***Romeo and Juliet*** by William Shakespeare (Written sometime between 1594-1596)

**The Montagues**:

Lord Montague

Lady Montague

Romeo (Son of Montague)

Benvolio (nephew of Montague)

Balthasar (servant of Romeo)

Abram (servant of Montague)

**The Capulets**:

Lord Capulet

Lady Capulet

Juliet

Tybalt (Nephew of Lady Capulet)

Nurse (to Juliet)

Sampson & Gregory (servants of Capulet)

**Others**:

Prince Escalus (Ruler of Verona)

Mercutio (a relative of the Prince and friend of Romeo)

Paris (A young Nobleman, a relative of the Prince)

Friar Laurence (A Franciscan Priest)

Friar John (Another Franciscan Priest)

An Apothecary (A druggist)

A Narrator / Chorus

*PROLOGUE: (CHORUS*)

**Two households**

**both alike in dignity,**

**In fair Verona where we lay our scene**

**From ancient grudge, break to new mutiny,**

**Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean**:

From forth the fatal loins of these two foes,

A pair of **star crossed lovers** take their life:

Whose misadventured piteous overthrows,

Doth with their death bury their parents’**strife**.

The fearful passage of their death-marked love,

And the continuance of their parents’ rage,

Which but their children’s end, naught could remove,

I snow the two hours’ traffic of our stage;

The which if you with patient ears attend,

What here shall miss, out toil shall strive to mend. (Exit)

**Act I, SCENE 1** (*A street*)

(*ENTER SAMPSON and GREGORY of the house of Capulet, in conversation*.)

GREGORY Here come two of the house of Montague.

(*ENTER two other servingmen, ABRAHAM and BALTHAZAR*)

SAMPSON I will bite my thumb at them, which is disgrace to them if they bear it.

[*He bites his thumb*]

ABRAHAM Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?

SAMPSON I do bite my thumb, sir.

ABRAHAM Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?

SAMPSON *[to GREGORY*] Is the law of our side if I say ay?

GREGORY No.

SAMPSON No sir, I do not bite my thumb at you,sir, but I bite my thumb,sir.

ABRAHAM You lie.

SAMPSON Draw if you be men.

(*They FIGHT. ENTER BENVOLIO*)

BENVOLIO Part, fools. Put up your swords, you know not what you do.

ENTER TYBALT

TYBALT [*To BENVOLIO*] What, art thou drawn amongst these heartless hinds?

Turn thee Benvolio, look upon thy death.

BENVOLIO I do but keep the peace.

TYBALT What, drawn and talk of peace? I hate the word. As I hate hell, all Montagues, and thee. (*They FIGHT*)

(*ENTER three or four CITIZENS who attempt to BREAK UP the men*

*ENTER old CAPULET, and LADY CAPULET*)

CAPULET What noise is this? Give me my long sword, ho!

Old Montague is come!

(*ENTER old MONTAGUE and LADY MONTAGUE opposite MONTAGUE*)

[*Spying CAPULET*] Thou villain Capulet: [*to LADY MONTAGUE who holds him back*]

Hold me not, let me go.

LADY MONTAGUE Thou shall not stir one foot to seek a foe.

(*The couples remain either side of the stage, the women holding their husbands back.*

*The SERVANTS, BENVOLIO and TYBALT remain in combat with the CITIZENS*)

(*ENTER PRINCE ESCALUS*)

PRINCE What ho, you men, you beasts. Throw your mistempered weapons to the ground.

(The stage falls still.) Three civil brawls bred of an airy word, By thee, old Capulet, and Montague, have thrice disturbed the quiet of our streets. If ever you disturb our streets again,

Your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace. (*All men depart*.)

(*EXIT all but BENVOLIO*)

(*ENTER ROMEO*)

BENVOLIO Good morrow, cousin.

ROMEO Is the day so young? Ay me, sad hours seem long.

BENVOLIO What sadness lengthens Romeo’s hours?

ROMEO Not having that which, having, makes them short.

BENVOLIO In love?

ROMEO Out.

BENVOLIO Of love?

ROMEO Out of her favor where I am in love.

BENVOLIO Alas.

ROMEO [*seeing the destruction of the fight*] Ay me what fray was here? Yet tell me not,

for I have heard it all.

BENVOLIO Tell me, in sadness, who is that you love?

ROMEO In sadness, cousin, I do love a woman.

BENVOLIO I aimed so near when I supposed you loved.

ROMEO A right good markman! And she’s fair.

BENVOLIO A right fair mark, fair coz, is soonest hit.

ROMEO. Well in that hit you miss; she’ll not be hit With Cupid’s arrow...

BENVOLIO [*giving it up*] Then be ruled by me, forget to think of her.

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

BENVOLIO By giving liberty unto thine eyes: Examine other beauties.

ROMEO Farewell, thou canst not teach me to forget.

(*EXIT BENVOLIO and ROMEO*)

**Act I, SCENE 2**: (*Outside The House of Capulet CAPULET and PARIS in conversation*)

CAPULET...’tis not so hard I think. For men so old as we to keep the peace.

PARIS Of honorable reckoning are you both, And pity ’tis you lived at odds so long. But now

my lord what say you to my suit?

CAPULET: She hath not seen the change of fourteen years; let two more summers wither in their

pride, then we think she will be ripe to be a bride. But woo her gentle Paris, get her heart; my will to her to her consent is but a part. If she falls in love with you, you will have my blessings. This night I hold a traditional feast, whereto I have invited many a guest, Such as I love; and you among the store, one more, most welcome, makes my number more.

(*CAPULET TO SERVANT*) Go find all the people on this list and invite them to my feast tonight.

*EXIT CAPULET and PARIS / ENTER BENVOLIO and ROMEO in conversation*

BENVOLIO Why Romeo, art thou mad?

ROMEO Not mad, but bound more than a madman is: Shut up in prison, kept without my food,

Whipped and tormented

(*ENTER SERVANT*)

SERVANT Good evening. My master is the great rich Capulet, and if you be not of the house of

Montagues I pray come and crush a cup of wine. Rest you merry.

(*SERVANT hands BENVOLIO an invitation. EXIT*)

Benvolio: The girl that you love, Rosaline, she will be there

ROMEO I’ll go!

(*EXIT ROMEO and BENVOLIO*)

**Act I, SCENE 3: Capulet’s House**

(*ENTER LADY CAPULET and NURSE*

NURSE Juliet!

(*ENTER JULIET)*

JULIET How now, who calls?

NURSE Your mother.

JULIET Madam, I am here, what is your will?

LADY CAPULET Tell me, daughter Juliet, How stands your disposition to be married?

JULIET It is an honor that I dream not of.

LADY CAPULET Well, think of marriage now. The valiant Paris seeks you for his love.

This night you shall behold him at our feast.

NURSE Madam, the guests are come.

LADY CAPULET We follow thee.

NURSE Go, girl, seek happy nights to happy days.

(*EXIT NURSE and LADY CAPULET*)

**Act I, SCENE 4**

A street (*ENTER ROMEO, BENVOLIO, MERCUTIO and REVELLERS*

***Since they are heading to a masquerade, Romeo is wearing a mask and this will hide him.***

MERCUTIO Nay, gentle Romeo, we must have you dance.

ROMEO Not I, believe me. You have dancing shoes. With nimble soles, I have a soul

of lead.

BENVOLIO Come, knock and enter.

ROMEO But ’tis no wise to go. The party at Capulet’s.

MERCUTIO Why, may one ask?

ROMEO I dreamt a dream tonight.

MERCUTIO And so did I.

ROMEO And what was yours?

MERCUTIO That dreamers often lie

BENVOLIO [*hurrying them along*] Supper is done, and we shall come too late.

ROMEO I fear too early: for my mind misgives some consequence yet hanging in the stars

Shall bitterly begin his fearful date with this night’s revels

.

*EXIT all*

**Act I, SCENE 5** (*Capulet’s House*)

*(The room is crowded, the people dance and drink. ROMEO and JULIET wind up dancing together before PARIS spins her away. ROMEO stands awestruck and following her movements. He stops a passing servant*.)

ROMEO What lady’s that?

SERVANT I know not, sir.

ROMEO **O she doth teach the torches to burn bright.**

**Did my heart love till now?**

**Forswear it, sight.**

**For I ne’er saw true beauty till this night**.

[*He moves to follow her*]

TYBALT [*who has been standing behind ROMEO*] **This, by his voice, should be a Montague**.

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

CAPULET Why, how now, kinsman, wherefore storm you so?

TYBALT Uncle, this is a Montague, our foe: A villain that is hither come in spite

To scorn at our solemnity this night.

CAPULET Young Romeo is it? Content thee, gentle coz, let him alone.

TYBALT I’ll not endure him.

CAPULET He shall be endured. Am I the master here or you? Go to.

TYBALT Why, uncle, ’tis a shame.

*EXIT TYBALT*

ROMEO [*Taking JULIET by the hand*] If I profane with my unworthiest hand

This shrine, the gentle fine is this: To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss.

(*The punishment for touching Juliet’s hand is to kiss it.)*

JULIET Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much, which mannerly devotion

shows in this; For saints have hands that pilgrims’ hands do touch,

And palm to palm is holy palmers’ kiss.

ROMEO Have not saints lips, and holy palmers too?

(*The couple holds hands palm to palm*.)

JULIET Ay, lips that they must use in prayer.

ROMEO O then, dear saint, let lips do what hands do!

(*THEY KISS*)

JULIET **You kiss by the book**.

NURSE Madam, your mother craves a word with you.

*EXIT JULIET*

ROMEO What is her mother?

NURSE Her mother is the lady of the house.

*EXIT NURSE*

ROMEO [*Staring after her*] Is she a Capulet?

BENVOLIO [*Catching ROMEO by the arm*] Away, be gone; the sport is at the best.

ROMEO Ay, so I fear; the more is my unrest.

CAPULET [*Addressing the entire room*] I thank you all; I thank you honest gentlemen,

goodnight. By my fay, it waxes late.

The REVELLERS begin to disperse.

(*ENTER JULIET and NURSE*)

JULIET Come hither, Nurse. What is yond gentleman?

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

JULIET **My only love sprung from my only hate**.

Too early seen unknown, and known too late.

Monstrous birth of love it is to me that I must love a loathed enemy.

(*EXIT All*)

**Act II, SCENE I** (*Outside the walls of the House of Capulet*)

ROMEO hides.

*ENTER BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO*

BENVOLIO Romeo! My cousin, Romeo! Romeo! He ran this way and leapt this

orchard wall.[*giving up*] Come, Blind is his love, and best befits the dark.

MERCUTIO **If love be blind, love cannot hit the mark**.

BENVOLIO Go then, for ’tis in vain to seek him here that means not to be found.

(*EXIT MERCUTIO and BENVOLIO*)

**Act II, SCENE II** (*Capulet’s Orchard*)

(*ROMEO hides*)

ROMEO He jests at scars that never felt a wound.

But soft, what light through yonder window breaks?

**It is the east and Juliet is the sun**!

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

O, that she knew she were!

She speaks, yet she says nothing. What of that?

Her eye discourses; I wall answer it.

I am too bold; ‘tis not to me she speaks.

Two of the fairest starts in all the heaven,

Having some business, do entreat her eyes

To winkle in their spheres till they return.

What if her eyes were there, they in her head?

The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars

As daylight doth a lamp; her eyes in heaven

Would through the airy region stream so bright

That birds would sing and think it were not night.

**See how she leans her check upon her hand!**

**O, that I were a glove upon that hand,**

**That I might touch that cheek**!

(*JULIET appears at her balcony*)

JULIET Ay me!

ROMEO She speaks. O, speak again bright angel!

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 Shall I hear more, or speak at this?

JULIET **’Tis but thy name that is my enemy;**

**Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.**

**What’s a Montague? It is nor hand, nor foot,**

**Nor arm, nor face. O be some other name.**

**Belonging to a man.**

**What’s in a name? That which we call a rose**

**By any other word would smell as sweet.**

**So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called.**

**Retain that dear perfection which he owes**

**Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name;**

**And for that name, which is no part of thee,**

**Take all myself**.

ROMEO [*emerging from his hiding place*]

I take thee at thy word.

Call me but love, and henceforth I never will be Romeo.

JULIET [*shocked*] Art thou not a Montague?

How cam’st thou hither, tell me, and wherefore?

ROMEO With love’s light wings did I o’erperch these walls.

JULIET If any of my kinsmen find thee here they will murder thee.

ROMEO I have night’s cloak to hide me from their eyes,

And but thou love me, let them find me here.

My life were better ended by their hate

Than death postponed, wanting of thy love.

JULIET Dost thou love me? O gentle Romeo,

**If thou dost love, pronounce it faithfully**.

ROMEO Lady by yonder blessed moon I vow.That tips with silver all these fruit-tree tops-

JULIET O swear not by the moon, the inconstant moon.

ROMEO What shall I swear by?

JULIET Do not swear at all. Or if thou wilt, swear by thy gracious self.

NURSE (*calling from within*) Madam!

JULIET Anon good nurse! Three words good Romeo, and goodnight indeed.

If that thy bent 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.

NURSE Madam!

JULIET By and by, I come! Tomorrow will I send.

ROMEO So thrive my soul

JULIET A thousand times good night. (*EXIT JULIET)*

ROMEO Love goes toward love, as schoolboys from their books,

But love from love, toward school with heavy looks.

**Act II, SCENE 3** (*Friar Lawrence’s Cell) FRIAR LAWRENCE in his cell ENTER ROMEO*

ROMEO Good morrow father!

FRIAR LAWRENCE [startled] Bless you! Our Romeo hath not been in bed tonight.

God pardon sin, wast thou with Rosaline?

ROMEO With Rosaline, my ghostly father? No. I have forgot that name, and that name’s woe.

FRIAR LAWRENCE That’s my good son; but be plain, where hast thou been then?

ROMEO Then plainly know my heart’s dear love is set

On the fair daughter of rich Capulet.

We met, we wooed, we made exchange of vow,

I’ll tell thee as we pass; but this I pray

That thou consent to marry us today.

FRIAR LAWRENCE Holy Saint Francis!

ROMEO I pray thee chide me not.

FRIAR LAWRENCE Come, In one respect I’ll thy assistant be;

For this alliance may so happy prove To turn your households’ **rancor** to pure love.

(*EXIT both*)

**Act II, SCENE 4** (*A street) ENTER MERCUTIO and BENVOLIO*

MERCUTIO Where the devil should this Romeo be? Came he not home tonight?

BENVOLIO Not to his father’s. I spoke with his man.

ENTER ROMEO. The two turn their backs on him

ROMEO Good morrow to you both. What counterfeit did I give you?

MERCUTIO The slip, sir, the slip.

ROMEO Pardon, good Mercutio; my business was great.

MERCUTIO [*Noting Romeo’s good mood*] Why, is not this better now than groaning for love?

[*ENTER NURSE*]

Good afternoon, fair gentlewoman.

NURSE Gentlemen, can any of you tell me where I may find the young Romeo?

ROMEO I can tell you; I am the youngest of that name.

NURSE If you be he, sir, I desire some confidence with you.

ROMEO [*to MERCUTIO*] I will follow you.

MERCUTIO Farewell ancient lady. Good afternoon.

(*EXIT MERCUTIO and BENVOLIO*)

NURSE First let me tell ye, if ye should lead her in a fool’s paradise,

as they say, it were a very gross kind of behavior, truly it were an ill thing

ROMEO I protest unto thee

–Bid her to come to confession this afternoon,

And there she shall at Friar Lawrence’s cell

Be shrived and married.

NURSE She shall be there.

*EXIT both*

**Act II, SCENE 5** (*Capulet’s house*.) *JULIET awaits her nurse*

*ENTER NURSE*

JULIET O nurse, what news?

NURSE I am weary, give me leave a while.

JULIET Come, I pray thee, speak.

NURSE Do you not see that I am out of breath?

JULIET How art thou out of breath when thou hast breath

To say to me that thou art out of breath? Is thy news good, or bad? Answer to that.

NURSE [*Giving in*] Your love says like an honest gentleman –Where is your mother?

JULIET Where is my mother? How oddly thou repliest! Come, what says Romeo?

NURSE Hie you hence to Friar Lawrence’ cell. There stays a husband to make you a wife!

EXIT JULIET and NURSE separately

**Act II, SCENE 6** (*Friar Lawrence’ Cell*) ROMEO waits with FRIAR LAWRENCE

*JULIET ENTERS with NURSE by her side.*

*JULIET joins ROMEO, they join hands and gaze into each other’s eyes*.

FRIAR LAWRENCE So smile the heavens upon this holy act

That after-hours with sorrow chide us not.

(*They kiss*.)

(*EXIT all*)

**Act III, SCENE 1** (*A street) ENTER BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO*

BENVOLIO I pray you, good Mercutio, lets retire;

The day is hot, the Capulets are abroad,

And if we meet we shall not ’scape a brawl,

By my head, here come the Capulets.

MERCUTIO By my heel, I care not.

(*ENTER TYBALT and others*)

TYBALT Gentlemen, good evening: a word with one of you.

MERCUTIO And but one word with one of us? Couple it with something;

make it a word and a blow.

TYBALT You shall find me apt enough to that, sir.Mercutio, thou consortest with Romeo.

MERCUTIO Consort? What, dost that make us minstrels?

ENTER ROMEO (*Now secretly married and therefore related to the Capulets*.)

TYBALT Well, peace be with you, sir, here comes my man.

Romeo! The love I bear thee can afford

No better term than this: thou art a villain.

ROMEO Tybalt, the reason that I have to love thee

Doth much excuse such a greeting: villain am I none.

TYBALT Boy, this shall not excuse the injuries thou hast done me.

ROMEO I do protest I never injured thee. And so, good Capulet, which name I tender

As dearly as mine own, be satisfied.

MERCUTIO O calm, dishonorable, vile submission!

[*He draws*] Tybalt, you rat catcher, will you walk?

TYBALT What wouldst thou have with me?

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

TYBALT I am for you. [*He draws*]

ROMEO Gentle Mercutio, put thy **rapier** up.

(*They fight. MERCUTIO is the better swordsman and TYBALT is struggling to keep up*.)

ROMEO Tybalt! Mercutio! The Prince expressly hath Forbid this.

Hold, Tybalt! Good Mercutio!

(***TYBALT under ROMEO’s arm wounds MERCUTIO***)

MERCUTIO: I am hurt. A plague a’both houses!

BENVOLIO Art thou hurt?

MERCUTIO Ay, ay, a scratch, a scratch. Marry, ’tis enough.

ROMEO Courage man, the hurt cannot be much.

MERCUTIO No, ‘tis not so deep as a well, not so wide as a church door;

but ‘tis enough ’Twill serve.

**Ask for me tomorrow and you shall find me a grave man**.

**A plague o’ both your houses!**

Why the devil came you between us? 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 o’ both your houses**! **They have made worms’ meat of me**.

(*MERCUTIO dies*)

BENVOLIO Here comes Tybalt.

ROMEO Alive, in triumph, and Mercutio slain. Tybalt, Mercutio’s soul is but a little way above our heads, staying for thine to keep him company. Either thou, or I, or both, must go with him.

TYBALT Thou, wretched boy, shalt with him hence.

(*They FIGHT. ROMEO kills TYBALT*)

Mercutio’s soul has not yet left the earth, he waits for yours to keep him company. Either yours or mine, or both must go with him.

BENVOLIO Romeo, away, be gone. The prince will doom thee to death.

Hence, be gone, away!

**ROMEO O, I am fortune’s fool**.

*EXIT ROMEO.*

*ENTER PRINCE, MONTAGUE, CAPULET, their wives and others.*

PRINCE Where are the vile beginners of this fray?

BENVOLIO There lies the man, slain by young Romeo, that slew thy kinsman, brave Mercutio.

LADY CAPULET Tybalt, my cousin, O my brother’s child! O, the blood is spilled

Of my dear kinsman. Prince, as thou art true, for blood of ours, shed blood of Montague.

BENVOLIO Romeo spoke him fair. Tybalt, deaf to peace, tilts at bold Mercutio’s breast.

Romeo, he cries aloud and ’twixt them rushes; underneath whose arm

Tybalt hit the life of stout Mercutio.

LADY CAPULET He is a kinsman to the Montague. Affection makes him false. He speaks not true. I beg for Justice, which thou, Prince, must give. Romeo slew Tybalt, Romeo must not live.

PRINCE For that offense immediately, we do exile him hence. Let Romeo hence in haste,

Else, when he is found, that hour will be his last.

(*EXIT all*)

**Act III, SCENE II** (*Juliet’s bedroom*) *JULIET awaits news from her nurse*

JULIET Come, gentle night, give me my Romeo. O, I have bought the mansion of a love

But not yet possessed it, and though I am sold, not yet enjoyed. So tedious is this day!

(*ENTER NURSE*)

Now, Nurse, what news?

NURSE We are undone, lady, we are undone. Alack the day, he’s gone, he’s killed, he’s dead.

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

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

JULIET O God! Did Romeo’s hand shed Tybalt’s blood? O serpent heart, hid with a flowering

face! Did ever dragon keep so fair a cave?

O that deceit should dwell in such a gorgeous palace!

NURSE Will you speak well of him that killed your cousin?

JULIET Shall I speak ill of him that is my husband? Tybalt is dead and Romeo –banished.

That ‘banished’, that one word ‘banished’ hath slain ten thousand Tybalts.

O find him, give this ring to my true knight And bid him come to take his last farewell.

(*EXIT NURSE)*

*(EXIT JULIET*)

**Act III, SCENE III** (*Friar Lawrence’ Cell) FRIAR LAWRENCE and ROMEO*

FRIAR LAWRENCE Affliction is enamored of thy parts and thou art wedded to **calamity**.

ROMEO [*Grief stricken*]

Banishment! Be merciful, say ‘death.’ For exile hath more terror in his look,

Much more than death. Do not say ‘banishment.’

FRIAR LAWRENCE This is dear mercy and thou seest it not.

ROMEO ’Tis torture and not mercy. Heaven is here Where Juliet lives, and every unworthy thing, Live here in heaven and may look on her, But Romeo may not.

(*KNOCKING*)

FRIAR LAWRENCE Good Romeo, hide thyself.

More knocking Who knocks so hard? Whence came you, what’s your will?

NURSE I come from Lady Juliet.

FRIAR LAWRENCE Welcome then.

(*ENTER NURSE*)

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

My concealed lady to our cancelled love?

NURSE O, she says nothing, sir, but weeps and weeps.

But here, sir, a ring she bid me give you. Hide you, make haste, for it grows very late.

(*EXIT NURSE*)

ROMEO How well my comfort is revived by this.

FRIAR LAWRENCE Now get out of here. Good night. Everything depends on this: either be out of here before the night watchmen take their positions, or leave in disguise after daybreak. Take a little vacation in Mantua. I’ll find your servant, and he’ll update you now and then on your case as it stands here. Give me thy hand. ’ Tis late. Farewell. Good night.

ROMEO Farewell.

(*EXIT ROMEO, EXIT FRIAR LAWRENCE*)

**Act III, SCENE IV** (*Capulet’s House*) *PARIS and CAPULET in discussion*

PARIS These times of woe afford no time to woo.

Madam goodnight. Commend me to your daughter.

CAPULET Sir Paris, I will make a desperate tender of my child’s love. I think she will be ruled in all respects by me; nay, more, I doubt it not. Wife, bid her, on Thursday, tell her, she shall be married to this noble earl.

(*EXIT both*)

**Act III, Scene V** (*Juliet’s Bedroom above Capulet’s Orchard*) *ROMEO and JULIET together*

JULIET Wilt thou be gone? It is not yet near day.

It was the nightingale and not the lark.

ROMEO It was the lark, the herald of the morn.

I must be gone and live, or stay and die.

JULIET Yond light is not daylight, I know it, I.

Thou need’st not be gone.

ROMEO Let me be taken, let me be put to death. I have more care to stay than will to go.

Come death, and welcome. Juliet wills it so. How is’t, my soul? Let’s talk. It is not day.

JULIET It is, it is. Hie hence, begone, away.

O, now be gone, more light and light it grows.

(*ENTER NURSE hurriedly*)

NURSE Madam! Your Lady mother is coming to your chamber.

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

ROMEO Farewell, farewell. One kiss and I’ll descend.

JULIET Art thou gone so? Love, lord, ay husband, friend.

O, think’st thou we shall ever meet again?

ROMEO I doubt it not.

(ROMEO *moves to leave and does not hear the following*…)

JULIET O God, I have an ill-divining soul!

Methinks I see thee, now thou art so low,

As one dead in the bottom of a tomb.

ROMEO [*Turning*] Adieu, adieu.

(*ENTER LADY CAPULET*)

LADY CAPULET Why, how now, Juliet?

JULIET Madam, I am not well.

LADY CAPULET Evermore weeping for your cousin’s death?

Well, well, thou hast a careful father, child; One who to put thee from thy heaviness

Hath sorted out a sudden day of joy.

JULIET Madam, in happy time. What day is that?

LADY CAPULET Marry, my child, early next Thursday morn

The gallant Paris shall happily make thee a joyful bride.

JULIET He shall not make me a joyful bride! I pray you, tell my lord and father, madam,

I will not marry yet. And when I do, I swear it shall be Romeo,

whom you know I hate, rather than Paris.

LADY CAPULET [*shocked*] Tell him so yourself, and see how he will take it at your hands.

(*ENTER CAPULET*) Sir, she will none, she gives you thanks. I would the fool were married to her grave.

CAPULET How? Will she none? Is she not proud? Doth she not count her blest,

Unworthy as she is, that we have wrought so worthy a gentleman to be her bridegroom? Go with Paris to Saint Peter’s Church, or I will drag thee on a hurdle thither. Out, you baggage!

JULIET Hear me with patience but to speak a word.

CAPULET Hang thee, young baggage, disobedient wretch! Speak not, reply not, do not answer me.

(*EXIT CAPULET*)

JULIET O, sweet my mother, cast me not away! Delay this marriage for a month, a week, **Or, if you do not, make the bridal bed in that dim monument where Tybalt lies**.

(*EXIT LADY CAPULET without looking at JULIET*)

JULIET **Alack**, alack, that heaven should practice **stratagems** upon so soft a subject as myself. What sayst thou?

NURSE Romeo is banished, and all the world to nothing. I think you are happy in this second match, for it excels your first; or, if it did not, your first is dead, or ’twere as good he were.

JULIET [*Pause*] Go in, and tell my lady I am gone, having displeased my father, to Lawrence’

cell, to make confession and to be absolved.

NURSE Marry, I will, and ’tis wisely done. (*EXIT NURSE*)

JULIET Ancient damnation! O most wicked fiend, I’ll to the Friar, to know his remedy.

If all else fail, myself have the power to die. (*EXIT JULIET*)

**Act IV, SCENE 1** (*Friar Lawrence’ Cell) PARIS and FRIAR LAWRENCE in conversation*

PARIS …Now do you know the reason of this haste

FRIAR LAWRENCE [*to himself*] I would I knew not why it should be slowed.

Look sir, here comes the lady towards my cell.

(*ENTER JULIET*)

PARIS Happily met, my lady and my wife.

JULIET That may be, sir, when I may be a wife.

PARIS That may be, must be, love, on Thursday next.

JULIET What must be shall be.

FRIAR LAWRENCE That’s a certain text.

PARIS Come you to make confession to this father?

JULIET To answer that, I should confess to you.

[*to FRIAR LAWRENCE*] Are you at leisure, holy father now?

I wish I didn’t know why the marriage has to be delayed!

FRIAR LAWRENCE My leisure serves me, **pensive** daughter now.

My lord, we must entreat the time alone.

PARIS Juliet, on Thursday early will I rouse ye. Till then, adieu, and keep this holy kiss.

*They kiss. EXIT PARIS*

JULIET O shut the door, God joined my heart and Romeo’s, thou our hands;

Give me some present counsel, I long to die if what thou speak’st speak not of remedy.

FRIAR LAWRENCE I do spy a kind of hope. If, rather than to marry County Paris,

Thou hast the strength of will to slay thyself,

Then it is likely thou wilt undertake

A thing like death to chide away this shame.

JULIET I will do it without fear or doubt. To live an unstained wife to my sweet love.

FRIAR LAWRENCE Hold then. Go home, be merry, give consent to marry Paris.

Let not thy nurse lie with thee in thy chamber. Take thou this vial, being then in bed, And this distilling liquor drink thou off; when presently through all thy veins shall run. No pulse, no warmth. The roses in thy lips and cheeks shall fade and in this borrowed likeness of shrunk death thou shall continue two and forty hours, and then awake as from pleasant sleep. Thou shall be borne to that same ancient vault where all the kindred of the Capulets lie. In the meantime, against thou shalt awake, shall Romeo by my letters know our drift And hither shall he come.

JULIET Love, give me strength and strength shall help afford. Farewell, dear father!

(*EXIT JULIET*)

(*EXIT FRIAR LAWRENCE*)

**Act IV, Scene II** (*A hall in Capulet’s house*)

JULIET: I learned that being disobedient to my father is a sin. Holy Father Lawrence

instructed me to fall on my knees and beg your forgiveness. *(she kneels down)* Forgive me, I beg you. From now on I’ll do whatever you say.

CAPULET: Why, I am glad on’t. I say, fetch him hither. I’ll make this wedding happen tomorrow.

*JULIET TO NURSE*: Nurse, will you go with me into my room. To help me sort such needful ornaments as you think fit to furnish me tomorrow?

***Act IV, Scene III*** (Skip)

**Act IV, SCENE V** (*Juliet’s Bedroom*)

*LADY CAPULET and NURSE preparing JULIET for her wedding day*

JULIET Gentle Nurse, I pray thee, leave me to myself tonight.

LADY CAPULET Good night. Get thee to bed, and rest, for thou hast need.

*EXIT LADY CAPULET and NURSE*

JULIET Farewell. God knows when we shall meet again.

What if this mixture do not work at all? Shall I be married then tomorrow morning? No, no, this shall forbid it. [*she lays down a knife*] Romeo, I come! This I do drink to thee. She drinks and lies down as if sleeping. Lighting suggests the passage of night and the break of morning.

(*ENTER NURSE who tries to rouse JULIET*.)

(*The NURSE cries out in alarm, and Juliet’s parents rush in and lament the death of their daughter. Friar Laurence and Paris enter and are told the bad news. The friar, who knows that Juliet is not really dead, attempts to comfort the others and tells them that they must prepare Juliet for burial in the family tomb.*)

(*EXIT All*)

**Act V, Scene I** (*Setting: Mantua*) *ROMEO awaits news from Verona (ENTER BALTHAZAR*)

ROMEO News from Verona! How now Balthazar,

Dost thou not bring me letters from the Friar?

How doth my lady? For nothing can be ill if she be well.

BALTHAZAR Then she is well and nothing can be ill. Her body sleeps in Capel’s monument.

ROMEO [*PAUSE*] Is it e’en so? Then I defy you,stars! I will hence tonight.

BALTHAZAR I do beseech you sir, have patience.

ROMEO Thou art deceived. Hast thou no letters to me from the Friar?

BALTHAZAR No my good lord.

ROMEO Get thee gone. I’ll be with thee straight.

(*EXIT*) BALTHAZAR

ROMEO **Well, Juliet, I will lie with thee tonight**.

Crossing the stage and banging on a door What ho! Apothecary!

Come hither man. I see that thou art poor. Hold, there is forty ducats. Let me have a dram of poison.

APOTHECARY Such mortal drugs I have, but Mantua’s law

Is death to any he that utters them. My poverty, but not my will, consents. So, I agree because I’m poor, not because I want to.

ROMEO I pay thy poverty and not thy will.

(*EXIT both*)

**Act V, SCENE II** (*Friar Lawrence’ Cell*)

*FRIAR LAWRENCE in his cell / ENTER FRIAR JOHN holding a letter*

FRIAR JOHN I could not send it, nor get a messenger to bring it thee. Here it is again.

FRIAR LAWRENCE O unhappy fortune. The letter was of dear import and the neglecting of it

May do much danger. Now must I to the monument alone.

(*EXIT both separately*)

**Act V, Scene III** (A churchyard; int it, a monument belonging to the *Capulets*)

(*The tomb is eerie and dark, a place of death and ghosts. It is terrifying*.)

(*JULIET lies as though dead*.)

(*ENTER ROMEO*)

ROMEO O my love, my wife, Death that hath sucked the honey of thy breath

Hath no power yet upon thy beauty. Thou art not conquered. Beauty’s ensign yet

Is crimson in thy lips and in thy cheeks, and death’s pale flag is not advanced there.

Dear Juliet, why art thou yet so fair? O here will I set up my everlasting rest.

Eyes, look your last!

Arms, take your last embrace! And lips,

Seal with a righteous kiss

A dateless bargain to engrossing Death!

[*he kisses her*]

Here’s to my love [he drinks] O true apothecary,

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

(*ROMEO falls)*

*(JULIET rises*.)

JULIET [*seeing Romeo*] Romeo!

What’s here closed in my true love’s hand?

Poison, I see, hath been his timeless end. O churl!

Drunk all, and left no friendly drop to help me after? **I will kiss thy lips.**

**Haply some poison yet doth hang on them. [*she kisses him***]

(Movement is heard outside the tomb)Yea noise?

**O happy dagger**.

This is thy sheath. There rust, and let me die.

(***She stabs herself and falls****.)*

*(ENTER FRIAR LAWRENCE*)

FRIAR LAWRENCE Juliet!

(*He regards the scene with horror and stumbles out*.)

(EXIT FRIAR LAWRENCE. After a passage of time *ENTER FRIAR LAWRENCE & PRINCE)*

PRINCE What misadventure is so early up, That calls our person from our morning rest?

(*ENTER CAPULET and LADY CAPULET*)

CAPULET What should it be,that is so shrieked abroad?

LADY CAPULET O the people in the street cry “Romeo”and some “Juliet”...

(*They stare at the scene*.) ENTER MONTAGUE

FRIAR LAWRENCE (*Kneels and prays beside the bodies*.)

MONTAGUE Alas, my liege, my wife is dead tonight.

Grief of my son’s exile hath stopped her breath.

What further woe conspires against mine age?

[*He sees ROMEO and JULIET and falls silent*]

PRINCE Where be these enemies? Capulet, Montague,

See, what a scourge is laid upon your hate,

That heaven finds means to kill your joys with love;

And I, for winking at your **discords** too,

Have lost a brace of kinsmen. All are punished.

CAPULET O brother Montague, give me thy hand.

MONTAGUE There shall no figure at such rate be set

As that of true and faithful Juliet.

CAPULET As rich shall Romeo’s by his lady’s lie, poor sacrifices of our **enmity**.

PRINCE A glooming peasce this morning with it brings

The sun for sorrow will not show his head.

Go hence, to have more talk of these sad things;

Some shall be pardoned, and some punished;

**For never was a story of more woe**

**Than this of Juliet and her Romeo**.

(*THE END*)