

Romeo and Juliet

William
Shakespeare

TIMELESS SHAKESPEARE



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ROMEO AND JULIET

William Shakespeare

- ADAPTED BY -

Patricia Hutchison



SADDLEBACK
PUBLISHING



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— Cast of Characters —

Montague family and friends:

ROMEO MONTAGUE: A young man

LORD MONTAGUE: Romeo's father
and the enemy of Lord Capulet

LADY MONTAGUE: Romeo's mother

MERCUTIO: Romeo's friend and
Prince Escalus's cousin

BENVOLIO: Romeo's cousin and friend

BALTHASAR: Romeo's servant

ABRAHAM: Lord Montague's servant

FRIAR LAWRENCE: A Franciscan
priest

FRIAR JOHN: Friar Lawrence's friend

— Cast of Characters —

Capulet family and friends:

JULIET CAPULET: A 13-year-old girl

LORD CAPULET: Juliet's father and the enemy of Lord Montague

LADY CAPULET: Juliet's mother

NURSE: Juliet's nanny

SAMPSON and GREGORY: Lord Capulet's servants

TYBALT: Juliet's cousin

PARIS: A young man who wants to marry Juliet; Prince Escalus's cousin

PRINCE ESCALUS: Prince and ruler of Verona

— The Prologue —

*(The **Chorus** enters.)*

CHORUS: This play is about two families in Verona, Italy. They have been fighting for years. Two teens fall in love. One is a Capulet. The other is a Montague. They take their own lives. The fighting stops. Read on. You will learn the details.

ACT 1

— Scene 1 —

*(A Verona street. **Sampson** and **Gregory** enter. They have swords. They are looking for trouble.)*

SAMPSON: I won't be put down by Montagues. Believe me!

GREGORY: Calm down. This isn't our

fight. The fight is between our bosses.

SAMPSON: It's all the same to me. I would fight any of them.

GREGORY: Here's your chance. Draw your sword!

SAMPSON (*drawing his sword*): Pick a fight with them. I'll back you up.

GREGORY: How? By running away?

SAMPSON: Don't worry!

GREGORY: I'm more afraid of what you will do. I'm not afraid of the Montagues.

SAMPSON: We'll let them start the fight. Then we'll have a right to fight back. The law will be on our side.

GREGORY: I'll frown as they pass by. They can take it however they want.

SAMPSON: I'll make a face at them. They'll

have to fight. Or they'll be shamed.

(Abraham and Balthazar enter.)

ABRAHAM: Did you make a face at us?

SAMPSON *(aside to Gregory):* What will happen if I say yes? Will we be arrested?

GREGORY: Yes.

SAMPSON: Then, no. I didn't make a face at you.

GREGORY: Do you want to fight?

ABRAHAM: Fight? No, sir!

SAMPSON: Well, if you do, I'm ready. My boss is as good as yours.

ABRAHAM: As good? Maybe. But no better.

GREGORY: Say "better"—here comes Benvolio. He'll back us up.

SAMPSON: Yes, say “better”!

ABRAHAM: You lie!

SAMPSON: Draw your swords. Gregory,
are you ready?

*(They fight. **Benvolio** enters.)*

BENVOLIO: Stop, fools! Put away your
swords. You don’t know what you’re
doing.

*(He beats down their swords. **Tybalt** enters.)*

TYBALT: Are you fighting with the servants?

BENVOLIO: No, I’m trying to stop the
fight. Put your sword away. Or use it to
help me stop it.

TYBALT: Are you talking about peace with
your sword drawn? I hate the Montagues.
I hate you! Come on, coward!



(They fight. Others join in. Lord and Lady Capulet enter.)

CAPULET: What's going on? Give me a sword too.

LADY CAPULET: You need a crutch, not a sword.

CAPULET: Give me my sword! Montague is coming. He's waving his sword to make me mad.

(Lord and Lady Montague enter.)

MONTAGUE: I hate you, Capulet!

(to his wife, who is holding him back):
Let me at him!

LADY MONTAGUE: Stop! I will not let you do this.

(Prince Escalus and his men arrive.)

PRINCE: Rebels, listen! Drop your swords and listen to me. This is the third time you have fought in our streets. If you do this again, you will pay with your lives. Clear the streets!

Capulet, come with me. Montague, I will meet with you this afternoon. You will die if I catch you fighting one more time.

(Everyone leaves except the Montagues and Benvolio.)

MONTAGUE: Who started this fight, nephew?

BENVOLIO: I saw Capulet's servants fighting with yours. I tried to stop them. Tybalt came in and drew his sword. The crowd joined in. Then the Prince came and stopped it.

LADY MONTAGUE: Where is Romeo? I'm glad he wasn't in this fight.

BENVOLIO: I saw him earlier. He was in the woods. I walked toward him. When he saw me, he ran and hid. I didn't follow him.

MONTAGUE: He goes there a lot to cry. When it's light, he hides in his room. I wish we knew what was wrong. We would gladly help him.

BENVOLIO: Here he comes. I'll see if I can find out anything.

MONTAGUE: I hope you can.

(Lord and Lady Montague leave. Romeo enters.)

BENVOLIO: Good morning, cousin.

ROMEO: Is it still morning? Sad hours
drag on so! Was that my father who just
left?

BENVOLIO: It was. Tell me what makes
you so sad.

ROMEO: Love. I want love. The woman I
love will not love me back. What a waste.
Her beauty will die with her.

BENVOLIO: She has sworn she will not
get married?

ROMEO: She has. It seems such a waste.
It makes me feel like dying.

BENVOLIO: Listen, cousin. Forget her!

ROMEO: Teach me how to do that!

BENVOLIO: You must look at other beautiful ladies.

ROMEO: It won't work. I would only think of her. She is more beautiful than anyone else. You can't teach me to forget her!

BENVOLIO: I will. Or I'll die trying!

(Romeo and Benvolio leave.)

— Scene 2 —

(Lord Capulet, Paris, and a servant enter the street.)

CAPULET: Montague must obey the Prince too. It shouldn't be hard to keep the peace.

PARIS: You are both men of honor. It's sad this fighting goes on. But I have come to ask you a question. May I marry your daughter, Juliet?

CAPULET: I say what I have said before. She is too young to marry. She isn't 14 yet. Wait two more years. Then I will allow her to marry.

PARIS: Many girls younger than Juliet have become happy mothers.

CAPULET: Those girls grow up too fast. My other children are dead. Juliet is the

only child I have left. You may charm her, Paris. Be kind to her. It is up to her. If she agrees, I will let you marry her.

Tonight, I'm having a dinner party. I've invited many guests. You are welcome to come too. You will see many beautiful women there. You may fall in love with someone else.

(to the servant, giving him a piece of paper): Go ask these people to the party.

(Paris and Capulet leave.)

SERVANT *(aside):* Go ask these people! He's forgotten I can't read. I need to find someone to help me.

(Romeo and Benvolio enter.)

BENVOLIO: I'll tell you what you need to do. Fall in love with someone else. You'll soon forget her.

ROMEO: Nothing can help me, Benvolio.

(to the servant): Hello.

SERVANT: Hello, sir. Can you read?

ROMEO: Yes, I can read my own sad future.

SERVANT: You can read that without a book. But can you read words?

ROMEO: Yes.

SERVANT *(hands Romeo the list):* Please read this.

ROMEO *(reading list):* That's quite a group.

(He returns the list.) Where's the party?

SERVANT: At Lord Capulet's house. If you're not a Montague, you can come. Good-bye now.

(Servant leaves.)

BENVOLIO: Rosaline will be there. Go to the party. You'll see other beautiful women. Then you'll think your swan is a crow.

ROMEO: There is no one more beautiful!

BENVOLIO: How do you know? You have never compared her to another. Tonight, look at some of the other girls. Rosaline is not the only girl in Verona. I'll show you.

ROMEO: I'll go. I will enjoy seeing my beautiful Rosaline.

(Romeo and Benvolio leave.)

— Scene 3 —

(A room in Capulet's house. Lady Capulet and Nurse enter.)

LADY CAPULET: Nurse, where's my daughter? Call her.

NURSE: Juliet!

(Juliet enters.)

JULIET: Who wants to see me?

NURSE: Your mother.

JULIET: Hello, Mother. What is your wish?

LADY CAPULET: Nurse, leave us now.
No, wait! I want you to hear this too. You know my daughter's age.

NURSE: Of course. I can tell her age to the hour.

LADY CAPULET: She's not 14.

NURSE: She will be 14 in about two weeks.
It's hard to believe. She was the most beautiful baby I have ever taken care of. I hope I live long enough to see her get married.

LADY CAPULET: That is what I want to talk about.

(to Juliet): How do you feel about getting married?

JULIET: I haven't thought much about it.

LADY CAPULET: Well, think about it. Many girls your age are mothers. I was a mother when I was your age. Did you know that Paris would like to marry you?

NURSE: What luck, Juliet! He's a fine man!

LADY CAPULET: There is no finer man in Verona.

NURSE: He's a great man!

LADY CAPULET: What do you say?
Can you love him? He'll be at the party
tonight. Look at him. If you marry him,
you will have all that he has. You will
better yourself. Do you think you could
love Paris?

JULIET: I will take a look at him. But only
because you ask. If I like him, I will think
about marrying him.

(A servant enters.)

SERVANT: The guests are here.

LADY CAPULET: We will follow you.

(Servant leaves.)

Juliet, Paris is waiting for you.

NURSE: Go, my girl!

(All leave.)

— Scene 4 —

(Romeo, Mercutio, and Benvolio are in the street. They are wearing party masks.)

ROMEO: Should we just go in quietly?

BENVOLIO: We don't have to say a thing.
We'll have one dance. Then we'll leave.

ROMEO: I don't feel like dancing. I am in
a dark mood. I will carry the torch.

MERCUTIO: You must dance!

ROMEO: I'm too sad to dance.

MERCUTIO: You're in love. You should
be happy. You should fly!

ROMEO: Love is a heavy load. I can't
move.

MERCUTIO: That's a strange way to
describe love. It's a tender thing.

ROMEO: Is love a tender thing? To me, it's hard. It cuts like a thorn.

MERCUTIO: If love is hard on you, be hard on love. Beat it down. We're almost there.

BENVOLIO: Here we are. Knock and enter. As soon as we're in, start dancing.

ROMEO: I'll just watch.

MERCUTIO: We'll get you out of this bad mood. Come on.

ROMEO: I don't think it's a good idea to go to this party.

MERCUTIO: Why?

ROMEO: I had a dream last night.

MERCUTIO: Ah, Queen Mab came to visit you. She's the fairy of dreams. She makes

lovers dream of love. And lawyers dream of money. And ladies dream of kisses.

ROMEO: Enough. Stop. You're full of it.

MERCUTIO: True. I'm talking about dreams. They're nothing.

ROMEO: Something bad is going to happen. I feel like I might die. Time will tell. Let's go.

(All leave.)

— Scene 5 —

(A hall in Capulet's house. Musicians are waiting. Servants enter.)

FIRST SERVANT: Where is Potpan? He should be helping us clean up.

SECOND SERVANT: You can't count on Potpan.

FIRST SERVANT: Take the chairs away. Take the table.

(Second servant leaves. Lord and Lady Capulet enter. Juliet, Tybalt, Nurse, guests, and musicians enter.)

CAPULET: Welcome, guests! Everyone must dance. I remember wearing a mask and dancing. Those days are gone! Come, musicians, play!

(Music plays. Everyone dances.)

More light! Move those tables! Put out the fire. The room's too hot. Hello, cousin Capulet. How long has it been since we have danced?

COUSIN CAPULET: Thirty years!

CAPULET: I don't believe it! I think it has only been 25.

COUSIN CAPULET: It's longer.

CAPULET: It can't be true.

ROMEO (*to a servant*): Who's that lady?

SERVANT: I don't know, sir.

ROMEO: She's like a white dove among crows. She shines like the stars. I've never seen anyone so beautiful.

TYBALT: I know that voice! He's a Montague! Why is he here? I'll kill him.

CAPULET: Tybalt! Why are you so angry?

TYBALT: Uncle, that man is a Montague.
He's our enemy. He has come to spoil
the party.

CAPULET: Is it Romeo?

TYBALT: Yes, it is. He's bad.

CAPULET: Calm down. Let him stay. He
looks like a good man. I will not be rude
to him. It's no way to behave at a party.

TYBALT: But he's our enemy. I don't want
him to stay.

CAPULET: You are the one spoiling the
party. Either go away or be quiet.

TYBALT: Fine, I'll leave. But I won't forget.

(Tybalt leaves.)

ROMEO *(to Juliet)*: If my hand is too
rough, I'll soothe yours with a kiss.

JULIET: Your hand is fine. Don't people

pray by touching their hands together?

ROMEO: Yes, and we also pray with our lips. Let's touch our lips together.

(They kiss.)

NURSE: Juliet, your mother would like to see you.

(Juliet moves away.)

ROMEO: Who is her mother?

NURSE: Lady Capulet. Whoever marries Juliet will be rich.

ROMEO *(to Benvolio)*: She is a Capulet. Oh no! My life is in my foe's hands.

BENVOLIO: Let's go. The party is over.

ROMEO: Yes, that's sad.

CAPULET: Don't go. Have more food. Must you leave? Thanks for coming.

(All leave but Juliet and Nurse.)

JULIET: Nurse, please come here. Who is that young man?

NURSE: I don't know.

JULIET: Go. Find out his name. If he's married, I will die!

(Nurse leaves, then returns.)

NURSE: His name is Romeo. He's a Montague. He is the only son of your family's enemy.

JULIET: My only love comes from my only hate. Why is this happening? Now it's too late! I love my family's enemy.

NURSE: Let's go to bed. Everyone is gone.

(Juliet and Nurse leave.)

Act 2

— Scene 1 —

*(Outside the wall of Capulet's garden.
Romeo enters.)*

ROMEO: I can't leave. My heart is here!®

(Romeo climbs the wall.)

(Benvolio and Mercutio enter.)

BENVOLIO: Romeo, where are you?

MERCUTIO: I think he's gone home.

BENVOLIO: I think he ran this way. He
jumped over the wall. Call him, Mercutio.

MERCUTIO: Romeo? Madman! Lover!
Call to us.

(Mercutio listens. Romeo doesn't answer.)

I'll say the magic word: Rosaline. Oh, Romeo! By Rosaline's bright eyes, I call you to come to us!

BENVOLIO *(laughing)*: If he hears you, he'll be angry.

MERCUTIO: This cannot anger him. I used his lover's name to get his attention.

BENVOLIO: He's hiding in the trees. His love is blind. He sees better in the dark.

MERCUTIO: Come on, let's leave him alone. Good night, Romeo.

BENVOLIO: Let's go, then. It's foolish to look for him. He doesn't want to be found.

(Benvolio and Mercutio leave.)

— Scene 2 —

(*Capulet's garden. **Romeo** enters.*)

ROMEO: Mercutio laughs at my problems.
He doesn't know how it feels. He's never
been in love.

(***Juliet** comes to the window.*)

Wait. What's that light in the window?
It is the east. And Juliet is the sun. Rise,
beautiful sun. Kill the jealous moon. The
moon is pale and sad. Because Juliet is
more beautiful.

There's Juliet. It's her. If only she knew
how I feel. She speaks. But she says
nothing. Her eyes speak. But not to me.

Two bright stars had to go away. They ask
Juliet's eyes to twinkle in their place. Her
bright eyes would make the sky so light.
Birds would sing, thinking it wasn't night.

Look at her cheek. It's resting on her hand. Oh, I wish I were a glove. Then I could touch her cheek.

JULIET: Oh my!

ROMEO: She speaks! Speak again. You are like an angel to me.

JULIET: Oh, Romeo, why are you a Montague? Change your name. Or just say you love me. I will no longer be a Capulet.

ROMEO (*aside*): Should I talk now?

JULIET: Only your name is my enemy. You would be the same man if you weren't a Montague. What does a name mean, anyway? A rose would still smell sweet no matter what we call it. Romeo, trade your name in and take all of me.

ROMEO: Love me. I'll never be called Romeo again.



JULIET: Who's there? Why are you hiding in the dark?

ROMEO: I don't want to tell you my name. I hate my name.

JULIET: Aren't you Romeo Montague?

ROMEO: Not if it makes you unhappy.

JULIET: How did you get in here? You are in danger.

ROMEO: My love for you gave me wings.
I flew over the wall. I'm not afraid.

JULIET: If they see you, they'll kill you.

ROMEO: Just look sweetly at me. I'll be
ready for them.

JULIET: I don't want them to see you here.

ROMEO: They won't see me. It's too dark.
I don't want to live without your love. I
would rather be killed.

JULIET: Who told you how to find me?

ROMEO: Love told me. I would go
anywhere to find you.

JULIET: Did you hear what I said about
you? I'm blushing. Do you love me? I
know you'll say yes. I will believe you.
I can't pretend to be shy. I love you.

ROMEO: I swear by the moon—

JULIET: Don't swear by the moon. It changes from one night to the next.

ROMEO: What should I swear by?

JULIET: Swear by your kind self. I'll believe you.

ROMEO: I swear—

JULIET: No, don't. You give me joy. But I am not happy about our love. It's moving too fast! Good night! Sleep well.

ROMEO: Will you leave me sad?

JULIET: What happiness can you have tonight?

ROMEO: I want you to promise your love to me.

JULIET: I loved you as soon as I saw you. But I wish I could take it back.

ROMEO: Why?

JULIET: So that I could give it to you over and over again. My love is as deep as the sea. The more I give you, the more I have. It is endless.

(Offstage, Nurse calls.)

JULIET: Stay a minute. I'll be right back.

(Juliet leaves.)

ROMEO: What a blessed night. I fear that it is only a dream. It's too sweet to be real.

(Juliet comes back.)

JULIET: I can only stay a minute. If you want to marry me, send word tomorrow. Tell me where to meet you. I'll follow you anywhere.

NURSE *(offstage):* Juliet!

JULIET: I've got to go. If you don't want

to marry me, leave me alone. But I'll be so sad. Good night!

(Juliet leaves.)

ROMEO: She's gone. This is terrible.

(Juliet comes back.)

JULIET: Romeo! What time shall I send for you tomorrow?

ROMEO: At nine.

JULIET: I'll do it. It's such a long time from now. Parting is so sad. Good night, my love.

(Juliet leaves.)

ROMEO: Sleep well, my love. I will go see Friar Lawrence. I have to tell him the good news.

(Romeo leaves.)

— Scene 3 —

(Friar Lawrence enters his room. He is holding a basket.)

FRIAR LAWRENCE: Morning is here. It's getting lighter. I must fill these baskets with plants. Or it will get too hot. The earth is nature's mother. But also nature's grave.

Plants have great power. There's some good in everything. But good can be abused. Good becomes bad if misused. This plant can both help and harm. Smelling it will make you well. Tasting it will kill you. There's good and evil in everything.

(Romeo enters.)

ROMEO: Good morning, Father!

FRIAR LAWRENCE: Bless you! Why are you up so early? Is something wrong?

ROMEO: Yes. I can't sleep.

FRIAR LAWRENCE: Were you with Rosaline?

ROMEO: No, I've forgotten about her.

FRIAR LAWRENCE: Good, my son. But where have you been?

ROMEO: I went to a party at Capulet's house. One of them hurt me. And I hurt her. You can help make us feel better.

FRIAR LAWRENCE: You are speaking in riddles. I don't understand.

ROMEO: I love Capulet's daughter. She loves me too. We want to be married! Please marry us today.

FRIAR LAWRENCE: My goodness! Have you forgotten Rosaline so quickly? I can't believe it. What's changed?

ROMEO: You often scolded me for loving Rosaline. You told me to forget her.

FRIAR LAWRENCE: But I didn't tell you to love another.

ROMEO: Juliet loves me. Rosaline did not.

FRIAR LAWRENCE: All right. I will help you. Maybe this wedding will stop all the fighting.

ROMEO: Let's go! I want this done quickly.

FRIAR LAWRENCE: Go slowly. If you run, you might fall.

(Romeo and Friar Lawrence leave.)

— Scene 4 —

(A street. *Benvolio and Mercutio enter.*)

MERCUTIO: Where is Romeo? Did he come home last night?

BENVOLIO: No.

MERCUTIO: He must still be sad about Rosaline.

BENVOLIO: Tybalt, a Capulet cousin, sent a letter to Romeo's house.

MERCUTIO: I'll bet he's asking Romeo to fight him.

BENVOLIO: Romeo will fight Tybalt.

MERCUTIO: He's been hit by Cupid's arrow. Is he strong enough to fight? He won't win.

BENVOLIO: Why, what's Tybalt deal?

MERCUTIO: He's an expert with a sword.
He can slice a button off a shirt.

(Romeo enters.)

BENVOLIO: Here comes Romeo!

MERCUTIO: Good morning, Romeo. We
lost you last night.

ROMEO: Good morning to you both. I'm
sorry for last night. I had some business
to take care of. Everything is good now.

MERCUTIO: Who's coming?

(Nurse enters.)

NURSE: Good morning, gentlemen. Where
can I find Romeo?

ROMEO: I am Romeo.

NURSE: I need to talk with you.

ROMEO (*to Benvolio and Mercutio*):

Friends, go to my father's house. I will meet you later.

(*Mercutio and Benvolio leave.*)

NURSE: Juliet asked me to find you. First, though, let me tell you something. She is a young and good woman. If you are lying about your love, you will have to deal with me!

ROMEO: Nurse, please tell Juliet hello. I promise—

NURSE: Bless your heart! I can tell you are true. She'll be so happy.

ROMEO: Tell her to meet me this afternoon at the church. Friar Lawrence will marry us today.

NURSE: She will be there, sir.

ROMEO: One more thing. My servant will meet you. He will bring a ladder. Hide it near Juliet's window. I will climb up to her room tonight. Can you keep our secret?

NURSE: I can. Can you trust your servant?

ROMEO: I trust him.

NURSE: Juliet is very sweet. Count Paris would like to marry her. But she doesn't love him. She loves you.

ROMEO: Give her my love.

NURSE: Yes, I will.

(Romeo and Nurse leave.)

— Scene 5 —

(*Capulet's garden. Juliet enters.*)

JULIET: Where is she? She said she'd be back by now. What's wrong? Maybe she couldn't find Romeo. She's so slow. Oh! Here she comes.

(*Nurse enters.*)

Sweet nurse, give me the news. Have you met with him?

NURSE: Wait a minute. Let me rest.

JULIET: Please, I can't wait any longer! Is it good news or bad?

NURSE: Your love says ... He's a gentleman. Handsome too. Where is your mother?

JULIET: Where is my mother? She's inside. What does Romeo want with my mother?

NURSE: Now you're angry. Is this how you repay me? From now on, tend to your own business. Don't ask me to help you.

JULIET: Please tell me what he said.

NURSE: Are you allowed to go to church today?

JULIET: Yes.

NURSE: Then go see Friar Lawrence. Romeo will meet you there. The friar will marry the two of you. I must go get a ladder. Romeo will use it to climb to your room when it is dark.

JULIET: What good news! Thank you.

(Nurse and Juliet leave.)

— Scene 6 —

(Friar Lawrence and Romeo enter the friar's room.)

FRIAR LAWRENCE: May heaven smile
on this holy act. May it not cause any
sadness.

ROMEO: But if something bad happens,
it won't take away my joy. I am happy
just looking at her. If I die, I will die a
happy man. I am happy that I can call
her mine.

FRIAR LAWRENCE: A rapid love will
die quickly. Love slowly. It will last
longer.

(Juliet enters. Romeo kisses her.)

FRIAR LAWRENCE: Here is the lady. I
think their love will last.

ROMEO: Juliet, are you as happy as I am?
Tell me how you feel.

JULIET: Yes! My love has grown so much.
I feel rich!

FRIAR LAWRENCE: Come with me. We
will do this quickly.

(Romeo, Juliet, and Friar Lawrence leave.)

Act 3

— Scene 1 —

(Mercutio and Benvolio enter the street.)

BENVOLIO: Mercutio, let's go home. The Capulets are around. If we meet, there will be a fight.

MERCUTIO: You are always looking for a fight.

BENVOLIO: Am I?

MERCUTIO: Yes, it's easy to make you angry. You will fight about anything.

BENVOLIO: If I fought as much as you, I would already be dead.

MERCUTIO: Ha-ha! You said it. I didn't!

BENVOLIO: Here come the Capulets.

MERCUTIO: I don't care.

(Tybalt and others enter the street.)

TYBALT *(to his friends)*: Stay close. I'm going to talk to them.

(to Benvolio and Mercutio): Can I speak with you?

MERCUTIO: Just talk? We should fight!

TYBALT: I'm ready if you are. You are in Romeo's band—

MERCUTIO: Band? You make us sound as if we play music.

(waving his sword): Here, dance to the tune of my sword.

BENVOLIO: Everyone is looking. Go somewhere private if you're going to fight.

MERCUTIO: Let them look! I don't care.

TYBALT: Well, peace be with you, sir.

(Romeo enters.)

Here comes the man I've been looking for. Romeo, you are a creep!

ROMEO: I will pretend you didn't say that. You don't really know me. Good-bye.

TYBALT: I can't forget all the hurt you have caused me. Turn and draw your sword.

ROMEO: I have never hurt you. I love the name Capulet. Calm down.

MERCUTIO: What are you saying, Romeo?

(He draws his sword.)

Tybalt, you rat-catcher, fight me.

TYBALT: What do you want with me?

MERCUTIO: Your life!

TYBALT (*draws his sword*): I am ready for you!

ROMEO: Mercutio, put your sword away. Remember what the Prince said. If we are caught fighting, we will die. Stop, Tybalt. Please, Mercutio!

(Mercutio and Tybalt fight. Romeo steps between them. Tybalt wounds Mercutio. Tybalt runs away.)

MERCUTIO: I'm hurt. I'm dying! A curse on both your families.

BENVOLIO: Are you hurt?

MERCUTIO: Yes! Where's my servant? Go get a doctor.

(Servant leaves.)

ROMEO: Be brave, Mercutio.

MERCUTIO: It's not so bad. But I will



be dead tomorrow. Why did you come between us? He struck me by going under your arm.

ROMEO: I thought I was doing the best thing.

MERCUTIO: Help me into a house, Benvolio. A curse on both your families!

(Mercutio and Benvolio leave.)

ROMEO: My friend's been hurt because Tybalt insulted me. Tybalt is now my relative. Juliet, your love makes me weak.

(Benvolio returns.)

BENVOLIO: Romeo, Mercutio is dead!

ROMEO: This is a black day. It's just the beginning. More sad days will follow.

BENVOLIO: Tybalt is back again!

ROMEO: Tybalt is alive. Mercutio is dead!

(Tybalt enters.)

You're the evil one. One of us must die.

(Romeo and Tybalt fight. Tybalt falls dead.)

BENVOLIO: Romeo, run away! People are coming. The Prince will have you put to death. Run!

ROMEO: Oh, I have bad luck.

BENVOLIO: Why are you still here? Run!

(Romeo runs. The Prince arrives followed by Montagues, Capulets, and others.)

PRINCE: Who started this fight?

BENVOLIO: I can tell you. Tybalt killed Mercutio. Then Romeo killed Tybalt.

LADY CAPULET: Oh, my nephew! A Capulet has been killed. A Montague must die.

PRINCE: Benvolio, what happened?

BENVOLIO: Tybalt started the fight. Romeo tried to stop it. But Tybalt wouldn't listen. Mercutio tried to defend Romeo. Tybalt killed him. Romeo was angry. He killed Tybalt. Then he ran.

LADY CAPULET: He's lying to save Romeo. Romeo killed Tybalt. Romeo must die.

PRINCE: But Tybalt killed Mercutio. Who should pay for that?

MONTAGUE: Well, not Romeo. He was Mercutio's friend. Tybalt got what he deserved. Romeo did what the law would have done. He killed Tybalt.

PRINCE: I'll send Romeo away. He will never be allowed to return to our city. Mercutio was my relative too. I'll charge a huge fine. Let Romeo go. If we find him here, we will kill him. Killers must be punished. Or more murders will happen.

(All leave.)

— Scene 2 —

(A room in the Capulet house. Juliet enters.)

JULIET: I wish night would come quickly.
Then Romeo will be in my arms. Come,
night. Come, Romeo. I can't wait! Oh,
here comes my nurse. I hope she has
some good news.

(Nurse enters with a rope ladder.)

NURSE: Here is the rope ladder Romeo
wanted.

(She throws down the ladder.)

JULIET: Oh my! What's the news? You
look worried.

NURSE: He's dead. He's dead. He's dead!
We are finished! He's gone.

JULIET: Why are you telling me this?

You are torturing me. Has Romeo killed himself?

NURSE: I saw his dead body with my own eyes. He was covered in blood. I fainted.

JULIET: My heart is broken. I must die with him.

NURSE: Tybalt was the best friend I ever had. I can't believe he's dead.

JULIET: Are Romeo and Tybalt both dead?

NURSE: Tybalt is dead. Romeo must leave Verona. He can never return.

JULIET: Did Romeo kill Tybalt?

NURSE: He did.

JULIET: He is a snake! He's evil! His looks are a good mask. I never would guess he could kill someone.