



ROMEO AND JULIET SWEAR TO BE TRUE

JULIET: Nurse, who was that man?

NURSE: Romeo, the only son of your worst enemy.

JULIET: My only hate is now my only love.

NURSE: Come along, Juliet. The guests have gone home.

Act 2 Scene 1

Romeo enters the Capulets' orchard.

ROMEO: How can I take my body home when my heart refuses to follow?

(Benvolio and Mercutio enter. Romeo hides from them.)

BENVOLIO: He ran this way and jumped over the orchard wall.

MERCUTIO: Oh, Romeo! Madman! Lover!

BENVOLIO: Stop, you'll make him angry. Besides, it's a waste of time to look for someone who

doesn't want to be found.

(Benvolio and Mercutio leave.)

ROMEO: They only laugh at me because they've never felt this way.

(Juliet appears at the upstairs window.)

ROMEO: Wait! At the window! It's my lady Juliet! If only she knew how I feel. Her eyes are sparkling like stars, and talking with the heavens above. She is more beautiful than the sun. Even the moon looks green with envy.

JULIET: Oh, Romeo! Why are you Romeo? It's only your name that is my enemy. Take another name, and I will, too. The flower we call "rose" would smell as sweet whatever we called it. Romeo, give up your name, and exchange it for me.

ROMEO *(calling up to Juliet)*: Just call me your love, and I'll never be called Romeo again.

JULIET: Who is that in the darkness? Is it Romeo?

ROMEO: My love for you led me here, Juliet.

JULIET: I'm glad that the darkness hides my blushes. Romeo, forgive me for being so forward, but will you always be true to me?

ROMEO: Yes. Will you be true to me?

(The nurse calls Juliet from inside.)

JULIET *(calling)*: Yes, Nurse. *(She speaks to Romeo.)* If you want to marry me, just let me know the time and place. I'll send someone to you tomorrow.

(Juliet goes inside. Romeo starts to leave. Juliet returns.)

JULIET: Romeo! What time tomorrow should I send someone?

ROMEO: Nine o'clock.

JULIET: It's twenty years ill then. Good night! Parting is such sweet sorrow.

(Juliet leaves again.)

ROMEO: Goodnight, sweetest and most beautiful Juliet. I must tell the friar this news.

Romeo and Juliet

Scene 2

Friar Laurence enters his room. He carries a willow basket full of herbs.

FRIAR: Early in the morning, the best time to pick the herbs and flowers that I need. How that the earth produces and food. Every plant, like every person, is a mixture of both good and evil.

(Romeo enters.)

ROMEO: Good morning, Father.

FRIAR: Romeo, what are you doing up at this hour? What is wrong, my son?

ROMEO: I am in love.

most wonderful lady, and she loves me. Will you marry us today?

FRIAR: Who? Rosaline?

ROMEO: Who? No, Juliet, Capulet's daughter. Don't lecture me. I and I are joined in spirit already. We must be married.

FRIAR: I will help you. Perhaps this marriage will help to bring peace to your households. But we must be cautious. Those who are in a hurry stumble.

Scene 3

Benvolio and Mercutio walk along a street in Verona.

BENVOLIO: Have you heard? Tybalt sent a letter to Romeo's house.

MERCUTIO: I bet he's challenged Romeo to a duel. Tybalt is a great swordsman. *(Romeo enters.)*

ters.) Romeo, why did you give us the slip last night?

ROMEO: I had some business. Look who's coming this way.

(Juliet's nurse enters.)

MERCUTIO: "Who?" That looks more like a "what."

NURSE: Could you tell me where I might find the young Romeo?

ROMEO: I am Romeo.

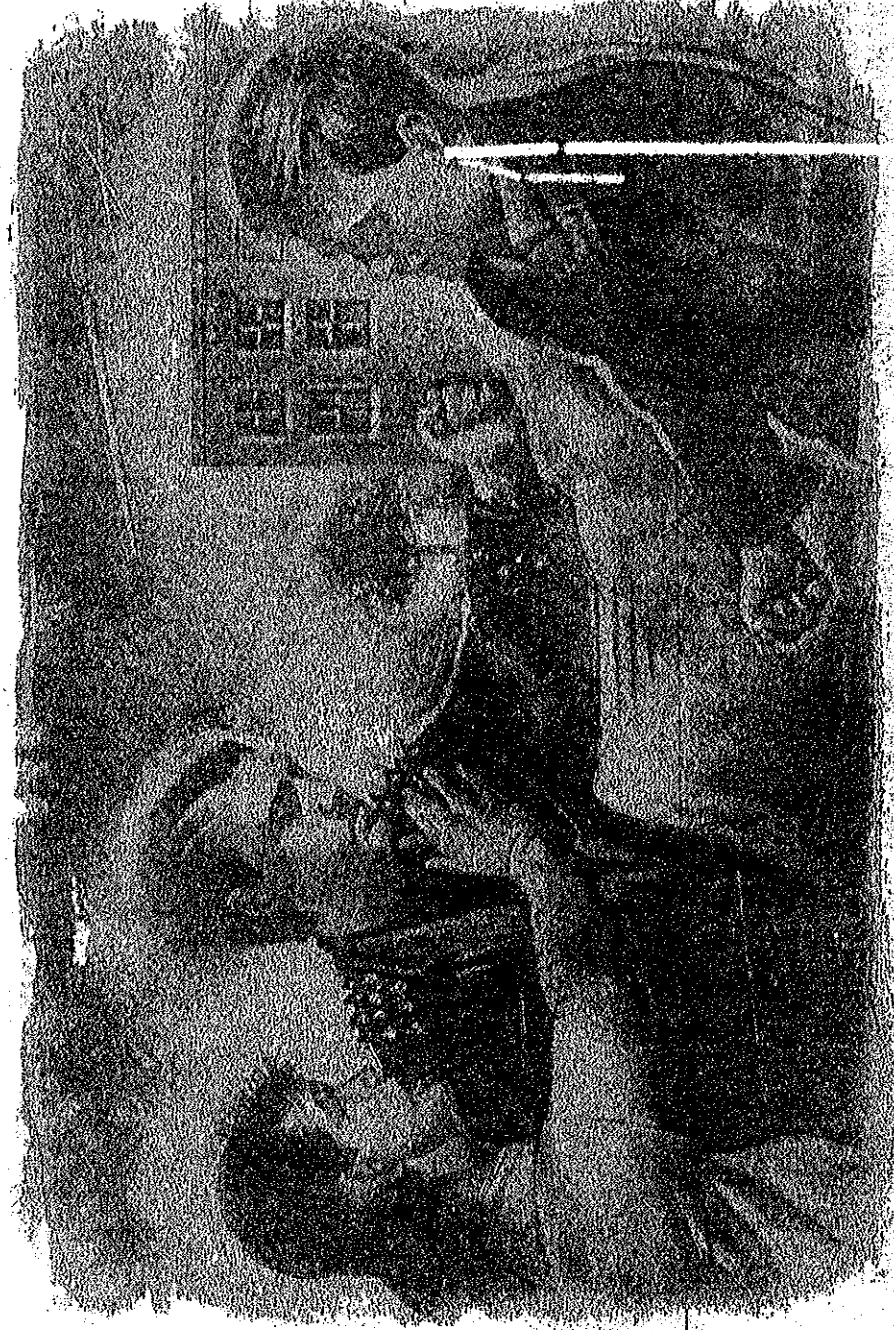
NURSE: I must speak with you alone.

BENVOLIO: Maybe she wants to ask you for a date.

MERCUTIO: Meet us at your father's house, Romeo. Goodbye, ancient lady.

(Mercutio and Benvolio leave.)

NURSE: How dare they speak to me so disrespectfully. Maybe I won't give you Juliet's message. That would be a lesson. You'd better have good intentions. Remember, you're not too old to spank.



ROMEO TRIES TO STOP A DUEL

ROMEO: No, please, you must help us. Tell Juliet to come to Friar Laurence's room this afternoon for our wedding.

NURSE: I will. You look lovesick as Juliet.

ROMEO: I thank you, Nurse.

Scene 4

Juliet is in her bedroom.

JULIET: My nurse left three hours ago. She said it would take her half an hour to find Romeo. I think some old folks rehearse being dead before they die. Talk about slow!

(Her nurse enters.)

JULIET: What happened? Why do you look so worried?

NURSE: I'm exhausted. My heart is pounding. I can hardly catch my breath.

JULIET: You have enough breath to say that you're out of breath. Is the news good or bad? Nod your head! Do something!

NURSE: Romeo is so handsome.

JULIET: I know what he looks like. What did he say?

NURSE: Romeo said Where is your mother?

JULIET: She's inside. What did he say?

NURSE: Next time, get your own messages, you ungrateful girl. Romeo said to meet him at Friar Laurence's room for your wedding.

JULIET: Farewell, Nurse. I love you.

(Juliet leaves.)

Act 3 Scene 1

Benvolio and Mercutio stand in the street talking.

BENVOLIO: Let's go home, Mercutio. Tempers run high in this heat. If we see any Capulets, I know there will be trouble.

MERCUTIO: You're a great one to talk. You love fighting. Why,

you're as full of anger as an egg-shell is full of egg — and twice as scrambled.

(Tybalt enters.)

BENVOLIO: Too late. Here comes a Capulet.

TYBALT: Could I have a word with you gentlemen?

MERCUTIO: A word? How about a word and a punch?

BENVOLIO: Why don't we discuss this in a more private place? *(Romeo enters.)*

TYBALT: Never mind. Here comes the man I'm looking for. Romeo, you are a villain, and I despise you.

ROMEO: Please, Tybalt, hear me out. I care for you more than you could know.

MERCUTIO: I can't stand to hear this cowardice. Tybalt, I challenge you to a duel.

ROMEO: No! Benvolio, help me stop them.

(Mercutio and Tybalt fight. Tybalt stabs Mercutio under Romeo's arm and runs away.)

MERCUTIO: He stabbed me! A curse on the Capulets and the Montagues. They've made worms' meat out of me. Romeo, why did you have to get in the middle? It's your fault. Help me, Benvolio. *(Mercutio dies.)*

ROMEO: Oh, Juliet, Friar Laurence married us only an hour ago, and my love for you has already made me into a coward. I hate myself as passionately as I love you.

(Tybalt returns.)

ROMEO: Tybalt, put up your sword! One of us will join Mercutio.

(They fight. Tybalt dies.)

ROMEO: What an unlucky fool I am.

(Romeo flees as the prince, Capulets, and the Montague enter.)

PRINCE: What has happened here?

BENVOLIO: Tybalt killed Mercutio, and Romeo killed Tybalt, revenge.

LADY CAPULET: Oh, poor Ty-

balt, outnumbered by those Montagues. Prince, we must have justice! Romeo must pay with his life!

LORD MONTAGUE: No! Romeo was Mercutio's friend. He only did what the law would have done — punished Tybalt for Mercutio's death.

PRINCE: Mercutio is also my relative, but Romeo broke the law. Romeo is hereby banished from Verona.

Scene 2

At the Capulets' house, Juliet waits for Romeo.

JULIET: I can hardly believe I am a married woman. I wish the sun would race across the sky today. Darkness will bring Romeo to me. This is truly a tedious day.

(Juliet's nurse enters.)

NURSE: Oh, how sad, how pitiful.

JULIET: Nurse, what is wrong? What has happened?

NURSE: He's gone, he's dead, he's killed. Oh, poor Tybalt, I thought you'd die before me.

JULIET: What are you about?

NURSE: Romeo killed Tybalt. Romeo has been banished from Verona. May he live in shame and misery.

JULIET: Romeo killed my cousin Tybalt?

NURSE: There's no honesty in that.

JULIET: Should I curse the hours I vowed to love only three hours ago? No! Tybalt was going to kill Romeo. The word that real-ly hurts me is "banished." My husband has been banished!

NURSE: I'm sorry, my sweet. You go to your room and rest. I'll bring Romeo to you to say good-bye. I'm sure he's with Friar Laurence.

JULIET: Here, give him this word, and hurry!