou or I, or both, must go with him.

(The two men draw and fight. Romeo runs Tybalt through with his sword, and Tybalt falls dead.)

BENVOLIO. Romeo, away, be gone! The citizens are up, and Tybalt slain. The Prince will doom thee to death If thou art taken. Quick, be gone, away!

(Romeo runs off and the Prince enters with the Capulets and the Montagues and townspeople.)

PRINCE. Benvolio, who began this bloody fight?

BENVOLIO. Tybalt, here dead, whom Romeo's hand did kill After Tybalt hit the life of stout Mercutio.

LADY CAPULET. He is a kinsman to the Montagues; His loyalty makes him false, he speaks not true. Tybalt, my cousin! O my brother's child! Prince, I beg for justice, which thou must give. Romeo slew Tybalt; Romeo must not live.

PRINCE. Tybalt slew Mercutio; Romeo slew him. And for that offense Immediately we do exile him hence. Let Romeo leave in haste, Else, when he is found, that hour is his last.
(They all exit.)

Scene 2

The scene is the Capulet orchard. Juliet is waiting there for word from Romeo when he will come. The nurse—the lovers' messenger—arrives in tears.

NURSE. Ah, alas! He's dead, he's dead, he's dead! We are undone, lady, we are undone! Alack the day! He's gone, he's killed, he's dead! O Romeo, Romeo! Who ever would have thought it? Romeo!

JULIET. What devil art thou that dost torment me thus? Hath Romeo slain himself?

NURSE. I saw the wound, I saw it with mine eyes, Here on his manly breast. A corpse, a bloody terrible corpse; Pale, pale as ashes, all covered in blood, I fainted at the sight.

JULIET. O, break, my heart! Break at once!

NURSE. O Tybalt, Tybalt, the best friend I had! O Tybalt! Honest gentleman! That I should live to see thee dead!

JULIET. Is Romeo killed and is Tybalt dead? My dearest cousin, and my dearer lord?

NURSE. Tybalt is gone, and Romeo banished; Romeo that killed him, he is banished.

JULIET. O God! Did Romeo's hand kill Tybalt?

NURSE. It did, it did! Alas the day, it did! Shame come to Romeo!

JULIET. Cursed be thy tongue For such a wish! He was not born to shame. Upon his brow shame is ashamed to sit.

NURSE. Will you speak well of him that killed your cousin?
JULIET. Shall I speak ill of him that is my husband?
My husband lives, that Tybalt would have killed;
And Tybalt is dead, that would have killed my
husband.

"Tybalt is dead, and Romeo—banished."
Romeo is banished—to speak that word
Is father, mother, Tybalt, Romeo, Juliet,
All killed, all dead. 'Romeo is banished'—
In that word is death!
Where is my father and my mother, nurse?

NURSE. Weeping and wailing over Tybalt's corpse.
Will you go to them?

JULIET. They wash his wounds with tears. My tears shall
fall

When theirs are dry—for Romeo's banishment!

NURSE. Get to your chamber. I'll find Romeo
To comfort you. I know well where he is.
Your Romeo will be here tonight.
I'll go to him; he is hid at Lawrence's cell.

JULIET. O, find him! Give this ring to my true knight
And ask him come to take his last farewell.

(They exit.)

Scene 3

The scene is Friar Lawrence's cell. Romeo is waiting for
the Friar to return with news of the Prince's judgment. The
Friar enters.

FRIAR. Romeo, come forth; come forth man.

ROMEO. Father, what news?

FRIAR. I bring thee news of the Prince's doom.
Not thy death, but thy banishment.



ROMEO. Ha, banishment? Be merciful, say "death;"

There is no world outside Verona's walls,
But pain, torture, hell itself.

FRIAR. But the kind Prince hath pushed aside the law,
And turned that black word "death" to "banishment."
This is dear mercy.

ROMEO. 'Tis torture, and not mercy. Heaven is here
Where Juliet lives; and every cat and dog
And little mouse, every unworthy thing,
Live here in heaven and may look on her;
But Romeo may not.

FRIAR. Thou foolish mad man, hear me speak.

ROMEO. O, thou wilt speak again of banishment. Talk
no more!
Were thou as young as I, Juliet thy love,
An hour but married, Tybalt murdered,
And like me banished,
Then mightest thou speak, then mightest thou tear
thy hair,
And fall upon the ground, as I do now.

(The nurse knocks.)

FRIAR. Arise, someone knocks. Good Romeo, hide thyself!
Who knocks so hard?

NURSE. Let me come in, and you shall know my errand. I
come from Lady Juliet.

FRIAR. Welcome then.

NURSE. O holy Friar, tell me, where is my lady's lord?
Where is Romeo?

FRIAR. There on the ground, made drunk with his own
tears.

NURSE. Even so lies Juliet,
Blubbering and weeping, weeping and blubbering.
Stand up, stand up! Stand, and be a man.

For Juliet's sake, for her sake, rise and stand!

ROMEO. Nurse, speak thou of Juliet? How is it with her?
Doth not she think me a murderer?

Where is she? And how doth she? And what says she?

NURSE. O, she says nothing, sir, but weeps and weeps;
And now falls on her bed, and then starts up,
On Tybalt calls; and then on Romeo cries,
And then falls down again.

(The nurse makes Romeo so miserable that he tries to stab himself with a knife, but the nurse snatches it from him.)

FRIAR. Art thou a man? Thy form says thou art;
Thy tears are womanish, thy wild acts show
The unreasonable fury of a beast.
Stir thee, man! Thy Juliet is alive.
The law that threatened death becomes thy friend
And turns it to exile. Listen to me!
Go to thy love and comfort her.
Come morning, thou shalt leave for Mantua,
Where thou shalt live till we can find a time
To reveal your marriage and beg pardon of the Prince.
Go first, nurse. Tell thy lady to hurry all
The house to bed. Romeo is coming.

NURSE. (To Romeo) My lord, I'll tell my lady you will come.

ROMEO. Farewell.

(They exit.)

Scene 4

The scene is a room in Capulet's house. Lord and Lady
Capulet enter with Count Paris.

CAPULET. Sir Paris, I think my daughter will be ruled
by me.
Wife, go to her before you go to bed;

Tell her of Paris's love. Inursuay, ven nicy,
She shall be married to this noble earl.
PARIS. My lord, I wish that Thursday were tomorrow.
CAPULET. Thursday be it then.
Prepare her, wife, for this wedding day.
Farewell, my lord.

Scene 5

The scene is Juliet's bedchamber. Romeo and Juliet have had their wedding night together, but morning is not far away and Romeo must leave by way of the window. The nurse enters.

NURSE. Madam!

JULIET. Nurse?

NURSE. Your lady mother is coming to your chamber.

(The nurse leaves.)

JULIET. Then, window, let day in and let life out.

ROMEO. Farewell, farewell! One kiss, and I'll depart.

(They kiss, and Romeo leaves through the window as Lady Capulet enters.)

JULIET. It is my lady mother. Is she to bed so late or up so early?

LADY CAPULET. Why, how now, Juliet?

JULIET. Madam, I am not well.

LADY CAPULET. Evermore weeping for your cousin's death? What, will thou wash him from his grave with tears? Have done. Some grief shows much love; But much grief shows some want of wit. Now I'll tell thee joyful news, girl.

JULIET. What news, your ladyship?

morning

The brave, young, and noble gentleman,
The Count Paris—at Saint Peter's Church—
Shall make thee a joyful bride.

JULIET. Now by Saint Peter's Church, and Peter too,
He shall not make me there a joyful bride!
I wonder at this haste, that I must wed
Before he that will be my husband comes to woo.
I pray you tell my lord and father, madam,
I will not marry yet!

LADY CAPULET. Here comes your father. Tell him so
yourself

And see how he will take the news.

(Lord Capulet enters with the nurse.)

CAPULET. How now, wife? Have you told her our plan?

LADY CAPULET. Ay, sir; but she will have none of it!
I would the fool were married to her grave!

CAPULET. How? Will she not? Doth she not give us thanks?
Is she not proud? Doth she not count her blest,
Unworthy as she is, that we have arranged
So worthy a gentleman to be her groom?

JULIET. Good father, I beg you on my knees,
Hear me with patience.

CAPULET. Hang thee, young baggage!

I tell thee what—get thee to church on Thursday
Or never after look me in the face.

NURSE. God in heaven bless her!

You are to blame, my lord, to scold her so.

CAPULET. Peace, you mumbling fool! It makes me mad!
To have her matched; and having now provided
A gentleman of noble parents,
Of good fortune, youthful, and nobly trained,
And then to have the fool answer 'I'll not wed. I
cannot love;

I am too young, I pray you pardon me!"
Think, lady; I do not jest.

Thursday is near; I'll give you to Count Paris,
Or beg, starve, die in the streets,
By my soul, I'll never again call thee daughter.

(He exits)

JULIET. O sweet my mother, cast me not away!
Delay this marriage for a month, a week!

LADY CAPULET. Talk not to me, for I'll not speak a word.
Do as thou wilt, for I have done with thee!

(She exits.)

JULIET. O God! How shall this be stopped?
My husband is on earth; my marriage vows recorded
in heaven.
Nurse, go in; and tell my lady that having displeas'd
my father,
I have gone to Friar Lawrence to make confession.
I'll ask the Friar for his help.
If all else fails, myself have the power to die.



ACT IV

Scene 1

The scene is in Friar Lawrence's cell. Juliet has come to him for help. He is the only one that can save her from marriage to Paris.

FRIAR. O Juliet, I already know thy grief;
I hear thou must on Thursday be married to Count
Paris.

JULIET. Tell me, Friar, how I may prevent it.
Speak quickly. I long to die if thou canst not help me.

(She takes a dagger from her belt and threatens to kill herself.)

FRIAR. Stop, daughter. I do see a kind of hope.
If thou hast the courage, I'll give thee a remedy.

JULIET. And I will do it without fear or doubt,
To live a pure wife to my sweet love.

FRIAR. Go home, then. Be merry, and give consent
To marry Paris. Wednesday is tomorrow.
Take thou this vial. When thou art in bed,
Drink off its contents.

When it runs through all thy veins,
No warmth, no breath, shall show thou livest;
The roses in thy lips and cheeks shall fade.
Stiff and stark and cold, thou shalt appear like death
For two and forty hours,
And then awake as from a pleasant sleep.

Now, when the bridegroom comes in the morning
To awake thee from thy bed, there art thou dead.
In thy best robes, uncovered,
Thou shalt be laid in that ancient vault
Where all the Capulets lie.

In the meantime, before thou shalt awake,
I shall write Romeo of our plan,
And here shall he come; and he and I
Will watch thy waking, and that very night
Shall Romeo bear thee away to Mantua.
And this shall free thee from thy shame.

(Juliet reaches out and takes the vial filled with the drug.)

JULIET. Give me, give me! O, I am not afraid!
Love gives me strength.
Farewell, dear father.

Scene 2

The scene is Juliet's bedchamber. Night has come. She has told her father and mother that she will marry Paris in the morning. Nurse and Lady Capulet have helped her choose the clothes for her wedding and have now left her alone to sleep.

JULIET. (To her mother and the nurse as they leave)
Farewell!

(To herself) God knows when we shall meet again.
A faint cold fear thrills through my veins
That almost freezes up the heat of life.
Come, vial.

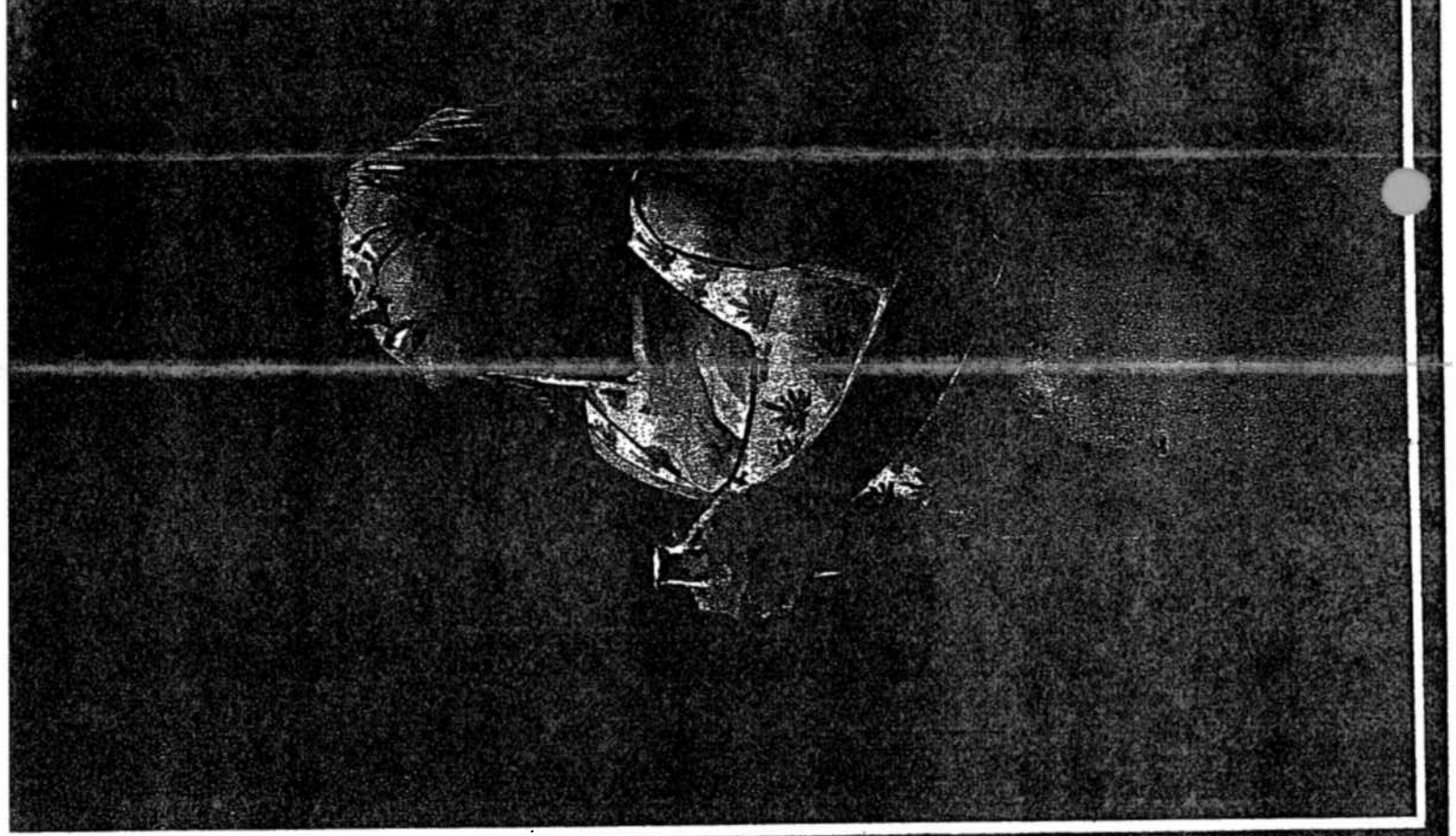
(She holds the drug in her hands, but she is frightened.)

What if this mixture does not work at all?
Shall I be married then tomorrow morning?
(She grows more and more frightened of taking the drug.)

What if it be a poison which the friar
Hath given me to have me dead,
Lest he should be blamed
Because he married me before to Romeo?
How if, when I am laid into the tomb,
I wake before the time that Romeo comes
And there die strangled? There's a fearful point!
Or if I wake, shall I not be driven mad?

(As her mind imagines all the terrors of the tomb, she thinks Tybalt's ghost has come to haunt her.)

O, look! I think I see my cousin's ghost
Seeking out Romeo. Stop, Tybalt, stop!
Romeo, Romeo, Romeo, I drink to thee!
(She raises up the vial and drinks the drug and then falls upon her bed as though she is dead.)



Scene 3

The scene is Juliet's chamber the next morning. All the preparations have been made for the wedding. Nurse enters to get Juliet ready for the marriage to Paris.

NURSE. Mistress! What, mistress! Juliet!

What, dressed, and in your clothes, and asleep again?
I must wake you. Lady! Lady! Lady!

(Nurse shakes her and tries to wake her, but the drug has done its work and Juliet seems to be dead.)

Alas, alas! Help! My lady's dead!

(Lady Capulet enters.)

LADY CAPULET. What noise is here? What is the matter?

NURSE. Look, look! O heavy day!

LADY CAPULET. O me, O me! My child, my life!

Help, help! Call help.

(Lord Capulet enters.)

CAPULET. For shame, bring Juliet forth; her lord is come.

LADY CAPULET. Alack the day, she's dead, she's dead, she's dead!

CAPULET. Hal! Let me see her. Alas! She's cold,

And her joints are stiff;

Death lies on her like a frost

Upon the sweetest flower of all the field.

(The Friar enters with Count Paris.)

FRIAR. Come, is the bride ready to go to church?

CAPULET. Ready to go, but never to return.

O son, the night before thy wedding day

Hath Death been with thy wife. There she lies.

PARIS. Have I thought, love, to see this morning's face,

And doth it give me such a sight as this?

LADY CAPULET. Unhappy, hateful day!

NURSE. O woe! O woeful, woeful, woeful day!

CAPULET. O child, O child!

Dead art thou—and with my child my joys are buried!

FRIAR. Dry up your tears, and in her best array

Bear her to church.

CAPULET. All things we ordered for the marriage festival

Turn now to black funeral. Our bridal flowers

Serve for a buried corpse.

FRIAR. Sir, go you in; and madam, go with him:

And go, Sir Paris. Everyone prepare

To follow this fair corpse unto her grave.



ACT V

Scene 1

The scene is a street in Mantua. Romeo is there waiting for his messenger to return from Verona with word of Juliet. The servant arrives.

ROMEO. (To servant) News from Verona! How now,

Dost thou bring me letters from the Friar?

How doth my lady? Is my father well?

How fares my Juliet?

SERVANT. Her body sleeps in Capulet's tomb,

And her immortal soul lives with the angels.

I saw her laid in her family's vault

And came forth to tell you.

O, pardon me for bringing this bad news, sir.

(*Romeo is staggered by the news that Juliet is supposedly dead.*)

ROMEO. Is it so? Then I defy you, stars!
Get me ink and paper and hire horses.
I will leave Mantua tonight. Get thee gone.

(*The servant exits. Romeo stops to plan. If Juliet is dead, he no longer wants to go on living. Now he must decide on the way in which he will kill himself.*)

ROMEO. Well, Juliet, I will lie with thee tonight.
Let's see for means. What, ho! Apothecary!

(*The apothecary—a druggist—enters.*)

APOTHECARY. Who calls so loud?

ROMEO. Come here, man. I see that thou art poor.
Here is forty ducats. Let me have
A dram of poison, such a fast-working poison
That the taker may fall dead.

(*The apothecary takes out a vial of poison and gives it to Romeo.*)

APOTHECARY. Put this in any liquid thing you will
And drink it off, and if you had the strength
Of twenty men, it would kill you straight.

ROMEO. (Handing him the money) There is thy gold.
Come, poison, go with me
To Juliet's grave; for there must I use thee.

Scene 2

The scene is the churchyard and the tomb belonging to the Capulets. Friar Lawrence has discovered that the letter he sent to Romeo to tell him of Juliet's pretended death did not reach him. He has also learned that Romeo is on his way to Verona. He hurries to the churchyard, but others are there before him. Count Paris has come to put flowers

at Juliet's grave. Paris hears footsteps and hides as Romeo enters with his servant.

ROMEO. (To the servant) Take this letter. Early in the morning
Deliver it to my lord and father. (Takes the torch from him)

Give me the light. Upon thy life I tell thee,
Do not try to stop me in my course.
If thou dost, by heaven, I will tear thee joint by joint
And throw thy limbs around this hungry churchyard.

SERVANT. I will be gone, sir, and not trouble ye.

(*The servant leaves. Romeo opens the door to the tomb and is about to enter when Paris comes out of hiding.*)

PARIS. This is the banished Montague
That murdered my love's cousin.
Stop, evil Montague! Obey,
And go with me; for thou must die.

ROMEO. I must indeed; for death came I here.
Good gentle youth, be gone and leave me.
I beg thee, youth, put not another sin upon my head
By moving me to anger. O, be gone!

PARIS. I do defy thee and take thee my prisoner.

ROMEO. Will thou enrage me? Then draw thy sword, boy!
(*They both draw their swords and fight. Romeo runs Paris through. He falls.*)

PARIS. O, I am killed! If thou be merciful,
Open the tomb, and lay me with Juliet.
(*He dies.*)

ROMEO. Let me see this face.
Mercutio's kinsman, noble Count Paris!
What said my man as we rode? I think
He told me Paris should have married Juliet.
I'll bury him here by Juliet. Her beauty

Makes this tomb a place full of light.

(Romeo lays Paris's body in the tomb, then he turns to his beloved Juliet.)

ROMEO. O my love, my wife!

Death, that hath sucked the honey of thy breath,
Hath had no power yet upon thy beauty.

Eyes, look your last! Arms, take your last embrace!

(He takes a cup of poison in his hand.)

Here's to my love!

(He drinks it and kisses Juliet one last time.)

O true apothecary!

Thy drugs are quick. Thus with a kiss I die.

(He falls dead. Friar Lawrence comes into the churchyard and enters the tomb as Juliet begins to awaken.)

FRIAR. Romeo!

Alack, alack, what blood is this which stains
The entrance of the tomb?

Romeo! Who else? What, Paris too?

And covered in blood? The lady stirs.

JULIET. O Friar! Where is my lord?

I do remember well where I should be,

And there I am. Where is my Romeo?

FRIAR. I hear some noise. Lady, come from this nest

Of death. Come, come away.

Thy husband there lies dead; and Paris too.

Stay not to question, for the watchman is coming.

Come, go, good Juliet. I dare no longer stay.

JULIET. Go, get thee away, for I will not leave.

(The Friar leaves. Juliet goes to the dead Romeo.)

JULIET. What's here? A cup, closed in my true love's hand?

Poison, I see, hath brought his end.

O Romeo! Drunk all, and left no friendly drop

To help me after? I will kiss thy lips.

Perhaps some poison yet doth hang on them
To make me die.

(She kisses him.)

Thy lips are warm!

(She hears the noise of the watchmen coming. She takes Romeo's dagger and presses it to her breast.)

Yea, noise? Then I'll be quick. O happy dagger!

Rest here, and let me die. *(She stabs herself and falls.)*

(The watchmen see the open tomb and enter.)

CHIEF WATCHMAN. The ground is bloody.

Terrible sight! Here lies Count Paris dead;

And Juliet bleeding, warm, and newly dead.

Go tell the Prince; run to the Capulets;

Raise up the Montagues.

(A short time later the Prince enters with Lord and Lady Capulet, Lord Montague, and the Friar.)

PRINCE. Who calls us from our morning rest?

CHIEF WATCHMAN. Prince, here lies the Count Paris killed;

And Romeo dead; and Juliet, dead before,

Warm and new killed.

PRINCE. Search, seek, and find how this murder comes.

Friar, say at once what thou dost know of this.

FRIAR. I will be brief.

Romeo, there dead, was husband to that Juliet;

And she, there dead, that's Romeo's faithful wife.

I gave her a sleeping potion to keep her from a second
marriage.

Meantime I wrote to Romeo that he should come
hither.

But he which bore the letter was stopped by an
accident.

I came tonight to take her safely to my cell.

But when I came, some minutes before the time
Of her awakening, here lay the noble Paris and true
Romeo dead.

She wakes; and I beg her to come forth with me;
But a noise did scare me from the tomb,
And she would not go with me,
But, it seems, did kill herself.
All this I know.

PRINCE. Where's Romeo's man? What can he say to this?

(Romeo's servant comes out from the shadows of the churchyard where he has been hiding.)

SERVANT. I brought my master news of Juliet's death;
And in haste he came from Mantua
To this same place, to this same tomb.
This letter he early asked me give his father.

(The Prince takes the letter from him and reads it.)

PRINCE. This letter doth make good the friar's words,
Their course of love, the news of her death;
And here he writes that he did buy poison
From a poor apothecary and with it
Came to this vault to die and lie with Juliet.
Where be these enemies? Capulet, Montague,
See the outcome of your hate.
All are punished.

(Both Lord Capulet and Lord Montague are stricken with grief. Their feud has caused the death of the people they love most. The feuding between the two families must end. Lord Capulet holds out his hand to Lord Montague in friendship.)

CAPULET. O brother Montague, give me thy hand.

MONTAGUE. Brother Capulet! *(The two shake hands.)*

PRINCE. A gloomy peace this morning with it brings.
The sun for sorrow will not show his head.
For never was a story of more woe
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

