

## KEY WORDS

*Logistics, Staging, Costumes, Brawl, Consummation, Ergo, Confines, Conceivable, Deprived, Protagonists.*

# Romeo Act 4

## ROMEO DOES NOT APPEAR PHYSICALLY IN ACT 4 AND THE REASON FOR THIS COULD BE:

- Oftentimes, in Shakespeare plays, characters do not feature in specific scenes or acts simply because of **logistics** regarding **staging** or costumes. In a stage adaption, it is possible Romeo would be **spattered** (covered) with blood, after murdering Tybalt, at the end of Act three.
- This is because the **brawl** and his **consummation** of marriage with Juliet occur in the same day. **Ergo** Romeo would need time to wash the blood from him offstage meaning it would not work **logistically** for him to be in a scene immediately after (A similar issue occurs in **Macbeth** after the murder of Duncan, he needs time to wash the blood from him, hence the existence of **the porter scene**).
- Another possible reason for his disappearance in Act 4 is that Romeo has been exiled and so it is not possible for him, within the **confines** of the plot, to be in any scene in Verona after his exile.
- Verona is where most of the action in the play happens and so in order for the plot to progress it is necessary for Romeo to be left out of scenes, he cannot be in.
- Act 3 of Romeo and Juliet has a particular focus on Romeo and the events in his life and so it is **conceivable** that Romeo is not in Act 4 to allow the narrative to focus of Juliet and her family dynamic, **of which we have seen little**.
- Finally, having Romeo absent from this act **ensures** that the audience are **deprived** (denied) of the romantic, passionate scenes between the lovers, which they enjoy because they are encouraged to route for the **protagonists**. Thus, they feel the same longing for pair to be reunited as the characters do.