
A fight breaks out between Capulet and Montague servants

The Capulets and Montagues are two important families in the city of Verona. They are sworn enemies and have been fighting for many years. The play opens with servants of each family starting an argument in the street.

Prince Escalus, the city's peacekeeper, calls a stop to the brawl and says that anyone else who fights in the street will be punished with death.

Benvolio then talks with his cousin Romeo. Romeo explains that he is miserable because he's in love with a girl called Rosaline but she doesn't love him back. Benvolio advises him to look at other girls.

Paris asks for Juliet's hand in marriage

Count Paris, a wealthy gentleman, visits Lord Capulet to ask for his daughter's hand in marriage. Capulet is uncertain because his daughter, Juliet, is only a teenager and *'hath not seen the change of fourteen years'* (Act 1 Scene 2). Capulet agrees to throw a party where Paris can look at all the young women of Verona, including Juliet.

Capulet sends his servant to deliver invitations to the party and they bump into Romeo and Benvolio. Benvolio tells Romeo to go to the party so that he can meet other young women and forget about Rosaline.

Romeo and Juliet fall in love and get married in secret

Before the party Lady Capulet tells her daughter about Paris' proposal and Juliet promises to look at him during the party. However, once there, she and Romeo set eyes on each other and it's a case of love at first sight. Romeo forgets all about his earlier love for Rosaline as soon as he sees Juliet's *'true beauty'* (Act 1 Scene 5).

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S **ROMEO + JULIET**

TEXTES

After the party Romeo climbs over the Capulet's garden wall in order to spend more time with Juliet. She appears on her balcony and they declare their love for each other. Knowing that their families are sworn enemies, they decide to get married in secret. Juliet enlists the help of her Nurse and Friar Lawrence conducts the marriage the very next day.

Tybalt starts a street fight and Romeo is banished from Verona

Romeo and Juliet's secret marriage takes place in the early afternoon. Later Romeo is with his friends, Mercutio and Benvolio, when Juliet's cousin Tybalt challenges him to a fight. Mercutio defends his friend and is stabbed and dies.

Romeo is so upset at the death of his friend that he fights Tybalt in revenge. He slays Tybalt and leaves as the Prince approaches.

Prince Escalus declares that Romeo is banished from the city of Verona.

After a secret night with Juliet, Romeo flees to Mantua.

Friar Lawrence and Juliet make a plan to reunite her with Romeo

Juliet is heartbroken at losing her love and seeks Friar Lawrence's help. He devises a plan to reunite the couple which will take great '*strength of will*' (Act 4 Scene 1) to carry out. The Friar will give Juliet a potion to make her appear dead. After drinking it, her family will lay her apparently lifeless body in the Capulet tomb. The potion will last for 24 hours, during which time Friar Lawrence will send news to Romeo. As the potion wears off and Juliet awakens, Romeo will arrive at the tomb and the pair will run away.

In the morning, the nurse discovers Juliet and the Capulets place Juliet in the tomb. But Romeo doesn't get the message and only hears that Juliet is dead so he leaves for Verona immediately.

Romeo kills himself, then Juliet does the same

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TEXTES

Romeo arrives at the Capulet tomb with a bottle of poison he has purchased from the apothecary because life is not worth living without Juliet. He discovers Juliet and is heartbroken. He drinks his poison and dies. The Juliet wakes up and sees Romeo dead by her side and takes his dagger and stabs herself.

The Montagues and Capulets are so upset by the deaths of their children that they agree to bring the family feud to an end for good.

