

Romeo and Juliet Summary

Characters

- **Romeo (Montague):** son of Lord and Lady Montague who falls in love with Juliet
- **Juliet (Capulet):** daughter of Lord and Lady Capulet who falls in love with Romeo
- **Friar Lawrence (neither):** he is a monk who is alike to a father figure to Romeo
- **Tybalt (Capulet):** Kingsman to Capulets and Juliet's cousin
- **Mercutio (Montague):** friend of Romeo's who is killed by Tybalt
- **The Nurse (Capulet):** like a mother to Juliet, practically raising her
- **Paris (Capulet):** a nobleman who wanted to marry Juliet
- **Lord Capulet (Capulet):** head of the Capulet house and father to Juliet
- **Lady Capulet (Capulet):** Lord Capulet's wife and mother to Juliet
- **Lord Montague (Montague):** head of the Montague house and father to Romeo
- **Lady Montague (Montague):** Lord Montague's wife and mother to Romeo
- **Benvolio (Montague):** Kingsman to Montagues and Montague's nephew.

Act 1

Act 1 prologue

- The chorus appear and speak of the familial feud and the '*star – crossed*' lovers

Act 1, Scene 1:

- Play set in **Verona Italy**
- We are first introduced the **feuds between the Capulets and Montagues** (Sampson, a servant at the house of Capulets, bites his thumb at the Montagues to insult them).
- Benvolio (Montague) is enraged by this so draws his sword, to which Tybalt (Capulet) draws his sword
enticing violence
- **Prince Escalus intervenes to maintain peace**, declaring that death will be thrown upon anybody who disturbs this peace.
- Benvolio promises Lady Montague to find out why Romeo is so forlorn (sad). He finds out that it is **because Romeo is in love with Rosaline** and this is love **is unrequited (one – sided)**

Act 1, Scene 2:

- **Paris asks for Juliet's hand in marriage**. Lord Capulet says she is only 14 and to wait two more years.
- He invites Paris to this masquerade feast
- A servant, who can't read, gets Romeo to help him read the guest list for the feast. He sees Rosaline's name is on there so **decides to attend**

Act 1, Scene 3:

- Lady Capulet and the Nurse **discuss Paris's marriage proposal with Juliet**
- The nurse is seen as a comic relief here (see the nurse analysis) as she rambles about sexual jokes
- **Lady Capulet is eager for Juliet to marry**

Act 1, Scene 4:

- Romeo, Mercutio and Benvolio are on the way to the feast
- Mercutio mocks Romeo for **his forlorn state over Rosaline** and makes sexual and bawdy metaphors
- **Mercutio does his long Queen mab speech**

Act 1, Scene 5:

- Romeo sees Juliet from across the room and is **instantly in love** – he forgets Rosaline in an instant
- Tybalt hears Romeo's voice and wants to incite violence – Lord Capulet rejects it to keep the peace
- Romeo and Juliet share their **first kiss among religious metaphors about the kiss** being a '*sin*'. Both find out about each other's identity

Act 2

Act 2 prologue

- Chorus provide a sonnet describing the new found love between Romeo and Juliet and the **familial feuds that is obstructing them**

Act 2, Scene 1:

- After the party, Romeo's mind is **engulfed with thoughts of Juliet**. He decides to **climb the Capulet Garden** wall to find Juliet

Act 2, Scene 2:

- This is the famous balcony scene
- They acknowledge **the barrier of their familial feuds but speak as if love can surmount (conquer) this**

Act 2, Scene 3:

- Romeo **seeks advice and guidance** from Friar Lawrence for his new found love for Juliet
- Friar Lawrence agrees to marry them hoping it would **extinguish the familial feud**

Act 2, Scene 4:

- Mercutio and Benvolio are speculating about Romeo's absence the night of the feast.
- They then see **Romeo and make jokes around his absence. He responds with witty sexual comments.**
- The Nurse finds Romeo and warns him about hurting Juliet, he tells the Nurse to relay the message to Juliet about **their marriage with Friar Lawrence that afternoon.**
- The Nurse agrees to create a cloth ladder to help Romeo get into Juliet's room on their wedding night

Act 2, Scene 5:

- Juliet **anxiously awaits** news from the Nurse about Romeo
- The Nurse tells her how Romeo will be waiting for her in Friar Lawrence's cell

Act 2, Scene 6:

- Friar Lawrence marries Romeo and Juliet in his cell in secret

Act 3

Act 3, Scene 1:

- **Tybalt tries to antagonise Mercutio**, but when Romeo enters he tries to incite a reaction from him before.
- Due to his secret marriage with Juliet, **Romeo refuses to be violent**
- Mercutio out of anger draws his sword and if Romeo won't fight, he will
- **Tybalt stabs Mercutio** and he falls cursing the familial feuds that have caused his death
- Romeo kills Tybalt as he believes that love has softened him. Prince Escalus banishes him

Act 3, Scene 2:

- Juliet is waiting for Romeo on their wedding night
- The Nurse comes to tell Juliet (she almost messes it up by saying Romeo is dead) that Tybalt **has been killed by Romeo and he has been banished**
- Juliet is **angered and distressed**, but still remains loyal to Romeo

Act 3, Scene 3:

- Romeo is **distressed about his banishment** and tells this to Friar Lawrence.
- The Friar tries to console him, telling him it is just as well he has not been killed – he says he **would rather be dead than without Juliet**
- **The Friar helps create a plan** that Romeo will visit Juliet this night before he is exiled and then leave in the morning

Act 3, Scene 4:

- Without Juliet's consent, **Lord Capulet arranges for Paris to marry Juliet.**
- It is a Monday when he arranges this, and arranges the wedding to be on Thursday

Act 3, Scene 5:

- **Romeo goes to leave Juliet at dawn.** He is so overcome by love, he decides to stay and doesn't care if this results in his death
- He then leaves when Lady Capulet is approaching
- Lady Capulet informs Juliet about the marriage. **She is overcome with grief and refuses.**
- When Lord Capulet enters, and hears Juliet's rejection of the marriage, **he is enraged. He insults her and threatens to disown her.**
- Juliet asks for the Nurse's advice, to which she says to marry Paris. Juliet pretends to agree and then goes to The Friar for help.

Act 4

Act 4, Scene 1:

- Paris speaks lovingly to Juliet yet **she is cold and distant**
- Juliet says to the Friar she would rather kill herself than marry Paris
- The Friar conjures a plan that **Juliet will agree to marry Paris and drink a sleeping potion that will make her appear dead the night before the wedding.**
- His plan is that she will be put in the Capulet tomb and the Friar will tell Romeo to help him get her when she wakes up – **then they live far away together and free.**
- The Friar gives her the sleeping potion

Act 4, Scene 2:

- Juliet returns home, apologises to her Father and is **no longer disobedient and defiant** about the wedding.

Act 4, Scene 3:

- Juliet is **battling with the idea** of drinking the potion
- She **internally battles with**: how the potion may kill her, it may wear off and she wakes up in a tomb and then begins to think about Tybalt's ghost
- **She drinks the potion**

Act 4, Scene 4:

- The Capulet house is getting prepared for the celebrations of the wedding

Act 4, Scene 5:

- The Nurse **goes to wake up Juliet to find she is dead.**
- Lord and Lady Capulet, Paris and the Nurse mourn.
- The Friar reminds them she has gone to a better place.

Act 5

Act 5, Scene 1:

- In Mantua (where Romeo has been banished), **he finds out about Juliet's death**
- He goes to the **Apothecary** (old term for a pharmacy) and asks to buy poison. The Apothecary refuses to sell it to him, he eventually gives in

Act 5, Scene 2:

- The Friar realises that the message about **Juliet's false death never reached Romeo**
- The Friar then declares he will go and rescue Juliet on his own
- **He sends another letter to Romeo** about what has happened, planning on keeping Juliet in his cell until she awakes

Act 5, Scene 3:

- Paris is at the churchyard scattering flowers on Juliet's grave
- He notices Romeo (as the man who of course killed Tybalt). He thinks he has come back to further disrespect the Capulets so he aggressively confronts Romeo
- Romeo begs for him to leave, but Paris refuses. **Romeo kills Paris.**
- **Romeo sees Juliet's dead body, drinks the potion, kisses Juliet and then dies**
- The Friar enters the tomb, Juliet then awakes. The Friar informs her that both Romeo and Paris are dead and she must leave immediately
- Juliet refuses to leave, The Friar leaves out of fear.
- **Juliet kisses the lips of Romeo**, hoping that this will kill her too but it doesn't work. she takes the dagger and **stabs herself. She dies laying upon Romeo's body**
- The Friar confesses to the families about the death. They are all so overwhelm with grief, **they agree to end their feuds.**

One line summary

Act 1

- **Scene 1:** introduced to the familial feud. Romeo forlorn about Rosaline
- **Scene 2:** Paris asks to marry Juliet. Romeo going to Capulet ball to see Rosaline
- **Scene 3:** Lady Capulet speaks about the marriage with Paris, eager for Juliet to marry
- **Scene 4:** Mercutio mocks Romeo for his forlorn state through sexual metaphors
- **Scene 5:** Romeo and Juliet meet and kiss. They find out about each other's identities.

Act 2

- **Scene 1:** Romeo decides to climb the Capulet garden wall
- **Scene 2:** famous balcony scene where they speak of their love
- **Scene 3:** The Friar agrees to marry Romeo and Juliet to eliminate the familial feud
- **Scene 4:** Romeo tells the Nurse to inform Juliet about their wedding that afternoon
- **Scene 5:** Juliet anxiously waits for Romeo. Nurse tells her about the wedding
- **Scene 6:** Romeo and Juliet are secretly wed in the Friar's cell

Act 3

- **Scene 1:** Tybalt kills Mercutio. Romeo kills him in rage. Romeo is banished by the Prince.
- **Scene 2:** Nurse informs Juliet Romeo has been banished as he killed Tybalt. She remains loyal
- **Scene 3:** Romeo is distressed about his banishment. Friar helps him create a plan to see Juliet
- **Scene 4:** Lord Capulet arranges for Juliet to marry Paris without her consent
- **Scene 5:** Romeo sees Juliet. Lord Capulet enraged at Juliet's refusal to marry Paris

Act 4

- **Scene 1:** Friar creates plan for Juliet to drink sleeping potion to avoid marrying Paris.
- **Scene 2:** Juliet returns home and apologises to her father about her defiance
- **Scene 3:** Juliet's internal battles with drinking the potion. She drinks it.
- **Scene 4:** Capulet house is getting prepared for the wedding
- **Scene 5:** Nurse discovers Juliet's 'dead' body. They mourn her.

Act 5

- **Scene 1:** Romeo finds out about Juliet's 'death', he buys poison ready to die next to her
- **Scene 2:** Friar realises Romeo doesn't know about the fake death
- **Scene 3:** Romeo kills Paris. He sees her 'dead' body and drinks the potion. Juliet wakes up and sees his dead body and stabs herself