

# **ROMEO AND JULIET**

**By William Shakespeare**

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**TYBALT, the YOUNG CAPULETS and YOUNG MONTAGUES dance,  
signifying the rivalry between the two households.  
<Enter the PRINCE>**

**PRINCE**            Another fight?  
You men, you beasts,  
From those bloody swords,  
Throw your mistempered weapons to the ground  
And hear the sound of the moved public.  
Fight no more!  
(Exits.)

**(MERCUTIO appears dressed as a woman)**

**MERCUTIO**            Fight no more! Fight no more!  
Rebellious subjects, enemies to the peace,  
When the fire of your destructive rage burns down this city, no  
mercy will I have.  
You must remember.  
Remember!

**ALL**                    Remember!

**YOUNG CAPULET** Here comes the red kite!

**YOUNG CAPULET**            It's the Nurse.

**(Enter NURSE accompanied by YOUNG LADIES)**

**NURSE**            Hey, young Capulets! Badger! Frog! Lizard! Raccoon!  
                         Octopus! Grasshopper!  
Stop playing and go fetch the flowers for tonight!

**TYBALT**            What flowers?

**NURSE**            Speaking of these flowers,  
When well-appareled April on the heel  
Of limping winter treads.

**ALL**                    On the heel.

**NURSE** Even such delight  
Among fresh female buds shall you this night  
Discover at our feast for Juliet.  
I pray come and enjoy them.  
You must come!  
(Exit **NURSE** and **YOUNG LADIES**.)

**MERCUTIO** She's inviting us tonight?

**YOUNG MONTAGUES** Let's go!

**TYBALT** You are forbidden!

**YOUNG CAPULET** (to Mercutio) Madam, we pray you come.  
(**Exeunt TYBALT** and **YOUNG CAPULETS**)

**MERCUTIO** As you are Montagues, you are forbidden.  
So, we shall mask ourselves with the signs of the Zodiac.  
I shall be the Pig.

**YOUNG MONTAGUES** I am Lamb. Rat. Rooster. Dragon. Tiger. Ox. Dog.  
Lamb. Star. Rat. Rooster. Open the gate!

(**Enter ROMEO**)

**ROMEO** You are forbidden.

**YOUNG MONTAGUE** (to Romeo) Hey, Where have you come from?

**ROMEO** Beyond the hill I heard the morning lark...

**MERCUTIO** The Capulets hold a birthday feast tonight.  
With all the admired beauties of Verona's throng.  
Gentle Romeo, we must have you dance!

**ROMEO** I'll pass. I dreamed a bad dream.

**YOUNG MONTAGUE** He still sighs for Rosaline?

**MERCUTIO** A bad dream you say?  
But dreams are as fickle as this flipping hand.  
O, then I see Queen Mab hath been with you.  
Who dressed in her fine clothes,  
Gallops night by night,  
O'er the courtier's knees, that dream on curtsies straight,  
O'er ladies lips, who straight on kisses dream,  
O'er the scholar's forehead, that read on the letters - like this.

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**ALL** At the first hour the sky is born,  
Boundless and wide is the blue sky, "Ch'on,"  
At the second hour the earth is born,  
Nurturing all things on the ground, "Chi,"  
Mysterious and inscrutable is the colour black,  
Seven stars are in the northern sky, black, "Hyon."

**(Upstage, YOUNG LADIES covered with shawls pass by)**

**MERCUTIO** (after glancing at them) Rosaline! The girl that blinded you.

**ROMEO** In faith.

**YOUNG LADIES** In faith.  
**(Exit YOUNG LADIES laughing.)**

**MERCUTIO** The sea is good when fish live in it. Let's dive in.

**ROMEO** Let us go.

**MERCUTIO** Prepare a donkey.  
The young lord makes his way to the Capulet's.

**(Exeunt)**

## Feast at the Capulet's

The **NURSE** and her **ASSISTANT** appear and perform a traditional blessing. **LADY CAPULET** signals for the feast to begin. A group of **YOUNG LADIES** appear and prepare a line of tables for the feast, then begin to dance, mingling with **ROMEO**, **MERCUTIO** and the **YOUNG MONTAGUES**. **TYBALT** and the **YOUNG CAPULETS** enter and perform a traditional drum dance. As they all dance together, **ROMEO** and **JULIET** see each other for the first time.

**TYBALT** (finding young Montagues) How dare you men come here!  
(after a short brawl, the dance continues)

**ROMEO** (looking at Juliet)           Who is that?

**YOUNG MONTAGUE** The only daughter of this house.

**ROMEO**           This is the first time I've seen her.  
I will cut the maidenhead of that girl tonight!

**YOUNG MONTAGUE** Playboy! Your fickle heart changes as if blown by the mad  
wind.

**MERCUTIO**           And more inconstant than the wind who woos,  
Even now the frozen bosom of the North  
And being anger'd, puffs away from thence,

Turning his face to the dew-dropping South.

**ROMEO** Blow wind, blow. Take me to a world of fancy.

**(The dance continues as CAPULET and LADY CAPULET enter with the NURSE. ROMEO and JULIET dance together, but they are spotted by TYBALT)**

**TYBALT** Villain, turn and draw.

**JULIET** Cousin.

**TYBALT** Step aside.

**MERCUTIO** Look, a gift.

**TYBALT** What, dares the slave  
Come hither, covered with an antic face,  
To flear and scorn at our solemnity?  
Pick up thy sword.

**YOUNG MONTAGUE** What does he want?

**CAPULET** Why storm you so?

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

**MERCUTIO** We'll play a tune.  
**(MERCUTIO, ROMEO and the YOUNG MONTAGUES tap out a  
tune with their cutlery.)**

**CAPULET** Content thee, gentle cousin, let him alone.

**TYBALT** That villain abuses our women. Take him outside.

**YOUNG CAPULETS** (to  
Romeo and young  
Montagues) : Go out! Can't  
you hear it? Move!

**CAPULET** Am I the master here, or you?  
You first must learn to treat guests with respect.

**YOUNG MONTAGUES** Respect.

**TYBALT** That villain was hitting on my cousin.

**CAPULET** Go to!

**TYBALT** Sir, I will withdraw.  
(Leaving, to ROMEO)  
See that you behave differently tonight.

**MERCUTIO** We will feast.

**CAPULET** Feast!  
Cheerly, my hearts! Dance!  
Till your toes are plagued with corns.

**(The dance continues and one of the dancers is pushed out of formation by another, who is Juliet)**

**(As everybody dances, ROMEO chases JULIET while avoiding TYBALT. He catches her by surprise)**  
**(ROMEO kisses JULIET. She lets out a scream)**

**ROMEO** By your lips my sin is purged.

**JULIET** Now my lips have taken your sin.

**YOUNG MONTAGUES** : What did she say?

**YOUNG LADIES** : She told that her lips took his sin.

**YOUNG MONTAGUE** How do lips take sin?

**YOUNG LADY** She said it to get kissed again.  
You try it, too. "By your lips my sin is purged."

**ROMEO** Give me my sin again.

**NURSE** What noise is this?

**JULIET** You kiss by the book!

**ALL** By your lips my sin is purged.

**(The dance resumes, ROMEO chases after JULIET and the NURSE blocks his way)**

**NURSE** She's the daughter of this house. I nursed her.

**ROMEO** O dear account! My life is my foe's debt.

**NURSE** She sucked the wisdom from my teat! I nursed her!

**(The dance continues as the YOUNG LADIES exit.)**

**NURSE** Who is that gentleman?

**BENVOLIO** The son of Montague.

**(The NURSE is shocked at this)**  
**(The YOUNG MONTAGUES pretend to leave and disguise themselves as a tree.)**

**JULIET** Come hither, Nurse.  
Go ask his name. If he be married,  
My grave is like to be my wedding bed.

**NURSE** His name is Romeo, and a Montague.

**JULIET** My only love sprung from my only hate,  
Too early seen unknown and known too late.



Portentous love was conceived.

**NURSE**           What's tis? What's tis?

**JULIET**           A rhyme I learnt even now  
of one I danced withal.

(JULIET performs a sword dance.)

(Exit **NURSE**, **ROMEO**, **MERCUTIO** and the **YOUNG MONTAGUES**  
secretly watch **JULIET**.)

**ROMEO**           ... Juliet is the sun.  
Two of the fairest stars in heaven,  
Having some business, do entreat her eyes  
To twinkle in their spheres till they return.  
The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars  
As daylight doth a lamp her eye in heaven  
Would through the airy region stream so bright  
That birds would sing and think it were not night.  
Chirp, chirp, chirp-  
See how she leans her cheek upon her hand.

**MERCUTIO**           (To **ROMEO**.)  
Ha, ha! You rascal, trapped by your unripe fancy.  
These violent delights have violent ends  
And in their triumph die, like fire and powder.  
Which, as they kiss, consume.

**ROMEO**           Yes, I shall withdraw tonight.

**JULIET**           When did our houses become enemies?  
'Tis but thy name that is my enemy.  
Deny thy father and refuse thy name,  
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.  
No longer, no longer--

**ROMEO**           O, those bright eyes!

**JULIET**           What's Montague? It is nor hand, nor foot,  
Nor arm, nor face.  
That which we call a rose

By any other word would smell as sweet  
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called.  
Romeo doff thy name,  
And for thy name, which is no part of thee,  
Take all myself.

**YOUNG MONTAGUES** Answer her! Take her!

**ROMEO** Take what?

**MERCUTIO** I take thee at thy word.  
Call me but love, and I'll be new baptized:  
Henceforth I never will be Romeo.

**ROMEO** What? When did I lose my name?  
I should go.

**BENVOLIO** Where are you going?

**ROMEO** She never will be mine.

**MERCUTIO** I conjure thee by Rosaline's bright eyes,  
By her high forehead and her scarlet lip,  
By her fine foot, straight leg, and quivering thigh,  
And the demesnes that there adjacent lie.  
There!

**YOUNG MONTAGUES** There adjacent lie. There!

**YOUNG MONTAGUE** Go on my son!

**(Exeunt YOUNG MONTAGUES and MERCUTIO.)**

**JULIET** By whose direction found'st thou out this place?

**ROMEO** By love... I lent him eyes.

**JULIET**            Thou hast heard me speak tonight  
And therefore thou mayst think my behaviour light.  
If thou dost love, pronounce it faithfully.  
Or else, I'll frown, and be perverse and say thee nay  
And cry. Say thou dost love me, love me.

**ROMEO**            Lady, by yonder blessed moon I vow.

**JULIET**            O swear not by the moon, th'inconstant moon,  
(Pointing her finger at ROMEO'S chest.)  
Swear by thy gracious self,  
Which is the god of my idolatry,  
And I'll believe thee.

**ROMEO**            I love thee.

**JULIET**            Fool! Thou gave love before I did'st request it.  
Throw it back up. Thrust your finger in, throw mine back up.  
And yet I wish but for the thing I have.  
My bounty is as boundless as the sea,  
My love as deep the more I give to thee,  
the more I have, for both are infinite.

**NURSE (Voice)**        Madam!

**JULIET**            By and by, I come, anon!  
(To Romeo) Marry me!

**ROMEO**            What?

**JULIET**            We shall unite - until death do us apart.

**ROMEO**            O Father, what has happened to me?  
Look! My cheeks are burnt bright.

**JULIET**            Tomorrow I will send the Nurse to thee.

**ROMEO**            What? I cannot hear.  
A hammer has smashed my head to pieces.

**JULIET** Send me word of where and what time we shall perform the rite.

**ROMEO** Dear Father, read my palm and say if she shall marry me.

**NURSE (VO)** Has she walked out in the cold? Madam!

**JULIET** Go now. Let's marry and leave here.

**NURSE (VO)** Madam!

**JULIET** Good night.  
(Exit Juliet.)

**ROMEO** Raise the lantern! We are leaving!

**JULIET** (Romeo-Reenters.)  
Hist, Romeo, hist! O for a falconer's voice  
To lure this tassel-gentle back again!  
Romeo, O, Romeo, O, O, O!

**ROMEO** I'm here.

**JULIET** Don't go too far. You are a bird in my hand.  
With a silk thread I pluck you back.

**ROMEO** Where's the cage?

**JULIET** Here.

**(The two dance together.)**

**JULIET**

Hey! I have forgotten why I called thee back...  
(In Romeo's arms.)  
This bud of love, by summer's ripening breath,  
May prove a beautiful flower when next we meet.  
Good night, good night. As sweet repose and rest  
Come to thy heart as that within my breast.

**NURSE (VO)** Madam! Madam!

**JULIET(to Romeo)** Good night.

**(Exeunt.)**

## Friar Laurence's Cell

**FRIAR LAURENCE enters following FRIAR JOHN. FRIAR LAURENCE picks up a poisonous plant.**  
(FRIAR JOHN's praying voice.)

**FRIAR LAURENCE** Within the infant rind of this weak flower  
Poison hath residence and medicine power:  
O, mickle is the powerful grace that lies  
In plants, herbs, stones and their true qualities  
Nor aught so good but, strained from that fair use,  
Revolts true birth, stumbling on abuse.  
Virtue itself turns vice, being misapplied,

**ROMEO** And vice sometime by action-

**FRIAR LAURENCE** Benedicite!

**ROMEO** And vice sometime by action dignified.

**FRIAR LAURENCE** What early tongue so sweet saluteth me?

**ROMEO** Before breakfast?  
(ROMEO hands FRIAR LAURENCE an apple.)

**FRIAR LAURENCE** Thou art uproused with some distemp'rature...  
Our Romeo hath not been in bed tonight.

**ROMEO** That last is true the sweeter rest was mine.

**FRIAR LAURENCE** Sweeter? Do not crave it so.  
This smells sweet, but it will stop your heart at once.

**ROMEO** Father.  
(Whispers.)

**FRIAR LAURENCE** What?

**FRIAR LAURENCE** Bedding mites? No wonder you can't sleep!

**ROMEO** No. Not bedding mites.  
(ROMEO stops whispering and addresses FRIAR JOHN.)  
Father, cover your ears.  
(FRIAR JOHN cups his ears with his hands.)  
Wedding rites.

**FRIAR LAURENCE** You want me to marry you?

**ROMEO** Capulet's daughter.

**FRIAR LAURENCE** Marriage! With Capulet's daughter!  
Holy Saint Francis, what a change is here!  
Young men's love then lies  
Not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes.  
Pardon me, my son, but you have lost your senses.  
The enmity between your houses is three hundred years old.

**ROMEO** Father, you said this stops the heart at once?

**FRIAR LAURENCE** My son, for over three hundred years your families...

**ROMEO** (Biting the poisonous plant.)  
I beseech your assistance on my life.

**FRIAR LAURENCE** Stop, stop. I see. I see.  
(Taking the plant out of ROMEO'S grip.)  
In one respect I'll thy assistant be.

**ROMEO** Thank you dear Father.  
Let this morning be blessed with grace.  
(Exit **ROMEO**.)

**FRIAR LAURENCE** For this alliance may so happy prove,  
To turn your households' rancour to pure love.  
In the name of the Father, the son...

(Exeunt.)

## A Street

**MERCUTIO and the YOUNG MONTAGUES enter shouting and see the NURSE in the distance.**

**A group of YOUNG LADIES enter with winnowing baskets.**

**YOUNG MONTAGUE** A sail, a sail!

**ALL** A sail!

**YOUNG MONTAGUE** It's the Nurse.

**MERCUTIO** A challenge, on my life.

**YOUNG MONTAGUE** A challenge?

**MERCUTIO** For Romeo.  
Tybalt, the kinsman to old Capulet,  
Hath sent a letter to his father's house.



**ALL** He's persistent.

**(The NURSE enters.)**

**ALL** Welcome.

**ALL (Singing)** Dumplings in the Nurse's skirt, Sweet or Meat!  
Who will pay for the Nurse's dumplings? Meat or Stale!  
Oh yeah - Oh yeah- Nurse!

**NURSE** Get away! What is this?

**YOUNG MONTAGUE** A toll to pay.

**NURSE** Gentlemen, where is Romeo?

**YOUNG MONTAGUE** He did not come...

**NURSE** (Throwing down her money bag.)  
I wish to speak with him. Where is he?

**MERCUTIO** He's gone. Didn't Tybalt stab him to death and bury him on the  
mountain?

**ALL** Ooooh.

**NURSE** Do not slander Tybalt... Something red hit me just now. I wonder  
what it was.

**YOUNG MONTAGUES** Look, look! A red kite!

**NURSE** Stop your babbling. Tybalt is an honest gentleman.  
Courteous and handsome.  
A real gentleman.

**ALL**                    A gentleman.

**(Enter ROMEO.)**

**ALL (Singing)**        You stole the Nurse's money. Our dear Nurse's money.  
                              She cleaned the dirty nappies. We betrayed her kindness.  
                              Give sweet crushed ice to us. Red bean ice is the best!

**ALL (Singing)**        Tasty, very tasty dumplings. Have gone rotten 'fore they're  
                              eaten.  
                              Who will buy the Nurse's dumplings? Meaty dumplings,  
                              rotten dumplings.  
                              Oh yeah- Oh yeah- Nurse! Soggy dumplings, Nurse  
                              dumplings smell bad.

**(Exeunt YOUNG MONTAGUES and MERCUTIO.)**

**NURSE**                Soggy dumplings, Nurse dumplings, handmade dumplings...  
                              Oh the chattering youth. Have a dumpling.  
                              Pray you, sir, my lady bid me--

**ROMEO**                (Gives NURSE a note.)  
                              Nurse, give this to your lady.

**NURSE**                (Reads note.)  
                              At Friar Laurence's cell, we shall be shrived and married.  
                              Dear lord, married? My legs tremble so that I can hardly stand.  
                              (She falls to the ground.)

**ROMEO**                (Putting a rope ladder around NURSE'S neck.)  
                              Take these cords and place them over her window.  
                              For these must be my convoy in the secret night.

**NURSE**                The rope ladder which brings him to the high top-gallant of his  
                              joy. Ring the bell!

**ROMEO** Ring the bell!

**(Exit ROMEO and NURSE with rope ladder.)**

**ALL (Singing)** Would you go away, away now? Abandon me, abandon me?  
How shall I, how shall I live now? If you go, you go away.  
Oh yeah- Oh yeah- Go now! Dear love, please return to me.

**(The YOUNG LADIES exit while singing.)**

## **The Wedding**

**(FRIAR LAURENCE, ROMEO and JULIET enter. They begin the marriage ceremony.)**

**FRIAR LAURENCE** Say your prayers.

**ROMEO**            We praise the Lord with our bodies and souls.

**JULIET**            They are but beggars that can count their worth  
But my true love is grown to such excess,  
I cannot sum up sum of half my wealth.

**FRIAR LAURENCE** It is done. Until death do you part.

**(FRIAR LAURENCE, ROMEO and JULIET exit quickly.)**

**A Public Square**

**MERCUTIO and the YOUNG MONTAGUES enter and play a game of "Musical Swords."  
TYBALT and the YOUNG CAPULETS enter and play with them.  
MERCUTIO loses the game and jumps into a fountain splashing himself with water.**

**MERCUTIO** He cheated, didn't he? (to audience)

**TYBALT** I'm a master of the game.

**MERCUTIO** Okay, okay.

**TYBALT** How do you like it?

**MERCUTIO** Jealous?

**TYBALT** Gentlemen, a word. Where's Romeo?

**MERCUTIO** Didn't you kill him last night?

**YOUNG MONTAGUE** Cut him up and made him into dumplings!

**TYBALT** Mercutio, thou consortest with Romeo.  
What does that cloud look like?

**MERCUTIO** A mole.

**TYBALT** No, it looks like a toad. Like you.

**MERCUTIO** No, it's a mole. Like you!

**TYBALT** Is it a toad or a mole?

**YOUNG CAPULETS** A toad!

**MERCUTIO**

Stop!  
... here's that shall make you dance.  
Open your arms, bend your knees, lift up your chin.

**ALL**

Mole, toad, salmon, trout, carp, half moon—(they sing)

**Passing Lady** It's so hot weather! Do you feel like singing? Well, anyway, it's better than fight. Mole, toad, salmon□

**(Enter ROMEO.)**

**ROMEO**

Excuse me, which train is this?

**MERCUTIO**

Sorry sir, we only have wet seats here.

**ROMEO**

I like wet rice.

**TYBALT**

Here's another term for you:  
Thou art a villain.

**ROMEO**

That must be a challenge. You sent one to my father's house this morning. Take it back,  
Till thou shalt know the reason of my love.  
Villain am I none.  
In yond cathedral, your cousin sister married.  
'Tis a happy day. Let us defer this argument for a day or two  
Or three, or four- or perhaps a year or more.

**TYBALT**

This will not excuse your feast night's insolence.  
(TYBALT drops his sword to the ground.)  
Pick up the sword.

**ROMEO (To audience.)**

Should I tell him that we became kinsmen, but an hour ago?  
I guess not. Our two families would start a riot. A riot.  
And later when our secret wedding is revealed, the riot will turn  
into war.

Yes, if it is inevitable, we must deal with it soon.

(To TYBALT.)

Take your sword.

Do you know who was that wedding's groom?

(Pointing to himself.)

It was I. This is why I cannot draw my sword.

(ROMEO gives the sword back to TYBALT.)

You are my brother-in-law. We cannot draw blood here.

Brother.

**TYBALT**

Our ancestors have fought for three hundred years. Do not insult  
them. On your mother's side, your seventh grandfather was a  
butcher, was he not?

**YOUNG CAPULETS** A butch what?

**. TYBALT**

He butchered cows.

**YOUNG CAPULETS** A butcher.

**TYBALT**

Moo! Catch me. Kill me. Eat me. You butcher!

(TYBALT pretends to be a cow.)

**YOUNG CAPULETS** Moo! Moo!

**MERCUTIO**

Butcher? I can do better. My great grandfather cut noodles.

Do you want to fight with me?

A tooth for a tooth, a sword for a sword.

(MERCUTIO steals a sword from the man next to him and  
brandishes it.)

My horoscope is poor today. I shall ward off misfortune with your blood.

Draw. What? Are you afraid of the journey to the underworld? I'll give you a hand. Come.

**TYBALT** (Pointing to ROMEO.)

Romeo, don't run away.

**(MERCUTIO and TYBALT exchange blows.)**

**After a few exchanges, MERCUTIO drops his sword.**

**TYBALT sits in the fountain and gets ready for another fight.)**

**TYBALT** Pick up the sword.

**both** **(MERCUTIO picks up the sword and starts a song that prompts groups of friends to sing together.)**

**ALL (Singing)** Mole, toad, salmon, trout, carp, half moon, deer, prussian carp, cat fish, morocco fish...

**(MERCUTIO enters the fountain and fights TYBALT.**

**ROMEO forces himself in between the two to break the fight.)**

**ROMEO** Your cousin is my bride.  
Stop. Stop this now.  
I married your cousin today. We are kinsmen now.  
Let us make peace. Make peace.

**(TYBALT thrusts his sword into MERCUTIO'S side.)**

**MERCUTIO** I am hurt.  
A plague a both your houses, I am sped.  
No, 'tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a church door,  
But 'tis enough, 'twill serve.  
Am I really dying? This is strange.  
Zounds, a dog, a rat, a mouse, a cat, to scratch a man to death!



Why the devil came you between us? I was hurt under your arm.  
Help me into some house or I shall faint.  
My head is spinning.  
(He loses consciousness. A moment later, he sits back up.)  
No, this is not fair. Take my hand. Take my hand.  
Take my hand!  
A plague a both your houses!  
They have made worms' meat of me-  
Why me?  
(MERCUTIO stops breathing.)

**TYBALT** I'm hot. What's with this weather?  
We were only playing. Serves him right.  
He drew first, you saw it. Kinsman, you saw it too.

**ROMEO** (Picking up the sword.)  
Away to heaven, respective lenity.  
Go keep him company.

**TYBALT** Thou wretched boy, that didst consort him here,  
Shalt with him hence.

**(ROMEO and TYBALT fight.  
ROMEO stands over TYBALT and stabs him.  
TYBALT falls.)**

**ROMEO** I can hear the warning of Friar Laurence in my ear...

**(ROMEO flees with the help of the YOUNG MONTAGUES.  
Enter the PRINCE, LADY MONTAGUE, LADY CAPULET and a  
PALLBEARER.)**

**PRINCE** Another fight?  
We have an expression, "a neighbour like a cousin." What does it  
mean? Neighbours, over a fence, exchange daily greetings, "How  
are you?", "How was the market?", "Have some birthday cake."  
This way, neighbours become like brothers.  
This city is not for you, mad dogs and cats, to have a vile fray.  
You are men. Brothers! No more brawling!  
I warned you before, but look at this--

**YOUNG MONTAGUE** This is what happened.

**(The YOUNG MONTAGUES and CAPULETS re-enact the fight.)**

**LADY MONTAGUE** 'Tis vile indeed. Vile.

**PRINCE** Who now the price of his dear blood doth owe?

**LADY CAPULET** Prince, as thou art true,  
For blood of ours shed blood of Montague.  
I beg for justice  
Romeo must not live.

**LADY MONTAGUE** The truth has been revealed.  
I beg for justice, destroy the house of Capulet.

**PRINCE** Murder begets murder.  
Immediately we banish Romeo.  
And bear hence these bodies.

**LADY MONTAGUE** Banished!

**(Exit LADY MONTAGUE and LADY CAPULET with the PRINCE.  
The YOUNG MONTAGUES and CAPULETS change into traditional  
mourning clothes as the PALLBEARER begins to sing. The  
YOUNG CAPULETS and MONTAGUES form a funeral  
procession.)**

**PALLBEARER** Let the permanent closure of life end in paradise.

**ALL** Praise to the goddess of mercy.

**PALLBEARER** Climb over the mountain - How will you go, over, the hill.

**ALL** Climb over the mountain - How will you go, over, the hill.

**PALLBEARER**            They say death is far, but it is close.

**ALL**                      Climb over the mountain - How will you go, over, the hill.

**PALLBEARER**            The early morning bird flies over the new road.  
The bright moon rises in the Western sky.

**ALL**                      Climb over the mountain - How will you go, over, the hill.

**(Exeunt MERCUTIO and TYBALT'S funeral procession.)**

## **Juliet's Chamber**

**A white bed sheet is pulled over the whole stage.**

**JULIET appears and dances in excitement as the sheet settles to the floor.**

**JULIET**            Come night, come quickly.  
Come night, come Romeo,  
(JULIET spreads open the bed sheet.)  
Come gentle night,  
Lovers can see to do their amorous rites  
By their own beauties.  
I'm afraid his face will be too bright.  
Give me my Romeo.

**(Enter NURSE, with rope ladder.)**

**JULIET** Nurse. A ladder?

**NURSE** (Throws down the ladder.)  
Ay, from Romeo.

**JULIET** (Puts the ladder around her neck.)  
Come, Romeo,  
Leap to these arms.

**NURSE** Alack the day, he's gone, he's killed, he's dead!  
I saw the wound, I saw it with mine eyes-  
-Here on his manly breast.  
All bedaubed in blood,  
A piteous corse.

**JULIET** Can heaven be so envious?  
To prison, eyes, ne'er look on liberty.  
Vile earth, to earth resign, end motion here,  
And thou and Romeo press one heavy bier.

**NURSE** One heavy bier!  
Tybalt is gone and Romeo banished.

**JULIET** Romeo killed my cousin?

**NURSE** He did.

**JULIET** Romeo is alive!

**NURSE** He is, alas, he is.

**JULIET** Did I mistake snowflakes on branches for pear blossoms?

O serpent heart, hid with a flow'ring face!  
Nurse, 'tis most cruel.  
Beautiful tyrant, fiend angelical.

**NURSE** There's no trust, no faith, no honesty in men  
All perjured, all forsworn, all naught, all dissemblers.  
Ah, where's my man? Give me some aqua-vitae.  
Where's my vodka? Ah, here it is.  
(The NURSE pulls a bottle of soju [potato vodka] from her pocket.)  
These griefs, these woes, these sorrows make me old.  
Shame come to Romeo!

**JULIET** Nurse, speak not so rudely.  
He has a brow where honour may be crowned.

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

**JULIET** Romeo lives, Romeo lives.  
Back, foolish tears, back to your native spring.  
My husband lives.

**NURSE** He is banished.

**JULIET** Banished.

**NURSE** Banished. Better dead than banished.

**JULIET** Banished-  
Poor ropes, you are beguiled,  
Both you and I, for Romeo is exiled.  
I'll to my wedding-bed,  
And death, not Romeo, take my maidenhead.  
(JULIET puts the rope around her neck and rolls on the floor.)  
Let me die too! Let me die too!

**NURSE** Hie to your chamber. I'll find Romeo  
To comfort you I wot well where he is.  
Hark ye, your Romeo will be here at night.

I'll to him he is hid at Laurence' cell.

**JULIET**

O find him,  
And bid him come to take his last farewell.  
(Exit Nurse.)

**(After a moment a YOUNG LADY enters and helps dress JULIET for her wedding night. They stay on stage for the whole of the next scene..)**

**Friar Laurence's Cell**

**ROMEO and FRIAR JOHN enter and begin cutting medicinal roots.**

**FRIAR JOHN** (to Romeo) Do as I do!  
(FRIAR LAURENCE enters.)

**Romeo** Friar!

**FRIAR LAURENCE** Say your prayers.  
A gentler judgement vanished from his lips:  
Not body's death, but body's banishment.  
(ROMEO draws his dagger to kill himself.)

**FRIAR LAURENCE** Hold thy desperate hand!  
I thought thy disposition better tempered.  
Hast thou slain Tybalt? Wilt thou slay thyself,  
And slay thy lady, that in thy life lives,  
By doing damned hate upon thyself?  
What, rouse thee, man! Thy Juliet is alive,  
For whose dear sake thou wast but lately dead.  
(Motions to FRIAR JOHN who covers his ears)  
Go hence Leave the city.  
Where thou shalt live till we can find a time  
To blaze your marriage, reconcile your friends,  
Beg pardon of the Prince, and call thee back.

(Enter NURSE.)

**NURSE** Oh holy Friar,  
Where's Romeo?

**FRIAR LAURENCE** He is gone.

**NURSE** He's gone already? Without seeing my Lady?  
The gates must still be open.  
(Exit Nurse.)

**ROMEO** Father, I will go to Juliet.

**FRIAR LAURENCE** Go hence be gone before the break of day.  
If thou art taken, death will be thy pay.

**ROMEO** Farewell.

(Exeunt all except JULIET.)

## Juliet's Chamber

**JULIET continues making preparations for her wedding night. She has changed into a traditional nightdress and wears a hair piece. She lights an oil lamp with matches and leaves the matches next to the lamp.**

**ROMEO** Don't worry. The good Friar will bring me back--

**JULIET** Hush.

(The two lovers bow to each other. **ROMEO** takes off **JULIET'S** hair piece. **ROMEO** falls on his back while trying to take off **JULIET'S** sock.)

**JULIET** hides the box of matches, blows out the lamp and hides under the white bed sheet.)

**ROMEO** What's this?  
(He goes to light the lamp and searches for the matchbox.)  
The matches?

**JULIET** I don't know. I am here. This way.  
What are you doing?

**ROMEO** I'm making matches.

**JULIET** The night will be over. Here I come. Here, here. Romeo, hello-  
Here are the matches. I'll count to ten and you can catch me.  
Then I'll give you the matches. "Sharon blossoms have opened,"  
"Sharon blossoms have opened," I'll count to ten and you can  
catch me. Then I'll give you the matches. I'm here. "Sharon  
blossoms have opened."

**ROMEO** I'm going.



ROMEO rolls on the floor, wrapping his body with the bed sheet until he is trapped in a bed sheet cocoon.

**JULIET**            I'm cold.

**ROMEO**            Take it.

**( ROMEO is trapped in the bed sheet and JULIET tries to free him. They push and pull the sheet and as ROMEO is freed, the sound of larks breaks in. Romeo rises up hastily from his seat and Juliet seizes him.)**