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Source text:

The Project Gutenberg eBook of Romeo and Juliet

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William Shakespeare, *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* (Simplified Edition by ChatGPT)

## PART 1 (Act I, Prologue and Scene I)

### Dramatis Personae

Prince Escalus – ruler of Verona.

Montague – head of the Montague family.

Lady Montague – his wife.

Romeo – their son.

Benvolio – nephew of Montague, friend of Romeo.

Abram – servant of Montague.

Balthasar – servant of Romeo.

Capulet – head of the Capulet family.

Lady Capulet – his wife.

Juliet – their daughter.

Tybalt – nephew of Lady Capulet.

Nurse – servant to Juliet.

Sampson – servant of Capulet.

Gregory – servant of Capulet.

Paris – young nobleman.

Mercutio – friend of Romeo.

Friar Lawrence – priest.

Citizens, servants, guests.

SCENE: Verona.

## THE PROLOGUE

Enter CHORUS.

CHORUS:

Two great families live in Verona. They are equal in honor and power. But they hate each other. Their old anger becomes new fighting. Blood makes their hands dirty in the streets.

From these two enemies, a young man and a young woman are born. They fall in love. Their love is marked by fate. In the end, they die. Their deaths end their parents' hate.

Tonight, you will see their story. If you listen with patience, we will show you their love and their sorrow.

Exit.

## ACT I

SCENE I. A public place.

Enter SAMPSON and GREGORY, carrying swords.

SAMPSON:

Gregory, I swear we will not take insult from them.

GREGORY:

No, we will not bow our heads.

SAMPSON:

If they make me angry, I will draw my sword.

GREGORY:

Yes, but you are slow to anger.

SAMPSON:

Any man from the house of Montague makes me angry.

GREGORY:

To be brave is to stand. If you are moved, you may run away.

SAMPSON:

No. I will stand. I will push Montague men to the wall. And I will push their women too.

GREGORY:

The fight is between our masters.

SAMPSON:

It is all the same. I will show I am strong.

GREGORY:

Here come two servants of the Montague house.

Enter ABRAM and BALTHASAR.

SAMPSON:

My sword is ready. Start a fight. I will support you.

GREGORY:

Will you run?

SAMPSON:

Do not fear for me.

GREGORY:

I fear you may run first.

SAMPSON:

Let them begin.

GREGORY:

I will look angry at them.

SAMPSON:

I will bite my thumb at them. It is an insult.

ABRAM:

Do you bite your thumb at us?

SAMPSON:

I bite my thumb.

ABRAM:

At us?

SAMPSON:

Is it against the law if I say yes?

GREGORY:

Yes.

SAMPSON:

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

GREGORY:

Do you want to fight?

ABRAM:

No.

SAMPSON:

If you do, I am ready.

ABRAM:

You are no better than we are.

SAMPSON:

Better.

ABRAM:

You lie.

SAMPSON:

Draw your swords!

They fight.

Enter BENVOLIO.

BENVOLIO:

Stop, fools! Put your swords away. You do not know what you are doing.

He knocks their swords down.

Enter TYBALT.

TYBALT:

Benvolio! Why are you fighting with these weak men? Turn and face me.

BENVOLIO:

I am trying to stop the fight. Put away your sword.

TYBALT:

Peace? I hate peace. I hate all Montagues. And I hate you.

They fight.

Enter CITIZENS with clubs.

FIRST CITIZEN:

Stop them! Beat them down! Down with Capulets! Down with Montagues!

Enter CAPULET and LADY CAPULET.

CAPULET:

What is this noise? Give me my sword!

LADY CAPULET:

You need a crutch, not a sword.

Enter MONTAGUE and LADY MONTAGUE.

MONTAGUE:

Let me go! I will fight Capulet!

LADY MONTAGUE:

You will not move.

Enter PRINCE ESCALUS with attendants.

PRINCE:

Enemies of peace! You stain your hands with blood. Drop your weapons now.

You have disturbed the streets three times with small words that became big fights.

If you disturb the peace again, you will die.

Capulet, come with me. Montague, come later to hear my judgment.

Now leave this place.

All exit except MONTAGUE, LADY MONTAGUE, and BENVOLIO.

MONTAGUE:

Nephew, how did this fight begin?

BENVOLIO:

The servants were fighting. I tried to stop them. Then Tybalt came and attacked me. More men joined until the Prince stopped us.

LADY MONTAGUE:

Where is Romeo? I am glad he was not here.

BENVOLIO:

I saw him early this morning under trees. He looked sad. When he saw me, he hid from me.

MONTAGUE:

Many mornings he walks alone. He sighs and cries. When the sun rises, he goes back home and shuts himself in his room. He makes his own darkness.

If we knew the reason for his sorrow, we would try to cure it.

BENVOLIO:

Do you know why he is sad?

MONTAGUE:

No. He will not tell us.

Enter ROMEO.

BENVOLIO:

Here he comes. Please step aside. I will try to learn his trouble.

MONTAGUE:

If you can make him speak, I will be grateful. Come, my wife.

They exit.

BENVOLIO:

Good morning, cousin.

ROMEO:

Is it morning already?

BENVOLIO:

It is nine o'clock.

ROMEO:

Sad hours seem long. Was that my father?

BENVOLIO:

Yes. Why are you so sad?

ROMEO:

Because I do not have what would make me happy.

BENVOLIO:

Are you in love?

ROMEO:

Out of love.

BENVOLIO:

Out of love?

ROMEO:

Out of her favor. I love her, but she does not love me.

BENVOLIO:

It is sad that love can be so gentle in thought, yet so cruel in action.

ROMEO:

Love is strange. It is heavy and light at the same time. It is sweet and bitter.

This is love. And yet I feel no love returned.

Do you laugh at me?

BENVOLIO:

No. I feel sad for you.

ROMEO:

My sadness is already heavy. Your sadness adds more weight.

BENVOLIO:

Tell me who she is.

ROMEO:

Must I say it?

BENVOLIO:

Yes.

ROMEO:

I love a woman.

BENVOLIO:

I guessed that.

ROMEO:

She is beautiful.

BENVOLIO:

Then she should be easy to love.

ROMEO:

She does not want love. She has chosen to stay pure.

Her beauty will die with her. She refuses to marry.

BENVOLIO:

Then forget her.

ROMEO:

Teach me how to forget.

BENVOLIO:

Look at other women.

ROMEO:

That will only remind me how much more beautiful she is.

BENVOLIO:

I will prove you wrong.

ROMEO:

I do not believe you can.

They exit.

[End of Part 1]

PART 2 (Act I, Scene II–Scene III)

SCENE II. A Street.

Enter CAPULET, PARIS, and a SERVANT.

CAPULET:

Montague is under the same law as I am. It is not hard for old men like us to keep the peace.

PARIS:

You are both men of honor. It is sad you have lived in anger for so long. But my lord, what do you say about my request?

CAPULET:

I will say again what I said before. My daughter is still young. She is not yet fourteen. Let two more summers pass before we think of marriage.

PARIS:

Girls younger than she have become mothers.

CAPULET:

And many who marry too soon are unhappy. She is my only child now. All my other hopes are gone. She is the only hope of my house.

But speak to her yourself. Try to win her heart. My will means little without her consent. If she agrees, then I agree.

Tonight I hold a feast at my house. Many guests will come. You are welcome. See many young women there. Look at them all. You may like one better than my daughter.

He gives a paper to the SERVANT.

CAPULET:

Go through Verona and invite the people whose names are written here.

CAPULET and PARIS exit.

SERVANT:

I must find these people. But I cannot read. How can I know these names? I must find someone who can read.

Enter ROMEO and BENVOLIO.

BENVOLIO:

One fire can put out another. One pain can lessen another. Look at new beauty, and the old love will fade.

ROMEO:

That leaf is good for your hurt leg.

BENVOLIO:

Why, Romeo, are you mad?

ROMEO:

Not mad, but tied down by love.

SERVANT:

Good day, sirs. Can you read?

ROMEO:

Yes, I can read my own bad luck.

SERVANT:

Can you read this paper?

ROMEO:

Yes, if I know the letters.

He reads.

ROMEO:

These are invited to Capulet's feast. Where will they go?

SERVANT:

To my master's house.

ROMEO:

Who is your master?

SERVANT:

The rich Capulet. If you are not a Montague, come drink wine with us.

He exits.

BENVOLIO:

At this feast will be Rosaline, the girl you love. Many beautiful women will be there. Compare her with others. You will see she is not the only beauty.

ROMEO:

If I see someone more beautiful, then my eyes have lied to me since I first saw her.

BENVOLIO:

Go and look. Then judge.

ROMEO:

I will go. Not to see others, but to see her.

They exit.

SCENE III. A Room in Capulet's House.

Enter LADY CAPULET and NURSE.

LADY CAPULET:

Nurse, where is my daughter? Call her.

NURSE:

Juliet! Where are you, child?

Enter JULIET.

JULIET:

Mother, I am here. What do you wish?

LADY CAPULET:

Nurse, leave us. No—stay. You may hear. You know my daughter's age.

NURSE:

I can tell her age exactly.

LADY CAPULET:

She is not yet fourteen.

NURSE:

She will be fourteen in two weeks. I remember the day she was weaned. It was eleven years ago. My husband joked with her when she fell. She stopped crying and said "Yes." I will never forget it.

LADY CAPULET:

Enough. Please stop.

NURSE:

She was the prettiest baby I ever nursed. If I live to see her married, I will be happy.

LADY CAPULET:

That is why I speak now. Juliet, what do you think about marriage?

JULIET:

It is an honor I do not dream about.

NURSE:

An honor? You learned wisdom from me.

LADY CAPULET:

Many girls younger than you are already mothers. I was your mother at your age.

Now, the noble Paris asks for your love.

NURSE:

He is a fine young man. A very fine man.

LADY CAPULET:

There is no finer man in Verona.

Tonight you will see him at our feast. Look at his face. See his beauty and his good nature. If you marry him, you lose nothing.

NURSE:

You will grow by marrying him.

LADY CAPULET:

Can you like him?

JULIET:

I will look at him. I will try to like him, if I can. But I will not go further than you allow.

Enter SERVANT.

SERVANT:

Madam, the guests have arrived. Supper is ready. They call for you.

LADY CAPULET:

We are coming.

SERVANT exits.

LADY CAPULET:

Juliet, Paris waits.

NURSE:

Go, girl. May happy nights follow happy days.

They exit.

[End of Part 2]

PART 3 (Act I, Scene IV–Scene V)

SCENE IV. A Street.

Enter ROMEO, MERCUTIO, BENVOLIO, and others wearing masks and carrying torches.

ROMEO:

Shall we prepare a speech to excuse ourselves? Or shall we enter without words?

BENVOLIO:

We do not need long speeches. We will enter, dance, and leave.

ROMEO:

Give me a torch. I will not dance. I feel too heavy. I will carry the light.

MERCUTIO:

No, Romeo. You must dance.

ROMEO:

You have light feet. My heart is heavy. It holds me down.

MERCUTIO:

You are in love. Use love's wings and rise above the ground.

ROMEO:

Love has hurt me. I cannot rise. I sink under its weight.

MERCUTIO:

If love is heavy, then press it back. Fight love.

ROMEO:

Love is not gentle. It is rough and sharp like a thorn.

MERCUTIO puts on his mask.

MERCUTIO:

Let them look at my face if they wish. I do not care. Come, let us go in. Once inside, every man must dance.

ROMEO:

I will stand aside and watch. I am done with joy.

MERCUTIO:

You waste time. We should not stand in the street.

ROMEO:

I fear something. My heart feels uneasy. Something will begin tonight that will lead to danger. It may end my life too soon. But fate guides me. Let us go.

BENVOLIO:

Strike the drum.

They exit.

SCENE V. A Hall in Capulet's House.

Enter SERVANTS.

FIRST SERVANT:

Where is Potpan? Help clear the tables.

SECOND SERVANT:

Hurry. We cannot be in two places at once.

They exit.

Enter CAPULET, LADY CAPULET, JULIET, TYBALT, and many guests.  
ROMEO and his friends enter among the masked guests.

CAPULET:

Welcome, gentlemen and ladies. Those without sore feet will dance.

Ah, my friends, I once wore a mask and whispered sweet words to ladies. But those days are gone. Music! Dance!

Music plays. They dance.

ROMEO stands aside.

ROMEO:

Who is that lady? She shines brighter than the torches. She looks like a jewel against the dark. Her beauty is too rich for this earth.

Did my heart ever love before this moment? No. I have never seen true beauty until tonight.

TYBALT hears ROMEO's voice.

TYBALT:

By his voice, that is a Montague. Bring me my sword. How dare he come here to mock us?

CAPULET:

Why are you angry?

TYBALT:

Uncle, this is Romeo, our enemy.

CAPULET:

Is it young Romeo? Leave him alone. He behaves like a gentleman. Verona speaks well of him. I will not have trouble in my house. Be patient.

TYBALT:

I cannot endure him.

CAPULET:

You must. I am master here. Do not shame me before my guests.

TYBALT:

I will leave. But this insult will turn bitter.

He exits.

ROMEO moves toward JULIET.

ROMEO:

If I touch your hand and offend you, forgive me. My lips stand ready to make it

right with a kiss.

JULIET:

Good pilgrim, you do wrong to your hand. Hands of pilgrims touch the hands of saints. Palm to palm is holy.

ROMEO:

Do saints not have lips?

JULIET:

Yes, lips for prayer.

ROMEO:

Then let lips do what hands do. Let them pray.

JULIET:

Saints do not move, though they answer prayers.

ROMEO:

Then do not move while I take my prayer's reward.

He kisses her.

JULIET:

Now my lips have taken your sin.

ROMEO:

Give me my sin again.

He kisses her again.

NURSE approaches.

NURSE:

Madam, your mother asks for you.

ROMEO:

Who is her mother?

NURSE:

The lady of this house. I nursed her daughter. If you can win her, you will be rich.

ROMEO:

Is she a Capulet? My life is now in my enemy's hands.

BENVOLIO:

Come, let us go.

ROMEO:

Yes, the joy is now mixed with fear.

CAPULET:

Gentlemen, do not leave yet. But if you must, good night. Bring more light. It grows late.

All exit except JULIET and NURSE.

JULIET:

Nurse, who was that gentleman?

NURSE:

The son of old Tiberio.

JULIET:

And that one leaving now?

NURSE:

I think that is young Petruchio.

JULIET:

And the one who would not dance?

NURSE:

I do not know.

JULIET:

Go ask his name. If he is married, my grave will be my wedding bed.

NURSE goes and returns.

NURSE:

His name is Romeo. He is a Montague, the only son of your great enemy.

JULIET:

My only love born from my only hate. I saw him too soon without knowing him,  
and I know him too late. I must love someone I should hate.

NURSE:

What is that?

JULIET:

A rhyme I learned just now.

Someone calls “Juliet” from inside.

NURSE:

Come. The strangers are gone.

They exit.

[End of Part 3]

PART 4 (Act II, Prologue–Scene II)

ACT II

Enter CHORUS.

CHORUS:

Old love now lies dying, and new love rises to take its place. The girl for whom Romeo once cried is no longer fair in his eyes. Now he loves Juliet, and Juliet loves him. Both are caught by the power of each other’s beauty.

But he is her enemy. He cannot easily speak his love. She loves him too, yet she has little chance to meet him. Still, strong love gives them power and time to meet. Their deep sorrow is softened by deep sweetness.

Exit.

SCENE I. An open place near Capulet’s garden.

Enter ROMEO.

ROMEO:

How can I go away when my heart stays here? My heart is inside these walls. I must return.

He climbs the wall and jumps down into the garden.

Enter BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO.

BENVOLIO:

Romeo! Cousin! Romeo!

MERCUTIO:

He is wise. He has gone home to bed.

BENVOLIO:

He ran this way and jumped this wall. Call him.

MERCUTIO:

I will call him with magic words. Romeo! Lover! Madman! Speak one word. Say "Ah me!" Speak of love and dove.

I call you by Rosaline's bright eyes and lips. Appear before us.

BENVOLIO:

If he hears you, he will be angry.

MERCUTIO:

No. I speak only to raise him, not to hurt him.

BENVOLIO:

He hides among the trees. His love is blind and loves the dark.

MERCUTIO:

If love is blind, it cannot find its mark.

He now sits under a tree and dreams of his lady. Romeo, good night. This place is too cold for me. Let us go.

BENVOLIO:

Yes, he does not want to be found.

They exit.

SCENE II. Capulet's Garden.

Enter ROMEO.

ROMEO:

He laughs at scars who never felt a wound.

JULIET appears at a window above.

ROMEO:

What light shines through that window? It is the east, and Juliet is the sun. Rise, bright sun, and kill the pale moon. Do not serve the moon, for she is jealous.

It is my lady. It is my love. If only she knew it. She speaks, but says nothing. Her eyes speak. I will answer them. No, I am too bold. She does not speak to me.

JULIET:

Ah me.

ROMEO:

She speaks again. Speak once more, bright angel.

JULIET:

O Romeo, Romeo, why are you Romeo? Refuse your father and your name. Or swear you love me, and I will no longer be a Capulet.

ROMEO aside:

Shall I listen, or speak?

JULIET:

It is only your name that is my enemy. You are yourself, not your name. What is Montague? It is not hand or foot or face.

A rose would smell as sweet by any other name. So Romeo would be as dear without that name. Leave your name, and take all of me.

ROMEO:

I take your word. Call me love, and I will never be Romeo again.

JULIET:

Who are you, hiding in the night, hearing my secret thoughts?

ROMEO:

I cannot tell you my name. It is hateful to you. If I had it written, I would tear it.

JULIET:

I have not heard many words from you, yet I know your voice. Are you not Romeo, a Montague?

ROMEO:

I am neither, if you dislike the names.

JULIET:

How did you come here? The walls are high. If my family sees you, they will kill you.

ROMEO:

With love's wings I flew over these walls. Love is stronger than stone. Your family cannot stop me.

JULIET:

If they see you, they will murder you.

ROMEO:

There is more danger in your eye than in twenty swords. If you look kindly on me, I am safe.

JULIET:

I would not have them see you for the world.

ROMEO:

I hide in night's cloak. If you love me not, let them find me. It is better to die by their hate than live without your love.

JULIET:

Who showed you this place?

ROMEO:

Love showed me. I am no sailor, but if you were as far as the farthest sea, I would cross it for you.

JULIET:

The night hides my face. Otherwise I would blush. I should deny what I said, but I will not.

Do you love me? I know you will say yes. But if you swear and lie, it would hurt me. If you think I was too quick to speak, I will say no and seem cold, so you may try harder. But truly, I love you.

ROMEO:

Lady, by the moon I swear—

JULIET:

Do not swear by the moon. It changes each month. Your love may change too.

ROMEO:

What shall I swear by?

JULIET:

Do not swear at all. Or swear by yourself, and I will believe you.

ROMEO:

If my heart's love—

JULIET:

Do not swear. I am glad you love me. But this promise is too sudden. Like lightning, it may vanish quickly. Good night. This small bud of love may grow into a flower when we meet again. Good night.

ROMEO:

Will you leave me so unsatisfied?

JULIET:

What do you wish?

ROMEO:

Your true vow for mine.

JULIET:

I gave you my vow already. Yet I wish I could give it again. My love is as deep as the sea. The more I give, the more I have.

A noise is heard inside.

JULIET:

I hear someone. Good night. I will return.

She exits.

ROMEO:

Blessed night. I fear this is a dream.

JULIET returns.

JULIET:

Three words, and good night. If your love is honorable and you wish marriage, send word tomorrow. Tell me where and when we shall marry. I will follow you anywhere.

NURSE calls inside.

JULIET:

I come! If you do not mean well, stop this love and leave me to sorrow. Tomorrow

I will send to you.

ROMEO:

So may my soul prosper—

JULIET:

A thousand times good night.

She exits.

ROMEO:

A thousand times worse without you.

JULIET appears again.

JULIET:

Romeo! What time tomorrow shall I send?

ROMEO:

At nine.

JULIET:

I will not fail. It feels like twenty years until then. I forgot why I called you back.

ROMEO:

I will stand here until you remember.

JULIET:

I may forget again, just to keep you there.

ROMEO:

I will stay and forget all else.

JULIET:

It is almost morning. I would have you gone, but not too far. Like a bird on a string, I let it go a little and pull it back.

ROMEO:

I wish I were your bird.

JULIET:

So do I. But I might love you too much and hurt you. Good night. Parting is sweet sorrow.

She exits.

ROMEO:

May sleep rest in your eyes and peace in your heart. I will go to Friar Lawrence and tell him my joy.

He exits.

[End of Part 4]

PART 5 (Act II, Scene III–Scene IV)

SCENE III. Friar Lawrence's Cell.

Enter FRIAR LAWRENCE with a basket of plants.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

The grey morning smiles as night fades away. Light touches the clouds in the east.  
Darkness moves back like a tired man.

Before the sun rises high, I must fill this basket with herbs and flowers. The earth  
is both mother and grave. From it come many plants. Each has power. Some heal.  
Some harm.

Nothing is so bad that it cannot give some good. Nothing is so good that it cannot  
become bad if misused. Even virtue can turn to vice.

Inside this small flower is both poison and medicine. Smell it, and it can cheer.  
Taste it, and it can kill.

Two forces live in man as in plants—good and bad. When the bad is stronger,  
death follows.

Enter ROMEO.

ROMEO:

Good morning, father.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Bless you. Why are you awake so early? Young men do not rise so soon unless  
troubled. You were not in bed tonight.

ROMEO:

That is true. But my rest was sweeter.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

God forgive you. Were you with Rosaline?

ROMEO:

Rosaline? I have forgotten that name and the pain it brought.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Where have you been?

ROMEO:

I was at a feast at my enemy's house. There I was wounded by love. And I wounded her with my love. We both need your help.

I bear no hate. For my prayer will help even my foe.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Speak clearly.

ROMEO:

I love the fair daughter of rich Capulet. She loves me too. Only one thing is missing—your help to join us in marriage. We met, we spoke, we exchanged vows. I ask you to marry us today.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Holy Saint Francis! What change is this? Have you left Rosaline so quickly? Young men's love lives in their eyes, not in their hearts.

Your tears for Rosaline are still fresh. And now you love another? If men change so quickly, what strength have women?

ROMEO:

You scolded me for loving Rosaline.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

For foolish love, not true love.

ROMEO:

You told me to bury that love.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Not to bury one love and take another out of the grave.

ROMEO:

Please do not scold me. This new love returns my love. The other did not.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

She knew you only repeated words you had learned before. But come. I will help you. Perhaps this marriage will turn your families' hate into love.

ROMEO:

Let us go quickly.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Go wisely and slowly. Those who run too fast may fall.

They exit.

SCENE IV. A Street.

Enter BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO.

MERCUTIO:

Where is Romeo? Did he not come home?

BENVOLIO:

No. I spoke with his servant.

MERCUTIO:

That pale Rosaline has driven him mad.

BENVOLIO:

Tybalt has sent a letter to Romeo's house.

MERCUTIO:

A challenge.

BENVOLIO:

Romeo will answer it.

MERCUTIO:

Any man can answer a letter. But can he answer Tybalt?

Enter ROMEO.

BENVOLIO:

Here he comes!

MERCUTIO:

Without his roe, like dried fish. Romeo, good day! You left us last night.

ROMEO:

Good morning. Forgive me. I had important business.

MERCUTIO:

Such business makes a man bow low.

ROMEO:

Meaning to be polite?

MERCUTIO:

Yes.

ROMEO:

You are sharp today.

MERCUTIO:

And you are sharp as well.

They joke lightly.

MERCUTIO:

Now you are yourself again. Not sighing for love.

BENVOLIO:

Stop your talk.

MERCUTIO:

I was ending it anyway.

Enter NURSE and PETER.

ROMEO:

What is this?

MERCUTIO:

Two sails—a shirt and a dress.

NURSE:

Peter!

PETER:

Yes.

NURSE:

My fan.

MERCUTIO:

Use it to hide your face.

NURSE:

Good day, gentlemen.

MERCUTIO:

Good day, fair lady.

NURSE:

Is it good day already?

MERCUTIO:

Yes. The clock hand points to noon.

NURSE:

Shame on you! What kind of man are you?

ROMEO:

One made by God to ruin himself.

NURSE:

Well said. Can you tell me where young Romeo is?

ROMEO:

He will be older when you find him than when you began to seek him. I am Romeo.

NURSE:

You say well.

MERCUTIO:

Very well.

NURSE:

If you are Romeo, I wish to speak with you.

BENVOLIO:

She invites him to supper.

MERCUTIO:

Ha! A go-between!

ROMEO:

What have you found?

MERCUTIO:

Nothing worth staying for. We go to dinner. Will you come?

ROMEO:

Yes.

MERCUTIO:

Farewell, lady.

MERCUTIO and BENVOLIO exit.

NURSE:

What rude man was that?

ROMEO:

He loves to hear himself talk.

NURSE:

If he speaks against me, I will answer him. But now, a word. My lady told me to find you. If you lead her into foolish hope, it would be shameful. She is young. If you play false, it would be cruel.

ROMEO:

Nurse, tell her my love is true. Tell her to come this afternoon to Friar Lawrence's cell. There we will be married.

Here is money for you.

NURSE:

No, sir.

ROMEO:

Take it.

NURSE:

This afternoon, she shall be there.

ROMEO:

Good. My servant will bring a rope ladder. It will help me climb to her chamber

tonight.

NURSE:

My lady will be happy.

ROMEO:

Go now. Give her my message.

NURSE:

God bless you.

They part.

[End of Part 5]

PART 6 (Act II, Scene V–Scene VI)

SCENE V. Capulet's Garden.

Enter JULIET alone.

JULIET:

The clock has struck nine. I sent the Nurse at eight. Love should move quickly. If her steps were light with joy, she would already be here.

Old people move slowly. Young love runs fast. The sun climbs the sky, and still she does not come.

Enter NURSE and PETER.

JULIET:

O God, she comes. Nurse, what news? Why do you look so tired?

NURSE:

I am tired. Let me rest. My bones ache.

JULIET:

What news? Sweet Nurse, tell me.

NURSE:

Ah, my back. My head.

JULIET:

I care not for your pain. Tell me what he said.

NURSE:

Your love says he is honest. Where is your mother?

JULIET:

She is inside. What did he say? Please, speak clearly.

NURSE:

You hurry too much. I am tired. Let me breathe.

JULIET:

If you have bad news, speak plainly. If good, do not keep me waiting.

NURSE:

I find him polite and kind. I am glad you chose him.

But listen. Are you going to Friar Lawrence's cell?

JULIET:

Yes.

NURSE:

Then go there. A husband waits for you. I will fetch a rope ladder. He will climb to your room tonight.

JULIET:

O happy day!

NURSE:

Hurry now.

They exit.

SCENE VI. Friar Lawrence's Cell.

Enter FRIAR LAWRENCE and ROMEO.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Heaven smile upon this holy act. May no sorrow follow this joy.

ROMEO:

Amen. Even if sorrow comes, this moment is worth it. I am content if I may call Juliet mine.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Love in moderation lasts long. Those who rush may fall. Strong feelings burn out quickly.

ROMEO:

My love cannot be measured.

Enter JULIET.

ROMEO:

Here comes my heart.

JULIET:

Good evening, my dear.

ROMEO:

If the joy of this meeting lives in you as it does in me, then speak of it sweetly.

JULIET:

Words are poor compared to what I feel.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Come. Let us begin. This union must be joined by prayer.

They go inside.

[End of Part 6]

PART 7 (Act III, Scene I)

ACT III

SCENE I. A public place.

Enter MERCUTIO, BENVOLIO, and others.

BENVOLIO:

I pray you, Mercutio, let us go home. The day is hot. The Capulets are out. If we meet them, we may fight. In this heat, men grow angry quickly.

MERCUTIO:

You are like a man who puts his sword on the table and says, "I hope I never need you." But when he drinks, he grows bold and angry.

You scold me for being quick to anger, yet you are quick yourself.

BENVOLIO:

I am not quick.

MERCUTIO:

You are.

Enter TYBALT with others.

BENVOLIO:

Here come the Capulets.

MERCUTIO:

Let them come. I will not move.

TYBALT:

Gentlemen, good day. I wish to speak with one of you.

MERCUTIO:

Speak with one? Add something to it. Make it a quarrel.

TYBALT:

Mercutio, you keep company with Romeo.

MERCUTIO:

And what if I do? Will you fight about it?

TYBALT:

You are no better than him.

Enter ROMEO.

BENVOLIO:

Here comes Romeo.

TYBALT:

Romeo, the hate I feel for you is enough to say you are a villain.

ROMEO:

Tybalt, I have reason to love you, though you do not know it. I am no villain.  
Goodbye.

TYBALT:

Boy, that will not excuse your insult. Draw your sword.

ROMEO:

I will not fight you. I love you more than you can understand. The name you hate  
is dear to me.

MERCUTIO:

O calm, dishonorable submission! I will fight you, Tybalt.

He draws his sword.

ROMEO:

Mercutio, stop. Put your sword away.

TYBALT:

Turn and draw.

They fight.

ROMEO:

Gentlemen, stop this foolish fight.

He steps between them.

TYBALT stabs MERCUTIO under ROMEO's arm and runs away.

MERCUTIO:

I am hurt.

BENVOLIO:

Are you wounded?

MERCUTIO:

A scratch. But it is enough. Where is my page? Run and get a surgeon.

The page exits.

ROMEO:

Be brave. It is not serious.

MERCUTIO:

No, it is not deep, but it is wide enough. Tomorrow you shall find me a grave man.

A curse on both your houses! They have made worms' meat of me.

He exits, helped by BENVOLIO.

ROMEO:

This day's peace has turned to anger.

BENVOLIO re-enters.

BENVOLIO:

Mercutio is dead. He spoke your name before he died. Tybalt lives and has fled.

ROMEO:

O sweet Juliet, your beauty has made me weak. Now my friend lies dead. My love has made me soft.

Enter TYBALT.

ROMEO:

Alive, Tybalt? Turn back, coward.

TYBALT:

You shall go with him.

They fight.

ROMEO kills TYBALT.

BENVOLIO:

Romeo, run away. The Prince will come. If you are found here, you will die.

ROMEO:

O, I am fortune's fool!

He exits.

Enter CITIZENS.

FIRST CITIZEN:

Where is he who began this fight?

BENVOLIO:

There lies Tybalt, killed by Romeo. Tybalt killed Mercutio first.

Enter PRINCE, CAPULET, LADY CAPULET, MONTAGUE, LADY MONTAGUE, and others.

PRINCE:

Where are the men who began this blood?

BENVOLIO:

Here lies Tybalt. Mercutio was killed by him. Romeo then killed Tybalt.

LADY CAPULET:

Tybalt was my kinsman. Romeo must die.

BENVOLIO:

Romeo acted for justice. Tybalt killed Mercutio first.

PRINCE:

Mercutio is my kinsman. Your hate has cost me dearly. Romeo killed Tybalt in revenge.

But since Tybalt killed first, Romeo shall not die. Instead, he is banished. If he is found in Verona, he shall die.

All exit.

[End of Part 7]

PART 8 (Act III, Scene II)

SCENE II. A Room in Capulet's House.

Enter JULIET alone.

JULIET:

Come, night. Come quickly. Bring Romeo to me. Night hides lovers from watchful eyes.

When I die, take Romeo and cut him into little stars. He will make the face of heaven so bright that all the world will fall in love with night.

Enter NURSE in great distress.

NURSE:

O woe! O sorrow!

JULIET:

What has happened? Why do you cry so loudly? Is Romeo well?

NURSE:

He is gone! He is dead! We are ruined!

JULIET:

What do you mean? Is Romeo dead?

NURSE:

Tybalt is dead. And Romeo killed him.

JULIET:

O God! Is Romeo dead too?

NURSE:

No, no. But Tybalt is dead, and Romeo is banished.

JULIET:

Banished? That word is worse than death. Tybalt is dead, and my husband is sent away.

O serpent heart hidden under a fair face! I loved him, and he has killed my cousin.

NURSE:

Will you speak ill of your husband?

JULIET:

Shall I speak well of the man who killed my cousin?

Yet I am his wife. He lives. Tybalt would have killed Romeo. Romeo did not kill

Tybalt without cause.

NURSE:

Your husband is banished.

JULIET:

Banished? That word has killed me.

O Romeo, Romeo, who would have thought you would kill my cousin? But I forgive you. My cousin tried to kill you first.

NURSE:

There is no trust in men.

JULIET:

No, do not speak against him. He is my husband.

Go find him. Bring him to me tonight. Tell him to come and say farewell.

NURSE:

I will find him. He hides at Friar Lawrence's cell.

JULIET gives her a ring.

JULIET:

Give him this ring. Tell him to come and say goodbye.

NURSE exits.

JULIET:

O God, how shall I live without him?

She exits.

[End of Part 8]

PART 9 (Act III, Scene III)

SCENE III. Friar Lawrence's Cell.

Enter FRIAR LAWRENCE.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Romeo, come out. Your fear makes you hide. But sorrow cannot be escaped by hiding.

Enter ROMEO.

ROMEO:

Father, what news? What punishment does the Prince give me?

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

He has judged you with mercy. Instead of death, you are banished from Verona.

ROMEO:

Banished? That is worse than death. Say death instead. There is no world without Verona walls. Outside is only torture and hell.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

You are lucky. The law wanted to take your life. The Prince has spared it.

ROMEO:

Exile is worse than death. Juliet lives in Verona. Every small creature may look at her, but I cannot. That is torture.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

You speak like a foolish man. You killed Tybalt. You should be thankful to be alive.

ROMEO:

Heaven is here where Juliet lives. Every cat and dog in Verona may see her, but Romeo cannot.

He throws himself on the ground.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Stand up. You shame your manhood. You act like a wild beast.

Enter NURSE.

NURSE:

O sir, sir! Romeo!

ROMEO:

What does she say? How is my wife?

NURSE:

She weeps and cries. She falls on her bed and rises again. She speaks your name and Tybalt's name.

ROMEO:

As if my name were poison.

NURSE:

She says, "Romeo banished." That word has killed her.

ROMEO:

Ha! Banishment!

He draws his dagger.

ROMEO:

I will kill myself.

NURSE:

Stop! What are you doing?

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Hold him!

They stop him.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Are you a man? You shame yourself. Juliet is alive. Tybalt, who would have killed you, is dead. The Prince has spared your life. Yet you cry and try to kill yourself.

ROMEO:

What shall I do?

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Go to Juliet tonight. Comfort her. But leave before morning. Go to Mantua. Stay there until we can tell your marriage publicly and ask the Prince for mercy.

NURSE:

Yes, go to her. She waits for you.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Take this advice. Go now. The night will hide you.

ROMEO:

Thank you, father.

They exit.

[End of Part 9]

PART 10 (Act III, Scene IV–Scene V)

SCENE IV. A Room in Capulet's House.

Enter CAPULET, LADY CAPULET, and PARIS.

CAPULET:

Things are not well after this sad event. Tybalt is dead, and we must think wisely.

Paris, you have loved my daughter for some time. I think she will obey us in this sorrow. I will move the marriage forward.

PARIS:

My lord, I wish only for her good.

CAPULET:

You shall marry her on Thursday. It will bring joy to our house.

LADY CAPULET:

I will tell her.

They exit.

SCENE V. Juliet's Chamber.

Enter ROMEO and JULIET at the window. It is early morning.

JULIET:

Will you leave so soon? It was the night bird, not the morning bird.

ROMEO:

No, it was the morning bird. The light grows. I must go.

JULIET:

Stay a little longer.

ROMEO:

If I stay, I will be caught and killed.

JULIET:

It is not yet day.

ROMEO:

Look at the light in the east. I must leave.

JULIET:

Then go. It is the morning bird that sings.

ROMEO:

Farewell. I will come back when I can.

JULIET:

O God, I have a fearful feeling. I see you as one dead in the bottom of a tomb.

ROMEO:

And I see you pale with sorrow.

They kiss.

ROMEO climbs down.

JULIET:

O think'st thou we shall ever meet again?

ROMEO:

I doubt it not. All these sorrows shall turn to sweet thoughts one day.

He exits.

JULIET:

O God, I fear it will not be so.

Enter LADY CAPULET.

LADY CAPULET:

Juliet, are you awake?

JULIET:

Yes, madam.

LADY CAPULET:

Do you still cry for your cousin?

JULIET:

I will never stop crying.

LADY CAPULET:

We shall send someone to Mantua to poison Romeo.

JULIET:

Indeed, I would see him dead. Yet no one can comfort me but Romeo.

LADY CAPULET:

Then hear some better news. Your father has arranged your marriage to Paris on Thursday.

JULIET:

I will not marry yet.

LADY CAPULET:

Tell that to your father.

Enter CAPULET.

CAPULET:

Good morning. How now? Still crying?

LADY CAPULET:

She weeps for Tybalt.

CAPULET:

Enough of that. I bring joyful news. You shall marry Paris on Thursday.

JULIET:

Father, I beg you, do not force me.

CAPULET:

How now? You refuse?

JULIET:

I cannot love him.

CAPULET:

Hang thee, young baggage! You shall marry him. Or I will disown you.

JULIET:

Please, father, hear me.

CAPULET:

Do not speak! Get to church on Thursday, or I will cast you out.

He exits in anger.

LADY CAPULET:

Do not speak to me. I have done with you.

She exits.

JULIET:

Nurse, what shall I do?

NURSE:

Romeo is gone. Perhaps it is best to marry Paris. He is a fine man. Romeo is banished.

JULIET:

You advise this?

NURSE:

Yes.

JULIET:

Then I will go to Friar Lawrence. If he cannot help me, I have the power to die.

She exits.

[End of Part 10]

PART 11 (Act IV, Scene I–Scene II)

ACT IV

SCENE I. Friar Lawrence's Cell.

Enter FRIAR LAWRENCE and PARIS.

PARIS:

Father, I am to marry Juliet on Thursday. But she is full of sorrow and will not speak of love.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

You know little of her heart. Here she comes.

Enter JULIET.

PARIS:

Happy lady, my wife to be.

JULIET:

That may be.

PARIS:

Come Thursday, we shall be joined.

JULIET:

What shall be, shall be.

PARIS:

Do you not love me?

JULIET:

I will confess to the Friar.

PARIS:

Do so. I will leave you.

He exits.

JULIET falls at the Friar's feet.

JULIET:

O father, help me! If you cannot stop this marriage, tell me how to die. I will not

marry Paris. I would rather throw myself from a tower or lie with the dead in a tomb.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

If you have courage, I have a plan. Go home and agree to marry Paris. Tomorrow night, drink this potion. It will make you seem dead for two days. You will lie cold and still. Your family will place you in the tomb.

Meanwhile, I will send word to Romeo. He will come and take you away when you wake.

JULIET:

Give me the potion. I fear nothing.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Take it. Be brave.

She exits.

SCENE II. Hall in Capulet's House.

Enter CAPULET, LADY CAPULET, and SERVANTS.

CAPULET:

We must prepare for the wedding. Invite the guests.

Enter JULIET.

JULIET:

Father, forgive me. I have changed my mind. I will marry Paris.

CAPULET:

Good child! I am glad. We will move the wedding to tomorrow.

LADY CAPULET:

So soon?

CAPULET:

Yes. Let us hurry.

They exit to prepare.

[End of Part 11]

PART 12 (Act IV, Scene III–Scene V)

SCENE III. Juliet's Chamber.

Enter JULIET and NURSE.

JULIET:

Yes, Nurse, I am ready for bed. Leave me alone tonight. I need to pray.

NURSE:

Will you not let me stay?

JULIET:

No. I must be alone.

NURSE:

God bless you.

NURSE exits.

JULIET:

Farewell. God knows when we shall meet again. My heart is cold with fear.

What if the potion does not work? Then I must marry Paris tomorrow. No, I will use this knife first.

What if it is poison? Perhaps the Friar fears shame if our marriage is known.

No, he is holy. He would not harm me.

What if I wake before Romeo comes? I will lie alone in the tomb with the dead. The air will be foul. I may go mad.

I see my cousin Tybalt's ghost seeking Romeo. Stop, Tybalt! I come, Romeo. I drink to you.

She drinks the potion and lies down on the bed.

SCENE IV. Hall in Capulet's House.

Enter LADY CAPULET and NURSE.

LADY CAPULET:

The bridegroom is coming.

NURSE:

I will wake Juliet.

Enter CAPULET.

CAPULET:

Are the musicians ready?

Enter SERVANTS.

SERVANT:

Yes, my lord.

NURSE exits toward Juliet's room.

SCENE V. Juliet's Chamber.

NURSE enters.

NURSE:

Juliet! Wake up! It is your wedding day.

She touches JULIET.

NURSE:

Why are you so cold? Lady! Lady!

Help! My lady is dead!

Enter LADY CAPULET.

LADY CAPULET:

What is the matter?

NURSE:

She is dead!

Enter CAPULET.

CAPULET:

What noise is this?

LADY CAPULET:

Our child is dead!

CAPULET:

Death has taken her before her wedding.

Enter PARIS and FRIAR LAWRENCE.

PARIS:

What has happened?

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Peace. She rests with heaven now.

CAPULET:

O cruel day!

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Prepare to lay her in the tomb.

They all mourn and exit with the body.

[End of Part 12]

PART 13 (Act V, Scene I–Scene II)

ACT V

SCENE I. Mantua. A Street.

Enter ROMEO.

ROMEO:

If I may trust the dream I had, good news is coming. I dreamed my lady found me dead and kissed me back to life. Strange dream.

Enter BALTHASAR.

ROMEO:

News from Verona! How is my father? How is Juliet?

BALTHASAR:

Then I must bring you heavy news. Juliet is dead. She lies in the family tomb.

ROMEO:

Is it true? Then I defy fate.

Bring me pen and paper. Hire horses. I will return tonight.

BALTHASAR:

Sir, your face is wild. Please, do not act in haste.

ROMEO:

Do as I say. Leave me.

BALTHASAR exits.

ROMEO:

I will go to Juliet. I will lie with her tonight.

Enter APOTHECARY.

ROMEO:

Are you an apothecary?

APOTHECARY:

Yes, sir.

ROMEO:

I need a poison that works quickly.

APOTHECARY:

The law forbids me.

ROMEO:

Here is gold.

APOTHECARY:

My poverty forces me. Here is the poison.

ROMEO:

Your poverty is worse poison than this drink.

He exits.

SCENE II. Friar Lawrence's Cell.

Enter FRIAR JOHN.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Welcome, brother. Did you give my letter to Romeo?

FRIAR JOHN:

No. I was stopped by guards and kept in a house because of fear of illness. I could not deliver it.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Then Romeo does not know Juliet lives. I must go to the tomb. She will wake soon. I will keep her hidden until Romeo comes.

He exits.

[End of Part 13]

PART 14 (Act V, Scene III)

SCENE III. A Churchyard; the Capulet Monument.

Enter PARIS with a Page.

PARIS:

Give me flowers. I will place them on Juliet's grave. Sweet flower, you were too beautiful for this world.

PAGE:

My lord, I hear someone coming.

PARIS:

Hide behind the tomb. I think it is Romeo.

Enter ROMEO and BALTHASAR with a torch and tools.

ROMEO:

Give me the tools and leave. Do not watch me. If you do, I will harm you. Here is money. Leave me.

BALTHASAR:

I will go, sir.

He exits but hides.

ROMEO:

Thou detestable tomb, I force your doors open.

PARIS steps forward.

PARIS:

Stop! You are a Montague. You have killed my love and now come to dishonor her grave. I arrest you.

ROMEO:

Do not force me to harm you. Leave.

PARIS:

I will not.

They fight. ROMEO kills PARIS.

PARIS:

Lay me beside Juliet.

He dies.

ROMEO:

I will. Forgive me, young man.

ROMEO enters the tomb.

ROMEO:

O my love, my wife. Death has not yet stolen your beauty. Your lips are still red.

I will stay with you. Here I remain forever. Eyes, look your last. Arms, take your last embrace.

Here is to my love.

He drinks the poison.

ROMEO:

O true apothecary, your poison works fast. Thus with a kiss I die.

He falls dead beside JULIET.

Enter FRIAR LAWRENCE.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Romeo!

Enter JULIET waking.

JULIET:

Where is my lord? I remember where I am. Where is Romeo?

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

Come quickly. Your husband lies dead. We must go. I hear noise.

JULIET:

Go without me. I will not leave.

FRIAR LAWRENCE exits in fear.

JULIET sees ROMEO.

JULIET:

O happy dagger, this is your sheath.

She takes ROMEO's dagger and stabs herself.

JULIET:

Thus I die.

She falls.

Enter WATCH.

WATCH:

The ground is bloody.

Enter PRINCE, CAPULET, LADY CAPULET, MONTAGUE, and others.

PRINCE:

What sorrow is this?

CAPULET:

O my daughter!

MONTAGUE:

My son is dead!

FRIAR LAWRENCE steps forward.

FRIAR LAWRENCE:

I will tell you all. Romeo and Juliet were married in secret. Romeo killed Tybalt and was banished. Juliet drank a potion to avoid marriage to Paris. I sent a letter to Romeo, but it did not reach him. He thought she was dead. He came and drank poison. She woke and killed herself.

PRINCE:

See what hate has done. Heaven has punished your anger.

MONTAGUE:

I will raise a statue of Juliet in gold.

CAPULET:

And I will raise one of Romeo.

PRINCE:

Never was there a story of more sorrow than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

They exit slowly.

[End of Part 14 — End of Play]