

Romeo and Juliet  
by William Shakespeare

Acting Edition by David Jacklin  
Prepared for BarnDoor Productions  
June 2001 Shakespeare In The Garden



Cast:

ESCALUS: prince of Verona. (PRINCE:) doubles Chorus  
PARIS: a young nobleman, kinsman to the prince.  
MONTAGUE: head of the Montague family, double Friar John  
CAPULET: head of the Capulet family  
An old man, cousin to Capulet. (Second Capulet:), double Apothecary, Officer  
ROMEO: son to Montague.  
MERCUTIO: kinsman to the prince, and friend to Romeo.  
BENVOLIO: nephew to Montague, and friend to Romeo.  
TYBALT: nephew to Lady Capulet.  
FRIAR LAURENCE:  
FRIAR JOHN:  
BALTHASAR: servant to Romeo. Doubles Abraham, 1<sup>st</sup> Servant  
ABRAHAM: servant to Montague.  
SAMPSON: servant to Capulet.  
GREGORY: servant to Capulet  
PETER: servant to Juliet's nurse.

An Apothecary. (Apothecary:)

Three Musicians. (First Musician:)  
(Second Musician:)  
(Third Musician:)

Page to Paris; (PAGE:)  
Another Page;  
An officer.

LADY MONTAGUE: wife to Montague.  
LADY CAPULET: wife to Capulet.  
JULIET: daughter to Capulet.  
Nurse to Juliet. (Nurse:)

Citizens of Verona; several Men and Women, relations to both houses; Maskers, Guards,  
Watchmen, and Attendants.

(First Citizen:)  
(Servant:)  
(First Servant:)  
(Second Servant:)  
(First Watchman:)  
(Second Watchman:)  
(Third Watchman:)

**Act 1, Scene 1**  
**Verona. A public place.**

*(Music: Prologue; enter townspeople who move about the garden engaged in their lives; much activity and business; much noise; the PRINCE, in a cloak, moves through the townspeople)*

*(Enter SAMPSON and GREGORY, of the house of Capulet, armed with swords.)*

SAMPSON: Gregory, o' my word, we'll not carry coals. *(Cowl's)*

GREGORY: No, for then we should be colliers. *(Cowl-yers)*

SAMPSON: I mean, an we be in choler, we'll draw. *(Cowl-er)*

GREGORY: Ay, while you live, draw your neck out o' the collar. *(Cow-ler)*

SAMPSON: I strike quickly, being moved.

GREGORY: But thou art not quickly moved to strike.

SAMPSON: A dog of the house of Montague moves me.

GREGORY: To move is to stir; and to be valiant is to stand: therefore, if thou art moved, thou run'st away.

SAMPSON: A dog of that house shall move me to stand: I will take the wall of any man or maid of Montague's. I will push Montague's men from the wall, and thrust his maids to the wall.

GREGORY: The quarrel is between our masters and us their men.

SAMPSON: 'Tis all one: when I have fought with the men, I will be cruel with the maids, and cut off their heads.

GREGORY: The heads of the maids?

SAMPSON: Ay, the heads of the maids, or their maidenheads; take it in what sense thou wilt.

GREGORY: They must take it in sense that feel it. Draw thy tool! here comes two of the house of the Montagues.

SAMPSON: My naked weapon is out: quarrel, I will back thee.

GREGORY: How! turn thy back and run?

SAMPSON: Fear me not.

GREGORY: No, marry; I fear thee!

SAMPSON: Let us take the law of our sides; let them begin.

GREGORY: I will frown as I pass by, and let them take it as they list.

SAMPSON: Nay, as they dare. I will bite my thumb at them; which is a disgrace to them, if they bear it.

*(Enter ABRAHAM and BALTHASAR; as they approach GREGORY AND SAMPSON, the PRINCE steps between them; all freeze while the PRINCE speaks )*

PRINCE: Two households, both alike in dignity,  
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,  
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,  
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.  
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes  
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;  
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows  
Do with their death bury their parents' strife.  
The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,  
And the continuance of their parents' rage,  
Which, but their children's end, nought could remove,  
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;  
The which if you with patient ears attend,  
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

ABRAHAM: Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?

SAMPSON: I do bite my thumb, sir.

ABRAHAM: Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?

SAMPSON: *(Aside to GREGORY)* Is the law of our side, if I say ay?

GREGORY: No.

SAMPSON: No, sir, I do not bite my thumb at you, sir, but I bite my thumb, sir.

GREGORY: Do you quarrel, sir?

ABRAHAM: Quarrel, sir! No, sir.

SAMPSON: If you do, sir, I am for you: I serve as good a man as you.

ABRAHAM: No better.

SAMPSON: Well, sir.

GREGORY: Say 'better:' Here comes one of my master's kinsmen.

SAMPSON: Yes, better, sir.

ABRAHAM: You lie.

SAMPSON: Draw, if you be men. Gregory, remember thy swashing blow.

*(They fight; Enter BENVOLIO)*

BENVOLIO: Part, fools!  
Put up your swords; you know not what you do.

*(Beats down their swords; Enter TYBALT)*

TYBALT: What, art thou drawn among these heartless hinds?  
Turn thee, Benvolio, look upon thy death.

BENVOLIO : I do but keep the peace: put up thy sword,  
Or manage it to part these men with me.

TYBALT: What, drawn, and talk of peace! I hate the word,  
As I hate hell, all Montagues, and thee:  
Have at thee, coward!

*(They fight. Enter, several of both houses, who join the fray; then enter Citizens, with clubs)*

Citizens: Clubs, bills, and partisans! strike! beat them down!  
Down with the Capulets! down with the Montagues!

*(Enter CAPULET in his gown, and LADY CAPULET)*

CAPULET: What noise is this? Give me my long sword, ho!

LADY CAPULET: A crutch, a crutch! why call you for a sword?

CAPULET : My sword, I say! Old Montague is come,  
And flourishes his blade in spite of me.

*(Enter MONTAGUE and LADY MONTAGUE)*

MONTAGUE: Thou villain Capulet, – Hold me not, let me go.

LADY MONTAGUE: Thou shalt not stir a foot to seek a foe.

*(Enter PRINCE, with Attendants)*

PRINCE: Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace,  
Profaners of this neighbour-stained steel,--  
Will they not hear? What, ho! you men, you beasts,  
On pain of torture, from those bloody hands  
Throw your mistemper'd weapons to the ground,  
And hear the sentence of your movèd prince.  
Three civil brawls, bred of an airy word,  
By thee, old Capulet, and Montague,  
Have thrice disturb'd the quiet of our streets,  
And made Verona's ancient citizens  
Cast by their grave beseeming ornaments,  
To wield old partisans, in hands as old,  
Canker'd with peace, to part your canker'd hate:  
If ever you disturb our streets again,  
Your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace.  
For this time, all the rest depart away:  
You Capulet; shall go along with me:  
And, Montague, come you this afternoon,  
To know our further pleasure in this case,  
To old Free-town, our common judgment-place.  
Once more, on pain of death, all men depart.

*(Exeunt all but MONTAGUE, LADY MONTAGUE, and  
BENVOLIO)*

MONTAGUE: Who set this ancient quarrel new abroad?  
Speak, nephew, were you by when it began?

BENVOLIO: Here were the servants of your adversary,  
And yours, close fighting ere I did approach:  
I drew to part them: in the instant came  
The fiery Tybalt, with his sword prepared,  
Which, as he breathed defiance to my ears,  
He swung about his head and cut the winds,  
Who, nothing hurt withal, hiss'd him in scorn:  
While we were interchanging thrusts and blows,  
Came more and more and fought on part and part,  
Till the prince came, who parted either part

LADY MONTAGUE: O, where is Romeo? saw you him to-day?  
Right glad I am he was not at this fray.

BENVOLIO: Madam, an hour before the worshipp'd sun  
Peer'd forth the golden window of the east,  
A troubled mind drave me to walk abroad;  
So early walking did I see your son:  
I, measuring his affections by my own,  
Pursued my humour not pursuing his,  
And gladly shunn'd who gladly fled from me.

LADY MONTAGUE: Many a morning hath he been seen,  
With tears augmenting the fresh morning dew.  
Adding to clouds more clouds with his deep sighs;  
And private in his chamber pens himself,  
Shuts up his windows, locks fair daylight out  
And makes himself an artificial night:  
Black and portentous must this humour prove,  
Unless good counsel may the cause remove.

BENVOLIO: My noble uncle, do you know the cause?

MONTAGUE: I neither know it nor can learn of him.

BENVOLIO: Have you importuned him by any means?

MONTAGUE: Both by myself and many other friends:  
But he, his own affections' counsellor,  
Is to himself – I will not say how true –  
Could we but learn from whence his sorrows grow.  
We would as willingly give cure as know.

*(Enter ROMEO)*



BENVOLIO: See, where he comes: so please you, step aside;  
I'll know his grievance, or be much denied.

LADY MONTAGUE: I would thou wert so happy by thy stay,  
To hear true shrift.

MONTAGUE: Come, madam, let's away.

*(Exeunt MONTAGUE and LADY MONTAGUE)*

BENVOLIO: Good-morrow, cousin.

ROMEO: Is the day so young?

BENVOLIO: But new struck nine.

ROMEO: Ay me! sad hours seem long.  
Was that my father that went hence so fast?

BENVOLIO: It was. What sadness lengthens Romeo's hours?

ROMEO: Not having that, which, having, makes them short.

BENVOLIO: In love?

ROMEO: Out –

BENVOLIO: Of love?

ROMEO: Out of her favour, where I am in love.

BENVOLIO: Alas, that love, so gentle in his view,  
Should be so tyrannous and rough in proof!

ROMEO: Alas, that love, whose view is muffled still,  
Should, without eyes, see pathways to his will!  
Where shall we dine? O me! What fray was here?  
Yet tell me not, for I have heard it all.  
Here's much to do with hate, but more with love.  
Why, then, O brawling love! O loving hate!  
O any thing, of nothing first create!  
O heavy lightness! serious vanity!  
Misshapen chaos of well-seeming forms!  
Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick health!

Still-waking sleep, that is not what it is!  
This love feel I, that feel no love in this.  
Dost thou not laugh?

BENVOLIO:                                 No, coz, I rather weep.

ROMEO:                                     Good heart, at what?

BENVOLIO:                                 At thy good heart's oppression.

ROMEO:                                     Why, such is love's transgression.  
Griefs of mine own lie heavy in my breast,  
Which thou wilt propagate, to have it prest  
With more of thine: this love that thou hast shown  
Doth add more grief to too much of mine own.  
Love is a smoke raised with the fume of sighs;  
Being purged, a fire sparkling in lovers' eyes;  
Being vex'd a sea nourish'd with lovers' tears:  
What is it else? a madness most discreet,  
A choking gall and a preserving sweet.  
Farewell, my coz.

BENVOLIO:                                 Soft! I will go along;  
An if you leave me so, you do me wrong.

ROMEO:                                     Tut, I have lost myself; I am not here;  
This is not Romeo, he's some other where.

BENVOLIO:                                 Tell me in sadness, who is that you love.

ROMEO:                                     What, shall I groan and tell thee?

BENVOLIO:                                 Groan! why, no.  
But sadly tell me who.

ROMEO:                                     Bid a sick man in sadness make his will:  
Ah, word ill urged to one that is so ill!  
In sadness, cousin, I do love a woman.

BENVOLIO:                                 I aim'd so near, when I supposed you loved.

ROMEO:                                     A right good mark-man! And she's fair I love.

BENVOLIO:                                 A right fair mark, fair coz, is soonest hit.

ROMEO: Well, in that hit you miss: she'll not be hit  
With Cupid's arrow; she hath Dian's wit;  
She will not stay the siege of loving terms,  
Nor bide the encounter of assailing eyes,  
Nor ope her lap to saint-seducing gold:  
O, she is rich in beauty, only poor,  
That when she dies with beauty dies her store.

BENVOLIO: Then she hath sworn that she will still live chaste?

ROMEO: She hath, and in that sparing makes huge waste.  
She hath forsworn to love, and in that vow  
Do I live dead that live to tell it now.

BENVOLIO: Be ruled by me, forget to think of her.

ROMEO: O, teach me how I should forget to think.

BENVOLIO: By giving liberty unto thine eyes;  
Examine other beauties.

ROMEO: He that is stricken blind cannot forget  
The precious treasure of his eyesight lost:  
Show me a mistress that is passing fair,  
What doth her beauty serve, but as a note  
Where I may read who pass'd that passing fair?  
Farewell: thou canst not teach me to forget.

BENVOLIO: I'll pay that doctrine, or else die in debt.

*(Exeunt)*

**Act 1, Scene 2**

A street.

*(Enter CAPULET, PARIS, and Servant)*

CAPULET: But Montague is bound as well as I,  
In penalty alike; and 'tis not hard, I think,  
For men so old as we to keep the peace.

PARIS: Of honourable reckoning are you both;  
And pity 'tis you lived at odds so long.  
But now, my lord, what say you to my suit?

CAPULET: But saying o'er what I have said before:  
My child is yet a stranger in the world;  
She hath not seen the change of fourteen years,  
Let two more summers wither in their pride,  
Ere we may think her ripe to be a bride.

PARIS: Younger than she are happy mothers made.

CAPULET: And too soon marr'd are those so early made.  
But woo her, gentle Paris, get her heart,  
My will to her consent is but a part;  
An she agree, within her scope of choice  
Lies my consent and fair according voice.  
This night I hold an old accustom'd feast,  
Whereto I have invited many a guest,  
Such as I love; and you, among the store,  
One more, most welcome, makes my number more.  
At my poor house look to behold this night  
Fresh female buds that make dark heaven light:  
Hear all, all see,  
And like her most whose merit most shall be.  
Come, go with me.

*(To Servant, giving a paper)*

Go, sirrah, trudge about  
Through fair Verona; find those persons out  
Whose names are written there, and to them say,  
My house and welcome on their pleasure stay.

*(Exeunt CAPULET and PARIS)*

Servant: Find them out whose names are written here! It is written, that the shoemaker should meddle with his yard, and the tailor with his last, the fisher with his pencil, and the painter with his nets; but I am sent to find those persons whose names are here writ, and can never find what names the writing person hath here writ. I must to the learned. – In good time.

*(Enter BENVOLIO and ROMEO)*

BENVOLIO: Tut, man, one fire burns out another's burning,  
One pain is lessen'd by another's anguish;  
Take thou some new infection to thy eye,  
And the rank poison of the old will die.

ROMEO: Your plaintain-leaf is excellent for that.

BENVOLIO: For what, I pray thee?

ROMEO: For your broken shin.

BENVOLIO: Why, Romeo, art thou mad?

ROMEO: Not mad, but bound more than a mad-man is;  
Shut up in prison, kept without my food,  
Whipp'd and tormented and – God-den, good fellow.

Servant: God-den. I pray, sir, can you read?

ROMEO: Ay, mine own fortune in my misery.

Servant: Perhaps you have learned it without book: but, I pray, can you read any thing you see?

ROMEO: Ay, if I know the letters and the language.

Servant: Ye say honestly: rest you merry!

ROMEO: Stay, fellow; I can read.

*(Reads)*

'Signior Martino and his wife and daughters; County Anselme and his beauteous sisters; the lady widow of Vitravio; Signior Placentio and his lovely nieces; Mercutio and his brother Valentine; mine uncle Capulet, his wife and daughters; my fair niece Rosaline; Livia; Signior Valentio and his

cousin Tybalt, Lucio and the lively Helena.' A fair assembly: whither should they come?

Servant: Up.

ROMEO: Whither?

Servant: To supper; to our house.

ROMEO: Whose house?

Servant: My master's.

ROMEO: Indeed, I should have ask'd you that before.

Servant: Now I'll tell you without asking: my master is the great rich Capulet; and if you be not of the house of Montagues, I pray, come and crush a cup of wine. Rest you merry!

*(Exit)*

BENVOLIO: At this same ancient feast of Capulet's  
Sups the fair Rosaline whom thou so lovest,  
With all the admired beauties of Verona:  
Go thither; and, with unattainted eye,  
Compare her face with some that I shall show,  
And I will make thee think thy swan a crow.

ROMEO: Transparent heretic, be burnt for liar!  
One fairer than my love! the all-seeing sun  
Ne'er saw her match since first the world begun.

BENVOLIO: Let there be weigh'd  
Your lady's love against some other maid  
That I will show you shining at this feast,  
And she shall scant show well that now shows best.

ROMEO: I'll go along, no such sight to be shown,  
But to rejoice in splendor of mine own.

*(Exeunt)*

**Act 1, Scene 3**

A room in Capulet's house.

*(Enter LADY CAPULET and Nurse)*

LADY CAPULET: Nurse, where's my daughter? call her forth to me.

Nurse: Now, by my maidenhead, at twelve year old,  
I bade her come. What, lamb! what, ladybird!  
God forbid! Where's this girl? What, Juliet!

*(Enter JULIET)*

JULIET: How now! who calls?

Nurse: Your mother.

JULIET: Madam, I am here.  
What is your will?

LADY CAPULET: This is the matter: – Nurse, give leave awhile,  
We must talk in secret: – nurse, come back again;  
I have remember'd me, thou's hear our counsel.  
Thou know'st my daughter's of a pretty age.

Nurse: Faith, I can tell her age unto an hour.

LADY CAPULET: She's not fourteen.

Nurse: I'll lay fourteen of my teeth,--  
And yet, to my teeth be it spoken, I have but four--  
She is not fourteen. How long is it now  
To Lammas-tide?

LADY CAPULET: A fortnight and odd days.

Nurse: Even or odd, of all days in the year,  
Come Lammas-eve at night shall she be fourteen.  
Susan and she--God rest all Christian souls!--  
Were of an age: well, Susan is with God;  
She was too good for me: but, as I said,  
On Lammas-eve at night shall she be fourteen;  
That shall she, marry; I remember it well.  
'Tis since the earthquake now eleven years;

And she was wean'd,--I never shall forget it,--  
Of all the days of the year, upon that day:  
Sitting in the sun under the dove-house wall;  
My lord and you were then at Mantua:--  
Nay, I do bear a brain:--but, as I said,  
Shake quoth the dove-house: 'twas no need, I trow,  
To bid me trudge: it is eleven years;  
For then she could stand alone; nay, by the rood,  
She could have run and waddled all about;  
For even the day before, she broke her brow:  
And then my husband--God be with his soul!  
A' was a merry man--took up the child:  
'Yea,' quoth he, 'dost thou fall upon thy face?  
Thou wilt fall backward when thou hast more wit;  
Wilt thou not, Jule?' and, by my holidame,  
The pretty wretch left crying and said 'Ay.'  
To see, now, how a jest shall come about!  
I warrant, an I should live a thousand years,  
I never should forget it: 'Wilt thou not, Jule?' quoth he;  
And, pretty fool, it stinted and said 'Ay.'

LADY CAPULET: Enough of this; I pray thee, hold thy peace.

Nurse: Yes, madam: yet I cannot choose but laugh,  
A parlous knock; and it cried bitterly:  
'Yea,' quoth my husband, 'fall'st upon thy face?  
Thou wilt fall backward when thou comest to age;  
Wilt thou not, Jule?' it stinted and said 'Ay.'

JULIET: And stint thou too, I pray thee, nurse, say I.

Nurse: Peace, I have done. God mark thee to his grace!  
Thou wast the prettiest babe that e'er I nursed:  
An I might live to see thee married once,  
I have my wish.

LADY CAPULET: Marry, that 'marry' is the very theme  
I came to talk of. Tell me, daughter Juliet,  
How stands your disposition to be married?

JULIET: It is an honour that I dream not of.

Nurse: An honour! were not I thine only nurse,  
I would say thou hadst suck'd wisdom from thy teat.



LADY CAPULET: Well, think of marriage now: by my count,  
I was your mother much upon these years  
That you are now a maid. Thus then in brief:  
The valiant Paris seeks you for his love.

Nurse: A man, young lady! lady, such a man  
As all the world--why, he's a man of wax.

LADY CAPULET: Verona's summer hath not such a flower.

Nurse: Nay, he's a flower; in faith, a very flower.

LADY CAPULET: What say you? can you love the gentleman?  
This night you shall behold him at our feast;  
Read o'er the volume of young Paris' face,  
And find delight writ there with beauty's pen;  
Examine every married lineament,  
And what obscured in this fair volume lies  
Find written in the margent of his eyes.  
This precious book of love, this unbound lover,  
To beautify him, only lacks a cover:  
That book in many's eyes doth share the glory,  
That in gold clasps locks in the golden story;  
So shall you share all that he doth possess,  
By having him, making yourself no less.

Nurse: No less! nay, bigger; women grow by men.

LADY CAPULET: Speak briefly, can you like of Paris' love?

JULIET: I'll look to like, if looking liking move:  
But no more deep will I endart mine eye  
Than your consent gives strength to make it fly.

*(Enter a Servant)*

Servant: Madam, the guests are come, supper served up, you called, my young lady  
asked for, the nurse cursed in the pantry, and every thing in extremity. I must  
hence to wait; I beseech you, follow straight.

LADY CAPULET: We follow thee.

*(Exit Servant)*

Juliet, the county stays.

Nurse: Go, girl, seek happy nights to happy days.

*(Exeunt)*

**Act 1, Scene 4**

A street.

(Enter ROMEO, MERCUTIO, BENVOLIO, with five or six Maskers, Torch-bearers, and others)

ROMEO: What, shall we on without apology?

BENVOLIO: We'll have no Cupid hoodwink'd with a scarf,  
For our entrance:  
But let them measure us by what they will;  
We'll measure them a measure, and be gone.

ROMEO: Give me a torch: I am not for this ambling;  
Being but heavy, I will bear the light.

MERCUTIO: Nay, gentle Romeo, we must have you dance.

ROMEO: Not I, believe me: you have dancing shoes  
With nimble soles: I have a soul of lead.

MERCUTIO: You are a lover; borrow Cupid's wings,  
And soar with them above a common bound.

ROMEO: I cannot bound a pitch above dull woe:  
Under love's heavy burden do I sink.

MERCUTIO: If love be rough with you, be rough with love;  
Prick love for pricking, and you beat love down.  
Give me a case to put my visage in:  
A visor for a visor!

BENVOLIO: Come, knock and enter; and no sooner in,  
But every man betake him to his legs.

ROMEO: A torch for me: let wantons light of heart  
Tickle the senseless rushes with their heels.  
I'll be a candle-holder, and look on.  
The game was ne'er so fair, and I am done.

MERCUTIO: If thou art dun, we'll draw thee from the mire  
Of this sir-reverence love, wherein thou stick'st  
Up to the ears. Come, we burn daylight, ho!

ROMEO: Nay, that's not so.

MERCUTIO: I mean, sir, in delay  
We waste our lights in vain, like lamps by day.  
Take our good meaning, for our judgment sits  
Five times in that ere once in our five wits.

ROMEO: And we mean well in going to this mask;  
But 'tis no wit to go.

MERCUTIO: Why, may one ask?

ROMEO: I dream'd a dream to-night.

MERCUTIO: And so did I.

ROMEO: Well, what was yours?

MERCUTIO: That dreamers often lie.

ROMEO: In bed asleep, while they do dream things true.

MERCUTIO: O, then, I see Queen Mab hath been with you.  
She is the fairies' midwife, and she comes  
In shape no bigger than an agate-stone  
On the fore-finger of an alderman,  
Drawn with a team of little atomies  
Athwart men's noses as they lie asleep;  
Her wagon-spokes made of long spiders' legs,  
The cover of the wings of grasshoppers,  
The traces of the smallest spider's web,  
The collars of the moonshine's watery beams,  
Her whip of cricket's bone, the lash of film,  
Her wagoner a small grey-coated gnat,  
Not so big as a round little worm  
Prick'd from the lazy finger of a maid;  
Her chariot is an empty hazel-nut  
Made by the joiner squirrel or old grub,  
Time out o' mind the fairies' coachmakers.  
And in this state she gallops night by night  
Through lovers' brains, and then they dream of love;  
O'er courtiers' knees, that dream on court'sies straight,  
O'er lawyers' fingers, who straight dream on fees,  
O'er ladies' lips, who straight on kisses dream:

Sometime she driveth o'er a soldier's neck,  
And then dreams he of cutting foreign throats,  
Of breaches, ambuscadoes, Spanish blades,  
Of healths five-fathom deep; and then anon  
Drums in his ear, at which he starts and wakes,  
And being thus frightened swears a prayer or two  
And sleeps again. This is that very Mab  
That plats the manes of horses in the night,  
And bakes the elflocks in foul sluttish hairs,  
Which once untangled, much misfortune bodes:  
This is the hag, when maids lie on their backs,  
That presses them and learns them first to bear,  
Making them women of good carriage:  
This is she –

ROMEO:   Peace, peace, Mercutio, peace!  
Thou talk'st of nothing.

MERCUTIO:                                        True, I talk of dreams,  
Which are the children of an idle brain,  
Begot of nothing but vain fantasy,  
Which is as thin of substance as the air  
And more inconstant than the wind.

BENVOLIO:                                       This wind, you talk of, blows us from ourselves;  
Supper is done, and we shall come too late.

ROMEO:   I fear, too early: for my mind misgives  
Some consequence yet hanging in the stars.  
But He, that hath the steerage of my course,  
Direct my sail! On, lusty gentlemen.

BENVOLIO:                                       Strike, drum.

*(Exeunt)*

**Act 1, Scene 5**

A hall in Capulet's house.

*(Enter CAPULET, with JULIET and others of his house, meeting the Guests and Maskers)*

CAPULET: Welcome, gentlemen! ladies that have their toes  
Unplagued with corns will have a bout with you.  
Ah ha, my mistresses! which of you all  
Will now deny to dance? she that makes dainty,  
She, I'll swear, hath corns; am I come near ye now?  
Welcome, gentlemen! I have seen the day  
That I have worn a visor and could tell  
A whispering tale in a fair lady's ear,  
Such as would please: 'tis gone, 'tis gone, 'tis gone:  
You are welcome, gentlemen! come, musicians, play.  
A hall, a hall! give room! and foot it, girls.

*(Music plays, and they dance)*

More light, you knaves; and turn the tables up,  
And quench the fire, the room is grown too hot.  
Ah, sirrah, this unlook'd-for sport comes well.  
Nay, sit, nay, sit, good cousin Capulet;  
For you and I are past our dancing days:  
How long is't now since last yourself and I  
Were in a mask?

Second Capulet: By'r lady, thirty years.

CAPULET: What, man! 'tis not so much, 'tis not so much:  
'Tis since the nuptials of Lucentio,  
Come pentecost as quickly as it will,  
Some five and twenty years; and then we mask'd.

Second Capulet: 'Tis more, 'tis more, his son is elder, sir;  
His son is thirty.

CAPULET: Will you tell me that?  
His son was but a ward two years ago.

ROMEO: *(To a Servingman)* What lady is that, which doth enrich the hand  
Of yonder knight?

Servant: I know not, sir.

ROMEO: O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!  
It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night  
Like a rich jewel in an Ethiope's ear;  
Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear!  
The measure done, I'll watch her place of stand,  
And, touching hers, make blessed my rude hand.  
Did my heart love till now? forswear it, sight!  
For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.

TYBALT: This, by his voice, should be a Montague.  
Fetch me my rapier, boy. What dares the slave  
Come hither, cover'd with an antic face,  
To fleer and scorn at our solemnity?

CAPULET: Why, how now, kinsman! wherefore storm you so?

TYBALT: Uncle, this is a Montague, our foe,  
A villain that is hither come in spite,  
To scorn at our solemnity this night.

CAPULET: Young Romeo is it?

TYBALT: 'Tis he, that villain Romeo.

CAPULET: Content thee, gentle coz, let him alone;  
He bears him like a portly gentleman;  
And, to say truth, Verona brags of him  
To be a virtuous and well-govern'd youth:  
Therefore be patient, take no note of himt.

TYBALT: I'll not endure him.

CAPULET: He shall be endured:  
Am I the master here, or you? go to.  
You'll make a mutiny among my guests!  
You will set cock-a-hoop! you'll be the man!

TYBALT: Why, uncle, 'tis a shame.

CAPULET: Go to, go to;  
You are a saucy boy: is't so, indeed?  
You must contrary me! marry, 'tis time.

Well said, my hearts! You are a princox; go:  
Be quiet, or--More light, more light! For shame!  
I'll make you quiet. What, cheerly, my hearts!

TYBALT: I will withdraw: but this intrusion shall  
Now seeming sweet convert to bitter gall.

*(Exit)*

ROMEO: (To JULIET) If I profane with my unworhiest hand  
This holy shrine, the gentle fine is this:  
My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand  
To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss.

JULIET: Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much,  
Which mannerly devotion shows in this;  
For saints have hands that pilgrims' hands do touch,  
And palm to palm is holy palmers' kiss.

ROMEO: Have not saints lips, and holy palmers too?

JULIET: Ay, pilgrim, lips that they must use in prayer.

ROMEO: O, then, dear saint, let lips do what hands do;  
They pray, grant thou, lest faith turn to despair.

JULIET: Saints do not move, though grant for prayers' sake.

ROMEO: Then move not, while my prayer's effect I take.  
Thus from my lips, by yours, my sin is purged.

JULIET: Then have my lips the sin that they have took.

ROMEO: Sin from thy lips? O trespass sweetly urged!  
Give me my sin again.

JULIET: You kiss by the book.

Nurse: Madam, your mother craves a word with you.

ROMEO: What is her mother?

Nurse: Marry, bachelor,  
Her mother is the lady of the house,



And a good lady, and a wise and virtuous  
I nursed her daughter, that you talk'd withal;  
I tell you, he that can lay hold of her  
Shall have the chinks.

ROMEO: Is she a Capulet?  
O dear account! my life is my foe's debt.

BENVOLIO: Away, begone; the sport is at the best.

ROMEO: Ay, so I fear; the more is my unrest.

CAPULET: Nay, gentlemen, prepare not to be gone;  
We have a trifling foolish banquet towards.  
Is it e'en so? why, then, I thank you all  
I thank you, honest gentlemen; good night.  
More torches here! Come on then, let's to bed.  
Ah, sirrah, by my fay, it waxes late:  
I'll to my rest.

*(Exeunt all but JULIET and Nurse)*

JULIET: Come hither, nurse. What is yond gentleman?

Nurse: The son and heir of old Tiberio.

JULIET: What's he that now is going out of door?

Nurse: Marry, that, I think, be young Petrucio.

JULIET: What's he that follows there, that would not dance?

Nurse: I know not.

JULIET: 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;  
The only son of your great enemy.

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

Nurse: What's this? what's this?

JULIET:           A rhyme I learn'd even now  
                      Of one I danced withal.

*(One calls within 'Juliet.')*

Nurse:            Anon, anon!  
                      Come, let's away; the strangers all are gone.

*(Exeunt)*

**Act 2, Scene 1**

A lane by the wall of Capulet's orchard.

*(Enter ROMEO)*

ROMEO: Can I go forward when my heart is here?  
Turn back, dull earth, and find thy centre out.

*(He climbs the wall, and leaps down within it; Enter BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO)*

BENVOLIO: Romeo! my cousin Romeo!

MERCUTIO: He is wise;  
And, on my lie, hath stol'n him home to bed.

BENVOLIO: He ran this way, and leap'd this orchard wall:  
Call, good Mercutio.

MERCUTIO: Nay, I'll conjure too.  
Romeo! humours! madman! passion! lover!  
Appear thou in the likeness of a sigh:  
Speak but one rhyme, and I am satisfied;  
Cry but 'Ay me!' pronounce but 'love' and 'dove';  
Speak to my gossip Venus one fair word,  
One nick-name for her purblind son and heir,  
Young Adam Cupid, he that shot so trim.  
He heareth not, he stirreth not, he moveth not;  
The ape is dead, and I must conjure him.  
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,  
That in thy likeness thou appear to us!

BENVOLIO: And if he hear thee, thou wilt anger him.

MERCUTIO: This cannot anger him: in his mistress' name  
I conjure only but to raise up him.

BENVOLIO: Come, he hath hid himself among these trees:  
Blind is his love and best befits the dark.

MERCUTIO: If love be blind, love cannot hit the mark.

Romeo, that she were, O, that she were  
An open et caetera, thou a poperin pear!  
Romeo, good night: I'll to my truckle-bed;  
This field-bed is too cold for me to sleep:  
Come, shall we go?

BENVOLIO: Go, then; for 'tis in vain  
To seek him here that means not to be found.

*(Exeunt)*

**Act 2, Scene 2**

Capulet's orchard.

*(Enter ROMEO)*

ROMEO: He jests at scars that never felt a wound.

*(JULIET appears above at a window)*

But, soft! what light through yonder window breaks?  
It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.  
Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,  
Who is already sick and pale with grief,  
That thou her maid art far more fair than she:  
Be not her maid, since she is envious;  
Her vestal livery is but sick and green  
And none but fools do wear it; cast it off.  
It is my lady, O, it is my love!  
O, that she knew she were!  
She speaks yet she says nothing: what of that?  
Her eye discourses; I will answer it.  
I am too bold, 'tis not to me she speaks:  
Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven,  
Having some business, do entreat her eyes  
To twinkle in their spheres till they return.  
What if her eyes were there, they in her head?  
The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars,  
As daylight doth a lamp; her eyes in heaven  
Would through the airy region stream so bright  
That birds would sing and think it were not night.  
See, how she leans her cheek upon her hand!  
O, that I were a glove upon that hand,  
That I might touch that cheek!

JULIET: Ay me!

ROMEO: She speaks:  
O, speak again, bright angel! for thou art  
As glorious to this night, being o'er my head  
As is a wingéd messenger of heaven  
When he bestrides the lazy-pacing clouds  
And sails upon the bosom of the air.

JULIET: O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?

Deny thy father and refuse thy name;  
Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,  
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

ROMEO: *(Aside)* Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this?

JULIET: 'Tis but thy name that is my enemy;  
Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.  
What's Montague? it is nor hand, nor foot,  
Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part  
Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!  
What's in a name? that which we call a rose  
By any other name would smell as sweet;  
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd,  
Retain that dear perfection which he owes  
Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name,  
And for that name which is no part of thee  
Take all myself.

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

JULIET: What man art thou that thus bescreen'd in night  
So stumblest on my counsel?

ROMEO: By a name  
I know not how to tell thee who I am:  
My name, dear saint, is hateful to myself,  
Because it is an enemy to thee;  
Had I it written, I would tear the word.

JULIET: My ears have not yet drunk a hundred words  
Of that tongue's utterance, yet I know the sound:  
Art thou not Romeo and a Montague?

ROMEO: Neither, fair saint, if either thee dislike.

JULIET: How camest thou hither, tell me, and wherefore?  
The orchard walls are high and hard to climb,  
And the place death, considering who thou art,  
If any of my kinsmen find thee here.

ROMEO: With love's light wings did I o'er-perch these walls;

For stony limits cannot hold love out,  
And what love can do that dares love attempt;  
Therefore thy kinsmen are no let to me.

JULIET: If they do see thee, they will murder thee.

ROMEO: Alack, there lies more peril in thine eye  
Than twenty of their swords: look thou but sweet,  
And I am proof against their enmity.

JULIET: I would not for the world they saw thee here.

ROMEO: I have night's cloak to hide me from their sight;  
And but thou love me, let them find me here:  
My life were better ended by their hate,  
Than death prorogued, wanting of thy love.

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

ROMEO: By love, who first did prompt me to inquire;  
I am no pilot; yet, wert thou as far  
As that vast shore wash'd with the farthest sea,  
I would adventure for such merchandise.

JULIET: Thou know'st the mask of night is on my face,  
Else would a maiden blush bepaint my cheek  
For that which thou hast heard me speak to-night.  
Fain would I dwell on form, fain, fain deny  
What I have spoke: but farewell compliment!  
Dost thou love me? I know thou wilt say 'Ay,'  
And I will take thy word: yet if thou swear'st,  
Thou mayst prove false. O gentle Romeo,  
If thou dost love, pronounce it faithfully.  
In truth, fair Montague, I am too fond,  
And therefore thou mayst think my 'havior light:  
But trust me, gentleman, I'll prove more true  
Than those that have more cunning to be strange.  
I should have been more strange, I must confess,  
But that thou overheard'st, ere I was ware,  
My true love's passion: therefore pardon me,  
And not impute this yielding to light love,  
Which the dark night hath so discovered.

ROMEO: Lady, by yonder blessed moon I swear –

JULIET: O, swear not by the moon, the inconstant moon,  
That monthly changes in her circled orb,  
Lest that thy love prove likewise variable.

ROMEO: What shall I swear by?

JULIET: Do not swear at all;  
Or, if thou wilt, swear by thy gracious self,  
Which is the god of my idolatry,  
And I'll believe thee.

ROMEO: If my heart's dear love –

JULIET: Well, do not swear: although I joy in thee,  
I have no joy of this contract to-night:  
It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden;  
Too like the lightning, which doth cease to be  
Ere one can say 'It lightens.' Sweet, good night!  
This bud of love, by summer's ripening breath,  
May prove a beauteous flower when next we meet.  
Good night, good night! as sweet repose and rest  
Come to thy heart as that within my breast!

ROMEO: O, wilt thou leave me so unsatisfied?

JULIET: What satisfaction canst thou have to-night?

ROMEO: The exchange of thy love's faithful vow for mine.

JULIET: I gave thee mine before thou didst request it:  
And yet I would it were to give again.

ROMEO: Wouldst thou withdraw it?

JULIET : But to give it thee again.  
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 calls within)*

I hear some noise within; dear love, adieu!



Anon, good nurse! Sweet Montague, be true.  
Stay but a little, I will come again.

*(Exit, above)*

ROMEO: O blessed, blessed night! I am afeard.  
Being in night, all this is but a dream,  
Too flattering-sweet to be substantial.

*(Re-enter JULIET, above)*

JULIET: Three words, dear Romeo, and good night indeed.  
If that thy bent of love be honourable,  
Thy purpose marriage, send me word to-morrow,  
By one that I'll procure to come to thee,  
Where and what time thou wilt perform the rite;  
And all my fortunes at thy foot I'll lay  
And follow thee my lord throughout the world.

Nurse: *(Within)* Madam!

JULIET: I come, anon. – But if thou mean'st not well,  
I do beseech thee –

Nurse: *(Within)* Madam!

JULIET: By and by, I come: –  
To cease thy suit, and leave me to my grief:  
To-morrow will I send.

ROMEO: So thrive my soul –

JULIET: A thousand times good night!

*(Exit, above)*

ROMEO: A thousand times the worse, to want thy light.  
Love goes toward love, as schoolboys from their books,  
But love from love, toward school with heavy looks.

*(Retiring; Re-enter JULIET, above)*

JULIET: Hist! Romeo, hist! O, for a falconer's voice,  
To lure this tassel-gentle back again!

ROMEO: It is my soul that calls upon my name,  
Like softest music to attending ears!

JULIET: Romeo!

ROMEO: My dear?

JULIET: At what o'clock to-morrow  
Shall I send to thee?

ROMEO: At the hour of nine.

JULIET: I will not fail: 'tis twenty years till then.  
I have forgot why I did call thee back.

ROMEO: Let me stand here till thou remember it.

JULIET: I shall forget, to have thee still stand there,  
Remembering how I love thy company.

ROMEO: And I'll still stay, to have thee still forget,  
Forgetting any other home but this.

JULIET: 'Tis almost morning; I would have thee gone:  
And yet no further than a wanton's bird;  
Who lets it hop a little from her hand,  
And with a silk thread plucks it back again.

ROMEO: I would I were thy bird.

JULIET: Sweet, so would I:  
Yet I should kill thee with much cherishing.  
Good night, good night! parting is such sweet sorrow,  
That I shall say good night till it be morrow.

*(Exit above)*

ROMEO: Sleep dwell upon thine eyes, peace in thy breast!  
Would I were sleep and peace, so sweet to rest!  
Hence will I to my ghostly father's cell,  
His help to crave, and my dear hap to tell.

*(Exit)*



I have forgot that name, and that name's woe.

FRIAR LAURENCE:           That's my good son: but where hast thou been, then?

ROMEO:                    I'll tell thee, ere thou ask it me again.  
I have been feasting with mine enemy,  
Where on a sudden one hath wounded me,  
That's by me wounded: both our remedies  
Within thy help and holy physic lies.

FRIAR LAURENCE:           Be plain, good son, and homely in thy drift;  
Riddling confession finds but riddling shrift.

ROMEO:                    Then plainly know my heart's dear love is set  
On the fair daughter of rich Capulet:  
As mine on hers, so hers is set on mine;  
And all combined, save what thou must combine  
By holy marriage: but this I pray,  
That thou consent to marry us to-day.

FRIAR LAURENCE:           Holy Saint Francis, what a change is here!  
Is Rosaline, whom thou didst love so dear,  
So soon forsaken? Young men's love then lies  
Not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes.  
Jesu Maria, what a deal of brine  
Hath wash'd thy sallow cheeks for Rosaline!  
Lo, here upon thy cheek the stain doth sit  
Of an old tear that is not wash'd off yet.  
And art thou changed? pronounce this sentence then,  
Women may fall, when there's no strength in men.

ROMEO:                    Thou chid'st me oft for loving Rosaline.

FRIAR LAURENCE:           For doting, not for loving, pupil mine.

ROMEO:                    I pray thee, chide not; she whom I love now  
Doth grace for grace and love for love allow;  
The other did not so.

FRIAR LAURENCE:           O, she knew well  
Thy love did read by rote and could not spell.  
But come, young waverer, come, go with me,  
In one respect I'll thy assistant be;  
For this alliance may so happy prove,

To turn your households' rancour to pure love.

ROMEO: O, let us hence; I stand on sudden haste.

FRIAR LAURENCE: Wisely and slow; they stumble that run fast.

*(Exeunt)*

**Act 2, Scene 4**

A street.

*(Enter BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO)*

MERCUTIO: Where the devil should this Romeo be?  
Came he not home to-night?

BENVOLIO: Not to his father's; I spoke with his man.

MERCUTIO: Ah, that same pale hard-hearted wench, that Rosaline.  
Torments him so, that he will sure run mad.

BENVOLIO: Tybalt, the kinsman of old Capulet,  
Hath sent a letter to his father's house.

MERCUTIO: A challenge, on my life.

BENVOLIO: Romeo will answer it.

MERCUTIO: Any man that can write may answer a letter.

BENVOLIO: Nay, he will answer the letter's master, how he dares, being dared.

MERCUTIO: Alas poor Romeo! he is already dead; stabbed with a white wench's black  
eye; shot through the ear with a love-song; the very pin of his heart cleft  
with the blind bow-boy's butt-shaft: and is he a man to encounter Tybalt?

BENVOLIO: Why, what is Tybalt?

MERCUTIO: More than prince of cats, I can tell you. O, he fights as you sing  
prick-song, keeps time, distance, and proportion; rests me his minim rest,  
one, two, and the third in your bosom: the very butcher of a silk button, a  
duellist, a duellist; ah, the immortal passado! the punto reverso! the hai!

BENVOLIO: The what?

*(Enter ROMEO)*

Here comes Romeo, here comes Romeo.

MERCUTIO: Without his roe, like a dried herring: flesh, flesh, how art thou fishified!  
Signior Romeo, bon jour! there's a French salutation to your French slop.  
You gave us the counterfeit fairly last night.

ROMEO: Good morrow to you both. What counterfeit did I give you?

MERCUTIO: The slip, sir, the slip; can you not conceive?

ROMEO: Pardon, good Mercutio, my business was great; and in such a case as mine a man may strain courtesy.

MERCUTIO: That's as much as to say, such a case as yours constrains a man to bow in the hams.

ROMEO: Meaning, to court'sy.

MERCUTIO: Thou hast most kindly hit it.

ROMEO: A most courteous exposition.

MERCUTIO: Nay, I am the very pink of courtesy.

ROMEO: Pink for flower.

MERCUTIO: Right.

ROMEO: Why, then is my pump well flowered.

MERCUTIO: Well said: follow me this jest now that when the single sole of it is worn, the jest may remain.

ROMEO: O single-soled jest, solely singular for the singleness.

MERCUTIO: Come between us, good Benvolio; my wits faint.

ROMEO: Switch and spurs; or I'll cry a match.

MERCUTIO: Nay, if thy wits run the wild-goose chase, I have done, for thou hast more of the wild-goose in one of thy wits than, I am sure, I have in my whole five: was I with you there for the goose?

ROMEO: Thou wast never with me for any thing when thou wast not there for the goose.

MERCUTIO: I will bite thee by the ear for that jest.

ROMEO: Nay, good goose, bite not.

MERCUTIO: O here's a wit of cheveril, that stretches from an inch narrow to an ell broad! Why, is not this better now than groaning for love? now art thou sociable, now art thou Romeo; now art thou what thou art, by art as well as by nature: for this drivelling love is like a great natural, that runs lolling up and down to hide his bauble in a hole.

BENVOLIO: Stop there, stop there.

MERCUTIO: Thou desirest me to stop in my tale against the hair.

BENVOLIO: Thou wouldst else have made thy tale large.

MERCUTIO: O, thou art deceived; I would have made it short: for I was come to the whole depth of my tale; and meant, indeed, to occupy the argument no longer.

ROMEO: Here's goodly gear!

*(Enter Nurse and PETER)*

MERCUTIO: A sail, a sail!

BENVOLIO: Two, two; a shirt and a smock.

Nurse: Peter!

PETER: Anon!

Nurse: My fan, Peter.

MERCUTIO: Good Peter, to hide her face; for her fan's the fairer face.

Nurse: God ye good morrow, gentlemen.

MERCUTIO: God ye good den, fair gentlewoman.

Nurse: Is it good den?

MERCUTIO: 'Tis no less, I tell you, for the bawdy hand of the dial is now upon the prick of noon.

Nurse: Out upon you! what a man are you! Gentlemen, can any of you tell me where I may find the young Romeo?

ROMEO: I can tell you; but young Romeo will be older when you have found him



than he was when you sought him.

Nurse: If you be he, sir, I desire some confidence with you.

BENVOLIO: She will indite him to some supper.

MERCUTIO: A bawd, a bawd, a bawd! so ho!

ROMEO: What hast thou found?

MERCUTIO: No hare, sir; unless a hare, sir, in a lenten pie, that is something stale and hoar ere it be spent. Romeo, will you come to your father's? we'll to dinner, thither.

ROMEO: I will follow you.

MERCUTIO: Farewell, ancient lady; farewell, *(Singing)* 'lady, lady, lady.'

*(Exeunt MERCUTIO and BENVOLIO)*

Nurse: Marry, farewell! I pray you, sir, what saucy merchant was this?

ROMEO: A gentleman, nurse, that loves to hear himself talk.

Nurse: An a' speak any thing against me, I'll take him down, an a' were lustier than he is, and twenty such Jacks; and if I cannot, I'll find those that shall. Scurvy knave! I am none of his flirt-gills. And thou must stand by too, and suffer every knave to use me at his pleasure?

PETER: I saw no man use you at his pleasure; if I had, my weapon should quickly have been out, I warrant you: I dare draw as soon as another man, if I see occasion in a good quarrel, and the law on my side.

Nurse: Now, afore God, I am so vexed, that every part about me quivers. Scurvy knave! As I told you, my young lady bade me inquire you out; what she bade me say, I will keep to myself: but first let me tell ye, if ye should lead her into a fool's paradise, as they say, it were a very gross kind of behavior, as they say: for the gentlewoman is young; and, therefore, if you should deal double with her, truly it were an ill thing and very weak dealing.

ROMEO: Nurse, commend me to thy lady. Bid her devise  
Some means to come to shrift this afternoon;  
And there she shall at Friar Laurence' cell  
Be shrived and married. Here is for thy pains.

Nurse: No truly sir; not a penny.

ROMEO: Go to; I say you shall.

Nurse: This afternoon, sir? well, she shall be there.

ROMEO: And stay, good nurse, behind the abbey wall:  
Within this hour my man shall be with thee  
And bring thee cords made like a tackled stair;  
Which to the high top-gallant of my joy  
Must be my convoy in the secret night.  
Farewell; be trusty, and I'll quit thy pains:  
Farewell; commend me to thy mistress.

Nurse: Now God in heaven bless thee! Hark you, sir.  
Is your man secret? Did you ne'er hear say,  
Two may keep counsel, putting one away?

ROMEO: I warrant thee, my man's as true as steel.

NURSE: Well, sir; my mistress is the sweetest lady – Lord, Lord! when 'twas a little  
prating thing: – O, there is a nobleman in town, one Paris, that would fain  
lay knife aboard; but she, good soul, had as lief see a toad, a very toad, as  
see him.

ROMEO: Commend me to thy lady.

Nurse: Ay, a thousand times.

*(Exit Romeo)*

Peter!

PETER: Anon!

Nurse: Peter, take my fan, and go before and apace.

*(Exeunt)*

**Act 2, Scene 5**  
Capulet's orchard.

*(Enter JULIET)*

JULIET:           The clock struck nine when I did send the nurse;  
In half an hour she promised to return.  
O, she is lame! love's heralds should be thoughts,  
Which ten times faster glide than the sun's beams,  
Driving back shadows over louring hills:  
Now is the sun upon the highmost hill  
Of this day's journey, and from nine till twelve  
Is three long hours, yet she is not come.  
Had she affections and warm youthful blood,  
She would be as swift in motion as a ball;  
But old folks, many feign as they were dead;  
Unwieldy, slow, heavy and pale as lead.  
O God, she comes!

*(Enter Nurse)*

O honey nurse, what news?  
Hast thou met with him? – O Lord, why look'st thou sad?  
Though news be sad, yet tell them merrily.

Nurse:            I am a-weary, give me leave awhile:  
Fie, how my bones ache! what a jaunt have I had!

JULIET:           I would thou hadst my bones, and I thy news:  
Nay, come, I pray thee, speak; good, good nurse, speak.

Nurse:            Jesu, what haste? can you not stay awhile?  
Do you not see that I am out of breath?

JULIET:           How art thou out of breath, when thou hast breath  
To say to me that thou art out of breath?  
The excuse that thou dost make in this delay  
Is longer than the tale thou dost excuse.  
Is thy news good, or bad? answer to that;  
Say either, and I'll stay the circumstance:  
Let me be satisfied, is't good or bad?

Nurse:            Well, you have made a simple choice; you know not how to choose a man:  
Romeo! no, not he; though his face be better than any man's, yet his leg

excels all men's; and for a hand, and a foot, and a body, though they be not to be talked on, yet they are past compare. What, have you dined at home?

JULIET: No, no: but all this did I know before.  
What says he of our marriage? what of that?

Nurse: Lord, how my head aches! what a head have I!  
It beats as it would fall in twenty pieces.  
My back o' t' other side,--O, my back, my back!  
Beshrew your heart for sending me about,  
To catch my death with jaunting up and down!

JULIET: I' faith, I am sorry that thou art not well.  
Sweet, sweet, sweet nurse, tell me, what says my love?

Nurse: Your love says, like an honest gentleman, and a courteous, and a kind, and a handsome, and, I warrant, a virtuous, – Where is your mother?

JULIET: How oddly thou repliest!  
'Your love says, like an honest gentleman,  
Where is your mother?'

Nurse: O God's lady dear!  
Are you so hot? marry, come up, I trow;  
Is this the poultice for my aching bones?  
Henceforward do your messages yourself.

JULIET: Here's such a coil! come, what says Romeo?

Nurse: Have you got leave to go to shrift to-day?

JULIET: I have.

Nurse: Then hie you hence to Friar Laurence' cell;  
There stays a husband to make you a wife:  
Now comes the wanton blood up in your cheeks,  
They'll be in scarlet straight at any news.  
Hie you to church; I must another way,  
To fetch a ladder, by the which your love  
Must climb a bird's nest soon when it is dark:  
I am the drudge and toil in your delight,  
But you shall bear the burden soon at night.  
Go; I'll to dinner: hie you to the cell.

JULIET: Hie to high fortune! Honest nurse, farewell.

*(Exeunt)*

**Act 2, Scene 6**

Friar Laurence's cell.

*(Enter FRIAR LAURENCE and ROMEO)*

FRIAR LAURENCE:           So smile the heavens upon this holy act,  
That after hours with sorrow chide us not!

ROMEO:                    Amen, amen! but come what sorrow can,  
Do thou but close our hands with holy words,  
Then love-devouring death do what he dare;  
It is enough I may but call her mine.

FRIAR LAURENCE:        These violent delights have violent ends  
And in their triumph die, like fire and powder,  
Which as they kiss consume:  
Therefore love moderately; long love doth so;  
Too swift arrives as tardy as too slow.

*(Enter JULIET)*

Here comes the lady.

JULIET:                   Good even to my ghostly confessor.

FRIAR LAURENCE: Romeo shall thank thee, daughter, for us both.

ROMEO:                   Ah, Juliet, if the measure of thy joy  
Be heap'd like mine and that thy skill be more  
To blazon it, then sweeten with thy breath  
This neighbour air, and let rich music's tongue  
Unfold the imagined happiness that both  
Receive in either by this dear encounter.

JULIET:                   Conceit, more rich in matter than in words,  
Braggs of his substance, not of ornament:  
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:        Come, come with me, and we will make short work;  
For, by your leaves, you shall not stay alone  
Till holy church incorp'rate two in one.

*(Exeunt)*

**Act 3, Scene 1**  
A public place.

*(Enter MERCUTIO, BENVOLIO, Page, and Servants)*

BENVOLIO: I pray thee, good Mercutio, let's retire:  
The day is hot, the Capulets abroad,  
And, if we meet, we shall not scape a brawl;  
For now, these hot days, is the mad blood stirring.

MERCUTIO: Thou art like one of those fellows that when he enters the confines of a  
tavern claps me his sword upon the table and says 'God send me no need  
of thee!' and by the operation of the second cup draws it on the drawer,  
when indeed there is no need.

BENVOLIO: Am I like such a fellow?

MERCUTIO: Come, come, thou art as hot a Jack in thy mood as any in Italy, and as soon  
moved to be moody, and as soon moody to be moved.

BENVOLIO: And what to?

MERCUTIO: Nay, an there were two such, we should have none shortly, for one would  
kill the other. Thou! why, thou wilt quarrel with a man that hath a hair  
more, or a hair less, in his beard, than thou hast: thou wilt quarrel with a  
man for cracking nuts, having no other reason but because thou hast hazel  
eyes: thou hast quarrelled with a man for coughing in the street: with  
another, for tying his new shoes with old riband: and yet thou wilt tutor me  
from quarrelling!

BENVOLIO: An I were so apt to quarrel as thou art, any man should buy the fee-simple  
of my life for an hour and a quarter.

MERCUTIO: The fee-simple! O simple!

BENVOLIO: By my head, here come the Capulets.

MERCUTIO: By my heel, I care not.

*(Enter TYBALT and others)*

TYBALT: Follow me close, for I will speak to them.  
Gentlemen, good den: a word with one of you.



MERCUTIO: And but one word with one of us? Couple it with something; make it a word and a blow.

TYBALT: You shall find me apt enough to that, sir, an you will give me occasion.

MERCUTIO: Could you not take some occasion without giving?

TYBALT: Mercutio, thou consort'st with Romeo, –

MERCUTIO: Consort! what, dost thou make us minstrels? an thou make minstrels of us, look to hear nothing but discords: here's my fiddlestick; here's that shall make you dance. 'Zounds, consort!

BENVOLIO: We talk here in the public haunt of men:  
Either withdraw unto some private place,  
And reason coldly of your grievances,  
Or else depart; here all eyes gaze on us.

MERCUTIO: Men's eyes were made to look, and let them gaze;  
I will not budge for no man's pleasure, I.

*(Enter ROMEO)*

TYBALT: Well, peace be with you, sir: here comes my man.

MERCUTIO: But I'll be hanged, sir, if he wear your livery:  
Marry, go before to field, he'll be your follower;  
Your worship in that sense may call him 'man.'

TYBALT: Romeo, the hate I bear thee can afford  
No better term than this, – thou art a villain.

ROMEO: Tybalt, the reason that I have to love thee  
Doth much excuse the appertaining rage  
To such a greeting: villain am I none;  
Therefore farewell; I see thou know'st me not.

TYBALT: Boy, this shall not excuse the injuries  
That thou hast done me; therefore turn and draw.

ROMEO: I do protest, I never injured thee,  
But love thee better than thou canst devise,  
Till thou shalt know the reason of my love:  
And so, good Capulet,--which name I tender

As dearly as my own,--be satisfied.

MERCUTIO: O calm, dishonourable, vile submission!

*(Draws)*

Tybalt, you rat-catcher, will you walk?

TYBALT: What wouldst thou have with me?

MERCUTIO: Good king of cats, nothing but one of your nine lives; that I mean to make bold withal, and as you shall use me hereafter, drybeat the rest of the eight. Will you pluck your sword out of his pitcher by the ears? make haste, lest mine be about your ears ere it be out.

TYBALT: I am for you.

*(Drawing)*

ROMEO: Gentle Mercutio, put thy rapier up.

MERCUTIO: Come, sir, your passado.

*(They fight)*

ROMEO: Draw, Benvolio; beat down their weapons.  
Gentlemen, for shame, forbear this outrage!  
Tybalt, Mercutio, the prince expressly hath  
Forbidden bandying in Verona streets:  
Hold, Tybalt! good Mercutio!

*(TYBALT under ROMEO's arm stabs MERCUTIO, and flies with his followers)*

MERCUTIO: I am hurt.  
A plague o' both your houses! I am sped.  
Is he gone, and hath nothing?

BENVOLIO: What, art thou hurt?

MERCUTIO: Ay, ay, a scratch, a scratch; marry, 'tis enough.  
Where is my page? Go, villain, fetch a surgeon.

*(Exit Page)*

ROMEO: Courage, man; the hurt cannot be much.

MERCUTIO: No, 'tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a church-door; but 'tis enough, 'twill serve: ask for me to-morrow, and you shall find me a grave man. I am peppered, I warrant, for this world. A plague o' both your houses! 'Zounds, a dog, a rat, a mouse, a cat, to scratch a man to death! a braggart, a rogue, a villain, that fights by the book of arithmetic! Why the devil came you between us? I was hurt under your arm.

ROMEO: I thought all for the best.

MERCUTIO: Help me into some house, Benvolio,  
Or I shall faint. A plague o' both your houses!  
They have made worms' meat of me: I have it,  
And soundly too: your houses!

*(Exeunt MERCUTIO and BENVOLIO)*

ROMEO: This gentleman, the prince's near ally,  
My very friend, hath got his mortal hurt  
In my behalf; my reputation stain'd  
With Tybalt's slander, – Tybalt, that an hour  
Hath been my kinsman! O sweet Juliet,  
Thy beauty hath made me effeminate  
And in my temper soften'd valour's steel!

*(Re-enter BENVOLIO)*

BENVOLIO: O Romeo, Romeo, brave Mercutio's dead!  
That gallant spirit hath aspired the clouds,  
Which too untimely here did scorn the earth.

ROMEO: This day's black fate on more days doth depend;  
This but begins the woe, others must end.

BENVOLIO: Here comes the furious Tybalt back again.

ROMEO: Alive, in triumph! and Mercutio slain!  
Away to heaven, respective lenity,  
And fire-eyed fury be my conduct now!

*(Re-enter TYBALT)*

Now, Tybalt, take the villain back again,

That late thou gavest me; for Mercutio's soul  
Is but a little way above our heads,  
Staying for thine to keep him company:  
Either thou, or I, or both, must go with him.

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

ROMEO: This shall determine that.

*(They fight; TYBALT falls)*

BENVOLIO: Romeo, away, be gone!  
The citizens are up, and Tybalt slain.  
Stand not amazed: the prince will doom thee death,  
If thou art taken: hence, be gone, away!

ROMEO: O, I am fortune's fool!

BENVOLIO: Why dost thou stay?

*(Exit ROMEO; Enter Citizens, &c;)*

First Citizen: Which way ran he that kill'd Mercutio?  
Tybalt, that murderer, which way ran he?

BENVOLIO: There lies that Tybalt.

First Citizen: Up, sir, go with me;  
I charge thee in the prince's name, obey.

*(Enter Prince, attended; MONTAGUE, CAPULET, their Wives,  
and others)*

PRINCE: Where are the vile beginners of this fray?

BENVOLIO: There lies the man, slain by young Romeo,  
That slew thy kinsman, brave Mercutio.

LADY CAPULET: Tybalt, my cousin! O my brother's child!  
O prince! O cousin! husband! O, the blood is spilt!  
O my dear kinsman! Prince, as thou art true,  
For blood of ours, shed blood of Montague.  
O cousin, cousin!

- PRINCE: Benvolio, who began this bloody fray?
- BENVOLIO: Tybalt, here slain, whom Romeo's hand did slay;  
Romeo that spoke him fair, bade him bethink  
How nice the quarrel was, and urged withal  
Your high displeasure: all this uttered  
With gentle breath, calm look, knees humbly bow'd,  
Could not take truce with the unruly spleen  
Of Tybalt deaf to peace, but that he tilts  
With piercing steel at bold Mercutio's breast,  
Who all as hot, turns deadly point to point,  
And, with a martial scorn, with one hand beats  
Cold death aside, and with the other sends  
It back to Tybalt, whose dexterity,  
Retorts it: Romeo he cries aloud,  
'Hold, friends! friends, part!' and, swifter than his tongue,  
His agile arm beats down their fatal points,  
And 'twixt them rushes; underneath whose arm  
An envious thrust from Tybalt hit the life  
Of stout Mercutio, and then Tybalt fled;  
But by and by comes back to Romeo,  
Who had but newly entertain'd revenge,  
And to't they go like lightning, for, ere I  
Could draw to part them, was stout Tybalt slain.  
And, as he fell, did Romeo turn and fly.  
This is the truth, or let Benvolio die.
- LADY CAPULET: He is a kinsman to the Montague;  
Affection makes him false; he speaks not true:  
I beg for justice, which thou, prince, must give;  
Romeo slew Tybalt, Romeo must not live.
- PRINCE: Romeo slew him, he slew Mercutio;  
Who now the price of his dear blood doth owe?
- MONTAGUE: Not Romeo, prince, he was Mercutio's friend;  
His fault concludes but what the law should end,  
The life of Tybalt.
- PRINCE: And for that offence  
Immediately we do exile him hence:  
I have an interest in your hate's proceeding,  
My blood for your rude brawls doth lie a-bleeding;

But I'll amerce you with so strong a fine  
That you shall all repent the loss of mine:  
I will be deaf to pleading and excuses;  
Nor tears nor prayers shall purchase out abuses:  
Therefore use none: let Romeo hence in haste,  
Else, when he's found, that hour is his last.  
Bear hence this body and attend our will:  
Mercy but murders, pardoning those that kill.

*(Exeunt)*

**END OF FIRST PART**

**Act 3, Scene 2**

Capulet's orchard.

*(Enter JULIET)*

JULIET: Gallop apace, you fiery-footed steeds,  
And bring in cloudy night immediately.  
Spread thy close curtain, love-performing night,  
That runaway's eyes may wink and Romeo  
Leap to these arms, untalk'd of and unseen.  
Lovers can see to do their amorous rites  
By their own beauties; or, if love be blind,  
It best agrees with night. Come, civil night,  
Hood my unmann'd blood, bating in my cheeks,  
With thy black mantle; till strange love, grown bold,  
Think true love acted simple modesty.  
Come, gentle night, come, loving, black-brow'd night,  
Give me my Romeo; and, when he shall die,  
Take him and cut him out in little stars,  
And he will make the face of heaven so fine  
That all the world will be in love with night  
And pay no worship to the garish sun.  
O, I have bought the mansion of a love,  
But not possess'd it, and, though I am sold,  
Not yet enjoy'd: so tedious is this day  
As is the night before some festival  
To an impatient child that hath new robes  
And may not wear them. O, here comes my nurse,  
And she brings news; and every tongue that speaks  
But Romeo's name speaks heavenly eloquence.

*(Enter Nurse, with cords)*

Now, nurse, what news? What hast thou there? the cords  
That Romeo bid thee fetch?

Nurse: Ay, ay, the cords.

*(Throws them down)*

JULIET: Ay me! what news? why dost thou wring thy hands?

Nurse: Ah, well-a-day! he's dead, he's dead, he's dead!  
We are undone, lady, we are undone!

Alack the day! he's gone, he's kill'd, he's dead!

JULIET: Can heaven be so envious?

Nurse: Romeo can,  
Though heaven cannot: O Romeo, Romeo!  
Who ever would have thought it? Romeo!

JULIET: What devil art thou, that dost torment me thus?  
This torture should be roar'd in dismal hell.  
Hath Romeo slain himself? say thou but 'aye,'  
And that bare vowel 'I' shall poison more  
Than the death-darting eye of cockatrice:  
I am not I, if there be such an 'aye';  
Or those eyes shut, that make thee answer 'aye.'  
If he be slain, say 'aye'; or if not, no:  
Brief sounds determine of my weal or woe.

Nurse: I saw the wound, I saw it with mine eyes, –  
God save the mark! – here on his manly breast:  
A piteous corse, a bloody piteous corse;  
Pale, pale as ashes, all bedaub'd in blood,  
All in gore-blood; I swounded at the sight.

JULIET: O, break, my heart! poor bankrupt, break at once!  
Vile earth, to earth resign; end motion here;  
And thou and Romeo press one heavy bier!

Nurse: O Tybalt, Tybalt, the best friend I had!  
O courteous Tybalt! honest gentleman!  
That ever I should live to see thee dead!

JULIET: What storm is this that blows so contrary?  
Is Romeo slaughter'd, and is Tybalt dead?  
My dear-loved cousin, and my dearer lord?  
Who is living, if those two are gone?

Nurse: Tybalt is gone, and Romeo banishéd;  
Romeo that kill'd him, he is banishéd.

JULIET: O God! did Romeo's hand shed Tybalt's blood?

Nurse: It did, it did; alas the day, it did!



JULIET: O serpent heart, hid with a flowering face!  
Did ever dragon keep so fair a cave?  
Beautiful tyrant! fiend angelical!  
A damnéd saint, an honourable villain!  
O nature, what hadst thou to do in hell,  
When thou didst bower the spirit of a fiend  
In moral paradise of such sweet flesh?  
Was ever book containing such vile matter  
So fairly bound? O that deceit should dwell  
In such a gorgeous palace!

Nurse: There's no trust,  
No faith, no honesty in men; all perjured,  
All forsworn, all naught, all dissemblers.  
These griefs, these woes, these sorrows make me old.  
Shame come to Romeo!

JULIET: Blister'd be thy tongue  
For such a wish! he was not born to shame:  
Upon his brow shame is ashamed to sit;  
For 'tis a throne where honour may be crown'd  
Sole monarch of the universal earth.  
O, what a beast was I to chide at him!

Nurse: Will you speak well of him that kill'd your cousin?

JULIET: Shall I speak ill of him that is my husband?  
Ah, poor my lord, what tongue shall smooth thy name,  
When I, thy three-hours wife, have mangled it?  
But, wherefore, villain, didst thou kill my cousin?  
That villain cousin would have kill'd my husband:  
Back, foolish tears, back to your native spring.  
My husband lives, that Tybalt would have slain;  
And Tybalt's dead, that would have slain my husband:  
All this is comfort; wherefore weep I then?  
Some word there was, worsen than Tybalt's death,  
That murder'd me: I would forget it fain;  
But, O, it presses to my memory,  
Like damnéd guilty deeds to sinners' minds:  
'Tybalt is dead, and Romeo – banishéd,'  
That 'banishéd,' that one word 'banishéd,'  
Hath slain ten thousand Tybalts. Tybalt's death  
Was woe enough, if it had ended there:  
Why follow'd not, when she said 'Tybalt's dead,'

Thy father, or thy mother, nay, or both?  
But with a rear-ward following Tybalt's death,  
'Romeo is banishéd,' to speak that word,  
Is father, mother, Tybalt, Romeo, Juliet,  
All slain, all dead. 'Romeo is banishéd!'  
There is no end, no limit, measure, bound,  
In that word's death; no words can that woe sound.  
Where is my father, and my mother, nurse?

Nurse: Weeping and wailing over Tybalt's corse:  
Will you go to them? I will bring you thither.

JULIET: Wash they his wounds with tears: mine shall be spent,  
When theirs are dry, for Romeo's banishment.  
Come, cords, come, nurse; I'll to my wedding-bed;  
And death, not Romeo, take my maidenhead!

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! give this ring to my true knight,  
And bid him come to take his last farewell.

*(Exeunt)*

**Act 3, Scene 3**

Friar Laurence's cell.

*(Enter FRIAR LAURENCE)*

FRIAR LAURENCE:           Romeo, come forth; come forth, thou fearful man:  
Affliction is enamour'd of thy parts,  
And thou art wedded to calamity.

*(Enter ROMEO)*

ROMEO:                    Father, what news? what is the prince's doom?  
What sorrow craves acquaintance at my hand,  
That I yet know not?

FRIAR LAURENCE:                    Too familiar  
Is my dear son with such sour company:  
I bring thee tidings of the prince's doom.

ROMEO:                    What less than dooms-day is the prince's doom?

FRIAR LAURENCE:            A gentler judgment vanish'd from his lips,  
Not body's death, but body's banishment.

ROMEO:                    Ha, banishment! be merciful, say 'death;'  
For exile hath more terror in his look,  
Much more than death: do not say 'banishment.'

FRIAR LAURENCE:            Hence from Verona art thou banished:  
Be patient, for the world is broad and wide.

ROMEO:                    There is no world without Verona walls.  
Hence-banishéd is banish'd from the world,  
And world's exile is death: then banishéd,  
Is death mis-term'd: calling death banishment,  
Thou cutt'st my head off with a golden axe,  
And smilest upon the stroke that murders me.

FRIAR LAURENCE:                    O deadly sin! O rude unthankfulness!  
Thy fault our law calls death; but the kind prince,  
Taking thy part, hath rush'd aside the law,  
And turn'd that black word death to banishment:  
This is dear mercy, and thou seest it not.

ROMEO: 'Tis torture, and not mercy: heaven is here,  
Where Juliet lives, but I am banishéd.  
And say'st thou yet that exile is not death?  
Hadst thou no poison mix'd, no sharp-ground knife,  
No sudden mean of death, though ne'er so mean,  
But 'banishéd' to kill me?-- 'banishéd'?

FRIAR LAURENCE: I'll give thee armour to keep off that word:  
Adversity's sweet milk, philosophy,  
To comfort thee, though thou art banished.

ROMEO: Unless philosophy can make a Juliet,  
Displant a town, reverse a prince's doom,  
It helps not, it prevails not: talk no more.

FRIAR LAURENCE: O, then I see that madmen have no ears.

ROMEO: Thou canst not speak of that thou dost not feel:  
Wert thou as young as I, Juliet thy love,  
An hour but married, Tybalt murdered,  
Doting like me and like me banishéd,  
Then mightst thou speak, then mightst thou tear thy hair,  
And fall upon the ground, as I do now,  
Taking the measure of an unmade grave.

*(Knocking within)*

FRIAR LAURENCE: Arise; one knocks; good Romeo, hide thyself.

ROMEO: Not I; unless the breath of heartsick groans,  
Mist-like, infold me from the search of eyes.

*(Knocking)*

FRIAR LAURENCE: Hark, how they knock! Who's there? Romeo, arise;  
Thou wilt be taken. Stay awhile! Stand up;

*(Knocking)*

Run to my study. By and by! God's will,  
What simpleness is this! I come, I come!

*(Knocking)*

Who knocks so hard? whence come you? what's your will?

Nurse: *(Within)* Let me come in, and you shall know my errand; I come from Lady Juliet.

FRIAR LAURENCE: Welcome, then.

*(Enter Nurse)*

Nurse: O holy friar, O, tell me, holy friar,  
Where is my lady's lord, where's Romeo?

FRIAR LAURENCE: There on the ground, with his own tears made drunk.

Nurse: O, he is even in my mistress' case,  
Just in her case! O woeful sympathy!  
Piteous predicament! Even so lies she,  
Blubbering and weeping, weeping and blubbering.  
Stand up, stand up; stand, and you be a man:  
For Juliet's sake, for her sake, rise and stand;  
Why should you fall into so deep an O?

ROMEO Nurse!

Nurse: Ah sir! ah sir! Well, death's the end of all.

ROMEO: Spakest thou of Juliet? how is it with her?  
Doth she not think me an old murderer,  
Now I have stain'd the childhood of our joy  
With blood removed but little from her own?  
Where is she? and how doth she? and what says  
My conceal'd lady to our cancell'd love?

Nurse: O, she says nothing, sir, but weeps and weeps;  
And now falls on her bed; and then starts up,  
And Tybalt calls; and then on Romeo cries,  
And then down falls again.

ROMEO: As if that name,  
Shot from the deadly level of a gun,  
Did murder her; as that name's cursed hand  
Murder'd her kinsman. O, tell me, friar, tell me,  
In what vile part of this anatomy  
Doth my name lodge? tell me, that I may sack

The hateful mansion.

*(Drawing his sword)*

FRIAR LAURENCE:                    Hold thy desperate hand:  
Art thou a man? thy form cries out thou art:  
Thy tears are womanish; thy wild acts denote  
The unreasonable fury of a beast!  
Thou hast amazed me: by my holy order,  
I thought thy disposition better temper'd.  
Hast thou slain Tybalt? wilt thou slay thyself?  
And slay thy lady too that in thy life lives,  
By doing damnéd hate upon thyself?  
What, rouse thee, man! thy Juliet is alive,  
For whose dear sake thou wast but lately dead;  
There art thou happy: Tybalt would kill thee,  
But thou slew'st Tybalt; there are thou happy too:  
The law that threaten'd death becomes thy friend  
And turns it to exile; there art thou happy:  
A pack of blessings lights up upon thy back;  
But, like a misbehaved and sullen wench,  
Thou pout'st upon thy fortune and thy love:  
Take heed, take heed, for such die miserable.  
Go, get thee to thy love, as was decreed,  
Ascend her chamber, hence and comfort her:  
But look thou stay not till the watch be set,  
For then thou canst not pass to Mantua;  
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  
With twenty hundred thousand times more joy  
Than thou went'st forth in lamentation.  
Go before, nurse: commend me to thy lady:  
Romeo is coming.

Nurse:                                O Lord, I could have stay'd here all the night  
To hear good counsel: O, what learning is!  
My lord, I'll tell my lady you will come.

ROMEO:                                Do so, and bid my sweet prepare to chide.

Nurse:                                Here, sir, a ring she bid me give you, sir:  
Hie you, make haste, for it grows very late.

*(Exit)*

ROMEO: How well my comfort is revived by this!

FRIAR LAURENCE: Go hence; good night; and here stands all your state:  
Either be gone before the watch be set,  
Or by the break of day disguised from hence:  
Sojourn in Mantua; I'll find out your man,  
And he shall signify from time to time  
Every good hap to you that chances here:  
Give me thy hand; 'tis late: farewell; good night.

ROMEO: But that a joy past joy calls out on me,  
It were a grief, so brief to part with thee: Farewell.

*(Exeunt)*

**Act 3, Scene 4**

A room in Capulet's house.

*(Enter CAPULET, LADY CAPULET, and PARIS)*

CAPULET: Things have fall'n out, sir, so unluckily,  
That we have had no time to move our daughter:  
Look you, she loved her kinsman Tybalt dearly,  
And so did I: – Well, we were born to die.

PARIS: These times of woe afford no time to woo.  
Madam, good night: commend me to your daughter.

LADY CAPULET: I will, and know her mind early to-morrow;  
To-night she is mew'd up to her heaviness.

CAPULET: Sir Paris, I will make a desperate tender  
Of my child's love: I think she will be ruled  
In all respects by me; nay, more, I doubt it not.  
Wife, go you to her ere you go to bed;  
And bid her, mark you me, on Wednesday next –  
But, soft! what day is this?

PARIS: Monday, my lord,

CAPULET: Monday! ha, ha! Well, Wednesday is too soon,  
O' Thursday let it be: o' Thursday, tell her,  
She shall be married to this noble earl.  
Will you be ready? do you like this haste?  
We'll keep no great ado, – a friend or two;  
For, hark you, Tybalt being slain so late,  
It may be thought we held him carelessly:  
Therefore we'll have some half a dozen friends,  
And there an end. But what say you to Thursday?

PARIS: My lord, I would that Thursday were to-morrow.

CAPULET: Well get you gone: o' Thursday be it, then.  
Go you to Juliet ere you go to bed,  
Prepare her, wife, against this wedding-day.  
Farewell, my lord. Light to my chamber, ho!  
Afore me! it is so very very late,  
That we may call it early by and by.  
Good night.



*(Exeunt)*

**Act 3, Scene 5**  
Capulet's orchard.

*(Enter ROMEO and JULIET above, at the window)*

JULIET:           Wilt thou be gone? it is not yet near day:  
It was the nightingale, and not the lark,  
That pierced the fearful hollow of thine ear;  
Nightly she sings on yon pomegranate-tree:  
Believe me, love, it was the nightingale.

ROMEO:           It was the lark, the herald of the morn,  
No nightingale: look, love, what envious streaks  
Do lace the severing clouds in yonder east:  
Night's candles are burnt out, and jocund day  
Stands tiptoe on the misty mountain tops.  
I must be gone and live, or stay and die.

JULIET:           Yon light is not day-light, I know it, I:  
Therefore stay yet; thou need'st not to be gone.

ROMEO:           Let me be ta'en, let me be put to death;  
I am content, so thou wilt have it so.  
I'll say yon grey is not the morning's eye,  
Nor that is not the lark, whose notes do beat  
The vaulty heaven so high above our heads:  
I have more care to stay than will to go:  
Come, death, and welcome! Juliet wills it so.  
How is't, my soul? let's talk; it is not day.

JULIET:           It is, it is: hie hence, be gone, away!  
It is the lark that sings so out of tune,  
Straining harsh discords and unpleasing sharps.  
Some say the lark makes sweet division;  
This doth not so, for she divideth us:  
O, now be gone; more light and light it grows.

ROMEO:           More light and light; more dark and dark our woes!

*(Enter Nurse, to the chamber)*

Nurse:           Madam!

JULIET:           Nurse?

Nurse: Your lady mother is coming to your chamber:  
The day is broke; be wary, look about.

*(Exit)*

JULIET: Then, window, let day in, and let life out.

ROMEO: Farewell, farewell! one kiss, and I'll descend.

*(He goeth down)*

JULIET: Art thou gone so? love, lord, ay, husband, friend!  
I must hear from thee every day in the hour,  
For in a minute there are many days:  
O, by this count I shall be much in years  
Ere I again behold my Romeo!

ROMEO: Farewell!  
I will omit no opportunity  
That may convey my greetings, love, to thee.

JULIET: O think'st thou we shall ever meet again?

ROMEO: I doubt it not; and all these woes shall serve  
For sweet discourses in our time to come.

JULIET: O God, I have an ill-divining soul!  
Methinks I see thee, now thou art below,  
As one dead in the bottom of a tomb:  
Either my eyesight fails, or thou look'st pale.

ROMEO: And trust me, love, in my eye so do you:  
Dry sorrow drinks our blood. Adieu, adieu!

*(Exit)*

JULIET: O fortune, fortune! all men call thee fickle:  
If thou art fickle, what dost thou with him  
That is renown'd for faith? Be fickle, fortune;  
For then, I hope, thou wilt not keep him long,  
But send him back.

LADY CAPULET: *(Within)* Ho, daughter! are you up?



Is my poor heart so for a kinsman vex'd.  
Madam, if you could find out but a man  
To bear a poison, I would temper it;  
That Romeo should, upon receipt thereof,  
Soon sleep in quiet. O, how my heart abhors  
To hear him named, and cannot come to him  
To wreak the love I bore my cousin  
Upon his body that slaughter'd him!

LADY CAPULET: Find thou the means, and I'll find such a man.  
But now I'll tell thee joyful tidings, girl.

JULIET: And joy comes well in such a needy time.

LADY CAPULET: Well, well, thou hast a careful father, child;  
One who, to put thee from thy heaviness,  
Hath sorted out a sudden day of joy,  
That thou expect'st not nor I look'd not for.

JULIET: Madam, in happy time, what day is that?

LADY CAPULET: Marry, my child, early next Thursday morn,  
The gallant, young and noble gentleman,  
The County Paris, at Saint Peter's Church,  
Shall happily make thee there a joyful bride.

JULIET: Now, by Saint Peter's Church and Peter too,  
He shall not make me there a joyful bride.  
I wonder at this haste; that I must wed  
Ere he, that should be husband, comes to woo.  
I pray you, tell my lord and father, madam,  
I will not marry yet; and, when I do, I swear,  
It shall be Romeo, whom you know I hate,  
Rather than Paris. These are news indeed!

LADY CAPULET: Here comes your father; tell him so yourself,  
And see how he will take it at your hands.

*(Enter CAPULET and Nurse)*

CAPULET: When the sun sets, the air doth drizzle dew;  
But for the sunset of my brother's son  
It rains downright. How now! what, still in tears?  
Evermore showering? How now, wife!

Have you deliver'd to her our decree?

LADY CAPULET: Ay, sir; but she will none, she gives you thanks.  
I would the fool were married to her grave!

CAPULET: Soft! take me with you, take me with you, wife.  
How! will she none? doth she not give us thanks?  
Is she not proud? doth she not count her blest,  
Unworthy as she is, that we have wrought  
So worthy a gentleman to be her bridegroom?

JULIET: Not proud, you have; but thankful, that you have:  
Proud can I never be of what I hate;  
But thankful even for hate, that is meant love.

CAPULET: How now, how now, chop-logic! What is this?  
'Proud,' and 'I thank you,' and 'I thank you not;'  
And yet 'not proud,' mistress minion, you,  
Thank me no thankings, nor, proud me no prouds,  
But fettle your fine joints 'gainst Thursday next,  
To go with Paris to Saint Peter's Church,  
Or I will drag thee on a hurdle thither.  
Out, you green-sickness carrion! out, you baggage!  
You tallow-face!

LADY CAPULET: Fie, fie! what, are you mad?

JULIET: Good father, I beseech you on my knees,  
Hear me with patience but to speak a word.

CAPULET: Hang thee, young baggage! disobedient wretch!  
I tell thee what: get thee to church o' Thursday,  
Or never after look me in the face:  
Speak not, reply not, do not answer me;  
My fingers itch. Out on her, hilding!

Nurse: God in heaven bless her!  
You are to blame, my lord, to rate her so.

CAPULET: And why, my lady wisdom? hold your tongue,  
Good prudence; smatter with your gossips, go.

Nurse: I speak no treason.

CAPULET: O, God ye god-den.

Nurse: May not one speak?

CAPULET: Peace, you mumbling fool!  
Utter your gravity o'er a gossip's bowl;  
For here we need it not.

LADY CAPULET: You are too hot.

CAPULET: God's bread! it makes me mad:  
Day, night, hour, tide, time, work, play,  
Alone, in company, still my care hath been  
To have her match'd: and having now provided  
A gentleman of noble parentage;  
And then to have a wretched puling fool,  
To answer 'I'll not wed; I cannot love,  
I am too young; I pray you, pardon me.'  
Thursday is near; lay hand on heart, advise:  
An you be mine, I'll give you to my friend;  
And you be not, hang, beg, starve, die in the streets,  
For, by my soul, I'll ne'er acknowledge thee,  
Nor what is mine shall never do thee good:  
Trust to't, bethink you; I'll not be forsworn.

*(Exit)*

JULIET: Is there no pity sitting in the clouds,  
That sees into the bottom of my grief?  
O, sweet my mother, cast me not away!  
Delay this marriage for a month, a week;  
Or, if you do not, make the bridal bed  
In that dim monument where Tybalt lies.

LADY CAPULET: Talk not to me, for I'll not speak a word:  
Do as thou wilt, for I have done with thee.

*(Exit)*

JULIET: O God! – O nurse, how shall this be prevented?  
My husband is on earth, my faith in heaven;  
How shall that faith return again to earth,  
Unless that husband send it me from heaven  
By leaving earth? comfort me, counsel me.

What say'st thou? hast thou not a word of joy?  
Some comfort, nurse.

Nurse: Faith, here it is.  
Romeo is banish'd; and all the world to nothing,  
That he dares ne'er come back to challenge you.  
Then, since the case so stands as now it doth,  
I think it best you married with the county.  
O, he's a lovely gentleman! Romeo's  
A dishclout to him. Beshrew my very heart,  
I think you are happy in this second match,  
For it excels your first: or if it did not,  
Your first is dead; or 'twere as good he were.

JULIET: Speakest thou from thy heart?

Nurse: And from my soul too;  
Or else beshrew them both.

JULIET: Amen!

Nurse: What?

JULIET: Well, thou hast comforted me marvellous much.  
Go in: and tell my lady I am gone,  
Having displeas'd my father, to Laurence' cell,  
To make confession and to be absolved.

Nurse: Marry, I will; and this is wisely done.

*(Exit)*

JULIET: Ancient damnation! O most wicked fiend!  
Is it more sin to wish me thus forsworn,  
Or to dispraise my lord with that same tongue  
Which she hath praised him with above compare  
So many thousand times? Go, counsellor;  
Thou and my bosom henceforth shall be twain.  
I'll to the friar, to know his remedy:  
If all else fail, myself have power to die.

*(Exit)*



**Act 4, Scene 1**

Friar Laurence's cell.

*(Enter FRIAR LAURENCE and PARIS)*

FRIAR LAURENCE: On Thursday, sir? the time is very short.

PARIS: My father Capulet will have it so;  
And I am nothing slow to slack his haste.

FRIAR LAURENCE: You say you do not know the lady's mind:  
Uneven is the course, I like it not.

PARIS: Immoderately she weeps for Tybalt's death,  
And therefore have I little talk'd of love;  
For Venus smiles not in a house of tears.  
Now, sir, her father counts it dangerous  
That she doth give her sorrow so much sway,  
And in his wisdom hastes our marriage,  
To stop the inundation of her tears:  
Now do you know the reason of this haste.

FRIAR LAURENCE: *(Aside)* I would I knew not why it should be slow'd.  
Look, sir, here comes the lady towards my cell.

*(Enter JULIET)*

PARIS: Happily met, my lady and my wife!

JULIET: That may be, sir, when I may be a wife.

PARIS: That 'may be' must be, love, on Thursday next.

JULIET: What must be shall be.

FRIAR LAURENCE: That's a certain text.

PARIS: Come you to make confession to this father?

JULIET: To answer that, I should confess to you.

PARIS: Do not deny to him that you love me.

JULIET: I will confess to you that I love him.

PARIS: So will ye, I am sure, that you love me.

JULIET: If I do so, it will be of more price,  
Being spoke behind your back, than to your face.

PARIS: Poor soul, thy face is much abused with tears.

JULIET: The tears have got small victory by that.  
Are you at leisure, holy father, now;  
Or shall I come to you at evening mass?

FRIAR LAURENCE: My leisure serves me, pensive daughter, now.  
My lord, we must entreat the time alone.

PARIS: God shield I should disturb devotion!  
Juliet, on Thursday early will I rouse ye:  
Till then, adieu; and keep this holy kiss.

*(Exit)*

JULIET: O shut the door! and when thou hast done so,  
Come weep with me; past hope, past cure, past help!

FRIAR LAURENCE: Ah, Juliet, I already know thy grief;  
It strains me past the compass of my wits:  
I hear thou must, and nothing may prorogue it,  
On Thursday next be married to this county.

JULIET: Tell me not, friar, that thou hear'st of this,  
Unless thou tell me how I may prevent it:  
Give me some present counsel, or, behold,  
'Twixt my extremes and me, this bloody knife  
Shall play the umpire.  
Be not so long to speak; I long to die,  
If what thou speak'st speak not of remedy.

FRIAR LAURENCE: Hold, daughter: I do spy a kind of hope,  
Which craves as desperate an execution.  
As that is desperate which we would prevent.  
If, rather than to marry County Paris,  
Thou hast the strength of will to slay thyself,  
Then is it likely thou wilt undertake  
A thing like death to chide away this shame:

And, if thou darest, I'll give thee remedy.

JULIET: O, bid me leap, rather than marry Paris,  
From off the battlements of yonder tower;  
Or shut me nightly in a charnel-house,  
O'er-cover'd quite with dead men's rattling bones,  
Or bid me go into a new-made grave  
And hide me with a dead man in his shroud;  
And I will do it without fear or doubt,  
To live an unstain'd wife to my sweet love.

FRIAR LAURENCE: Hold, then; go home, be merry, give consent  
To marry Paris: Wednesday is to-morrow:  
To-morrow night look that thou lie alone:  
Take thou this vial, being then in bed,  
And this distilled liquor drink thou off;  
When presently through all thy veins shall run  
A cold and drowsy humour, for no pulse  
Shall keep his native progress, but surcease:  
No warmth, no breath, shall testify thou livest;  
The roses in thy lips and cheeks shall fade  
To paley ashes, thy eyes' windows fall,  
Like death, when he shuts up the day of life:  
And in this borrow'd likeness of shrunk death  
Thou shalt continue two and forty hours,  
And then awake as from a pleasant sleep.  
Now, when the bridegroom in the morning comes  
To rouse thee from thy bed, there art thou dead:  
In thy best robes uncover'd on the bier  
Thou shalt be borne to that same ancient vault  
Where all the kindred of the Capulets lie.  
In the mean time, against thou shalt awake,  
Shall Romeo by my letters know our drift,  
And hither shall he come: and he and I  
Will watch thy waking, and that very night  
Shall Romeo bear thee hence to Mantua.  
And this shall free thee from this present shame;  
If no inconstant toy, nor womanish fear,  
Abate thy valour in the acting it.

JULIET: Give me, give me! O, tell not me of fear!

FRIAR LAURENCE: Hold; get you gone, be strong and prosperous  
In this resolve: I'll send a friar with speed

To Mantua, with my letters to thy lord.

JULIET:

Love give me strength! and strength shall help afford.  
Farewell, dear father!

*(Exeunt)*

**Act 4, Scene 2**

Hall in Capulet's house.

*(Enter CAPULET, LADY CAPULET, Nurse, and Servant)*

CAPULET: So many guests invite as here are writ. Go, be gone.

*(Exit First Servant)*

We shall be much unfurnished for this time. What, is my daughter gone to Friar Laurence?

Nurse: Ay, forsooth.

CAPULET: Well, he may chance to do some good on her:  
A peevish self-will'd harlotry it is.

Nurse: See where she comes from shrift with merry look.

*(Enter JULIET)*

CAPULET: How now, my headstrong! where have you been gadding?

JULIET: Where I have learn'd me to repent the sin  
Of disobedient opposition  
To you and your behests, and am enjoin'd  
By holy Laurence to fall prostrate here,  
And beg your pardon: pardon, I beseech you!  
Henceforward I am ever ruled by you.

CAPULET: Send for the county; go tell him of this:  
I'll have this knot knit up to-morrow morning.

JULIET: I met the youthful lord at Laurence' cell;  
And gave him what becomed love I might,  
Not stepping o'er the bounds of modesty.

CAPULET: Why, I am glad on't; this is well: stand up:  
This is as't should be. Let me see the county.

JULIET: Nurse, will you go with me into my closet,  
To help me sort such needful ornaments  
As you think fit to furnish me to-morrow?

LADY CAPULET: No, not till Thursday; there is time enough.

CAPULET: Go, nurse, go with her: we'll to church to-morrow.

*(Exeunt JULIET and Nurse)*

LADY CAPULET: We shall be short in our provision:  
'Tis now near night.

CAPULET: Tush, I will stir about,  
And all things shall be well, I warrant thee, wife:  
Go thou to Juliet, help to deck up her;  
I'll not to bed to-night; let me alone;  
I'll play the housewife for this once. What, ho!  
They are all forth. Well, I will walk myself  
To County Paris, to prepare him up  
Against to-morrow: my heart is wondrous light,  
Since this same wayward girl is so reclaim'd.

*(Exeunt)*

**Act 4, Scene 3**

Juliet's chamber.

*(Enter JULIET and Nurse)*

JULIET: Ay, those attires are best: but, gentle nurse,  
I pray thee, leave me to myself to-night,  
For I have need of many orisons  
To move the heavens to smile upon my state,  
Which, well thou know'st, is cross, and full of sin.

*(Enter LADY CAPULET)*

LADY CAPULET: What, are you busy, ho? need you my help?

JULIET: No, madam; we have cull'd such necessaries  
As are behoveful for our state to-morrow:  
So please you, let me now be left alone,  
And let the nurse this night sit up with you;  
For, I am sure, you have your hands full all,  
In this so sudden business.

LADY CAPULET: Good night:  
Get thee to bed, and rest; for thou hast need.

*(Exeunt LADY CAPULET and Nurse)*

JULIET: Farewell! God knows when we shall meet again.  
I have a faint cold fear thrills through my veins,  
That almost freezes up the heat of life:  
I'll call them back again to comfort me:  
Nurse! What should she do here?  
My dismal scene I needs must act alone.  
Come, vial.  
What if this mixture do not work at all?  
Shall I be married then to-morrow morning?  
No, no: this shall forbid it: lie thou there.

*(Laying down her dagger)*

What if it be a poison, which the friar  
Subtly hath minister'd to have me dead,  
Lest in this marriage he should be dishonour'd,  
Because he married me before to Romeo?

I fear it is: and yet, methinks, it should not,  
For he hath still been tried a holy man.  
How if, when I am laid into the tomb,  
I wake before the time that Romeo  
Come to redeem me? there's a fearful point!  
Shall I not, then, be stifled in the vault,  
To whose foul mouth no healthsome air breathes in,  
And there die strangled ere my Romeo comes?  
Or, if I live, is it not very like,  
The horrible conceit of death and night,  
Together with the terror of the place,--  
Where bloody Tybalt, yet but green in earth,  
Lies festering in his shroud; where, as they say,  
At some hours in the night spirits resort;--  
O, if I wake, shall I not be distraught,  
Environed with all these hideous fears?  
And pluck the mangled Tybalt from his shroud?  
And, in this rage, with some great kinsman's bone,  
As with a club, dash out my desperate brains?  
O, look! methinks I see my cousin's ghost  
Seeking out Romeo, that did spit his body  
Upon a rapier's point: stay, Tybalt, stay!  
Romeo, I come! this do I drink to thee.

*(She falls upon her bed, within the curtains)*



**Act 4, Scene 4**  
**Hall in Capulet's house.**

*(Enter LADY CAPULET and Nurse)*

LADY CAPULET: Hold, take these keys, and fetch more spices, nurse.

Nurse: They call for dates and quinces in the pastry.

*(Enter CAPULET)*

CAPULET: Come, stir, stir, stir! the second cock hath crow'd,  
The curfew-bell hath rung, 'tis three o'clock:  
Look to the baked meats, good Angelical;  
Spare not for the cost.

Nurse: Go, you cot-quean, go,  
Get you to bed. Faith, you'll be sick to-morrow  
For this night's watching.

CAPULET: No, not a whit: what! I have watch'd ere now  
All night for lesser cause, and ne'er been sick.

LADY CAPULET: Ay, you have been a mouse-hunt in your time;  
But I will watch you from such watching now.

*(Exeunt LADY CAPULET and Nurse)*

CAPULET: A jealous hood, a jealous hood! Good faith, 'tis day:  
The county will be here with music straight,  
For so he said he would: I hear him near.

*(Music within)*

Nurse! Wife! What, ho! What, nurse, I say!

*(Re-enter Nurse)*

Go waken Juliet, go and trim her up;  
I'll go and chat with Paris: hie, make haste,  
Make haste; the bridegroom he is come already:  
Make haste, I say.

*(Exeunt)*

**Act 4, Scene 5**  
Juliet's chamber.

*(Enter Nurse)*

Nurse: Mistress! what, mistress! Juliet! fast, I warrant her, she:  
Why, lamb! why, lady! fie, you slug-a-bed!  
Why, love, I say! madam! sweet-heart! why, bride!  
What, not a word? you take your pennyworths now;  
Sleep for a week; for the next night, I warrant,  
That you shall rest but little. God forgive me,  
Marry, and amen, how sound is she asleep!  
I must needs wake her. Madam, madam, madam!  
Ay, let the county take you in your bed;  
He'll fright you up, i' faith. Will it not be?

*(Undraws the curtains)*

What, dress'd! and in your clothes! and down again!  
I must needs wake you; Lady! lady! lady!  
Alas, alas! Help, help! my lady's dead!  
O, well-a-day, that ever I was born!  
Some aqua vitae, ho! My lord! my lady!

*(Enter LADY CAPULET)*

LADY CAPULET: What noise is here?

Nurse: O lamentable day!

LADY CAPULET: What is the matter?

Nurse: Look, look! O heavy day!

LADY CAPULET: O me, O me! My child, my only life,  
Revive, look up, or I will die with thee!  
Help, help! Call help.

*(Enter CAPULET)*

CAPULET: For shame, bring Juliet forth; her lord is come.

Nurse: She's dead, deceased, she's dead; alack the day!

LADY CAPULET: Alack the day, she's dead, she's dead, she's dead!

CAPULET: Her blood is settled, and her joints are stiff:  
Death lies on her like an untimely frost  
Upon the sweetest flower of all the field.

Nurse: O lamentable day!

LADY CAPULET: O woful time!

CAPULET: Death, that hath ta'en her hence to make me wail,  
Ties up my tongue, and will not let me speak.

*(Enter FRIAR LAURENCE and PARIS)*

FRIAR LAURENCE: Come, is the bride ready to go to church?

CAPULET: Ready to go, but never to return.  
O son! the night before thy wedding-day  
Hath Death lain with thy wife. There she lies,  
Death is my son-in-law, Death is my heir;  
My daughter he hath wedded: I will die,  
And leave him all; life, living, all is Death's.

PARIS: Have I thought long to see this morning's face,  
And doth it give me such a sight as this?

LADY CAPULET: But one, poor one, one poor and loving child,  
But one thing to rejoice and solace in,  
And cruel death hath catch'd it from my sight!

Nurse: Never was seen so black a day as this:  
O woful day, O woful day!

PARIS: Beguiled, divorced, wronged, spited, slain!  
O love! O life! not life, but love in death!

CAPULET: O child! O child! my soul, and not my child!  
Dead art thou! Alack! my child is dead;  
And with my child my joys are buried.

FRIAR LAURENCE: Peace, ho, for shame! confusion's cure lives not  
In these confusions. Heaven and yourself  
Had part in this fair maid; now heaven hath all,

And all the better is it for the maid:  
And weep ye now, seeing she is advanced  
Above the clouds, as high as heaven itself?  
Dry up your tears, and, as the custom is,  
In all her best array bear her to church:  
For though fond nature bids us an lament,  
Yet nature's tears are reason's merriment.

CAPULET: All things that we ordained festival,  
Turn from their office to black funeral;  
Our instruments to melancholy bells,  
Our wedding cheer to a sad burial feast,  
Our solemn hymns to sullen dirges change,  
Our bridal flowers serve for a buried corse,  
And all things change them to the contrary.

FRIAR LAURENCE: Sir, go you in; and, madam, go with him;  
And go, Sir Paris; every one prepare  
To follow this fair corse unto her grave:  
The heavens do lour upon you for some ill;  
Move them no more by crossing their high will.

*(Exeunt)*

**Act 5, Scene 1**

Mantua. A street.

*(Enter ROMEO)*

ROMEO: If I may trust the flattering truth of sleep,  
My dreams presage some joyful news at hand:  
I dreamt my lady came and found me dead –  
And breathed such life with kisses in my lips,  
That I revived, and was an emperor.  
Ah me! how sweet is love itself possess'd,  
When but love's shadows are so rich in joy!

*(Enter BALTHASAR, booted)*

News from Verona! – How now, Balthasar!  
Dost thou not bring me letters from the friar?  
How doth my lady? Is my father well?  
How fares my Juliet? that I ask again;  
For nothing can be ill, if she be well.

BALTHASAR: Then she is well, and nothing can be ill:  
Her body sleeps in Capel's monument,  
And her immortal part with angels lives.  
I saw her laid low in her kindred's vault,  
And presently took post to tell it you:  
O, pardon me for bringing these ill news.

ROMEO: Is it even so? then I defy you, stars!  
Thou know'st my lodging: get me ink and paper,  
And hire post-horses; I will hence to-night.

BALTHASAR: I do beseech you, sir, have patience:  
Your looks are pale and wild, and do import  
Some misadventure.

ROMEO: Tush, thou art deceived:  
Leave me, and do the thing I bid thee do.  
Hast thou no letters to me from the friar?

BALTHASAR: No, my good lord.

ROMEO: No matter: get thee gone,  
And hire those horses; I'll be with thee straight.



ROMEO: I pay thy poverty, and not thy will.

Apothecary: Put this in any liquid thing you will,  
And drink it off; and, if you had the strength  
Of twenty men, it would dispatch you straight.

ROMEO: There is thy gold, worse poison to men's souls,  
Than these poor compounds that thou mayst not sell.  
Farewell: buy food, and get thyself in flesh.  
Come, cordial and not poison, go with me  
To Juliet's grave; for there must I use thee.

*(Exeunt)*

**Act 5, Scene 2**

Friar Laurence's cell.

*(Enter FRIAR JOHN)*

FRIAR JOHN: Holy Franciscan friar! brother, ho!

*(Enter FRIAR LAURENCE)*

FRIAR LAURENCE: This same should be the voice of Friar John.  
Welcome from Mantua: what says Romeo?  
Or, if his mind be writ, give me his letter.

FRIAR JOHN: Going to find a bare-foot brother out  
One of our order, to associate me,  
Here in this city visiting the sick,  
And finding him, the searchers of the town,  
Suspecting that we both were in a house  
Where the infectious pestilence did reign,  
Seal'd up the doors, and would not let us forth;  
So that my speed to Mantua there was stay'd.

FRIAR LAURENCE: Who bare my letter, then, to Romeo?

FRIAR JOHN: I could not send it, – here it is again, –  
Nor get a messenger to bring it thee,  
So fearful were they of infection.

FRIAR LAURENCE: Unhappy fortune! by my brotherhood,  
The letter was not nice but full of charge  
Of dear import, and the neglecting it  
May do much danger. Friar John, go hence;  
Get me an iron crow, and bring it straight  
Unto my cell.

FRIAR JOHN: Brother, I'll go and bring it thee. *(Exit)*

FRIAR LAURENCE: Now must I to the monument alone;  
Within three hours will fair Juliet wake:  
She will beshrew me much that Romeo  
Hath had no notice of these accidents;  
But I will write again to Mantua,  
And keep her at my cell till Romeo come;  
Poor living corse, closed in a dead man's tomb!



*(Exit)*

**Act 5, Scene 3**

**A churchyard; in it a tomb belonging to the Capulets.**

*(Enter PARIS, and his Page bearing flowers and a torch)*

PARIS: Give me thy torch, boy: hence, and stand aloof:  
Under yond yew-trees lay thee all along,  
So shall no foot upon the churchyard tread,  
But thou shalt hear it: whistle then to me,  
As signal that thou hear'st something approach.  
Give me those flowers. Do as I bid thee, go.

PAGE: *(Aside)* I am almost afraid to stand alone  
Here in the churchyard; yet I will adventure.

*(Retires)*

PARIS: Sweet flower, with flowers thy bridal bed I strew, –  
O woe! thy canopy is dust and stones; –  
Which with sweet water nightly I will dew,  
Or, wanting that, with tears distill'd by moans:  
The obsequies that I for thee will keep  
Nightly shall be to strew thy grave and weep.

*(The Page whistles)*

The boy gives warning something doth approach.  
What cursed foot wanders this way to-night,  
To cross my obsequies and true love's rite?  
What with a torch! muffle me, night, awhile.

*(Retires)*

*(Enter ROMEO and BALTHASAR, with a torch, mattock, &c;)*

ROMEO: Give me that mattock and the wrenching iron.  
Hold, take this letter; early in the morning  
See thou deliver it to my lord and father.  
Give me the light: upon thy life, I charge thee,  
Whate'er thou hear'st or seest, stand all aloof,  
And do not interrupt me in my course.  
But if thou, jealous, dost return to pry  
In what I further shall intend to do,  
By heaven, I will tear thee joint by joint:

The time and my intents are savage-wild.

BALTHASAR: I will be gone, sir, and not trouble you.

ROMEO: So shalt thou show me friendship. Take thou that:  
Live, and be prosperous: and farewell, good fellow.

BALTHASAR: *(Aside)* For all this same, I'll hide me hereabout:  
His looks I fear, and his intents I doubt.

*(Retires)*

ROMEO: Thou detestable maw, thou womb of death,  
Gorged with the dearest morsel of the earth,  
Thus I enforce thy rotten jaws to open,  
And, in despite, I'll cram thee with more food!

*(Opens the tomb)*

PARIS: This is that banish'd haughty Montague,  
That murder'd my love's cousin, and here is come  
To do some villainous shame. I will apprehend him.

*(Comes forward)*

Stop thy unhallow'd toil, vile Montague!  
Can vengeance be pursued further than death?  
Condemned villain, I do apprehend thee:  
Obey, and go with me; for thou must die.

ROMEO: I must indeed; and therefore came I hither.  
Good gentle youth, tempt not a desperate man;  
Fly hence, and leave me. I beseech thee, youth,  
Put not another sin upon my head,  
By urging me to fury: O, be gone!  
By heaven, I love thee better than myself.  
Stay not, be gone; live, and hereafter say,  
A madman's mercy bade thee run away.

PARIS: I do defy thy conjurations,  
And apprehend thee for a felon here.

ROMEO: Wilt thou provoke me? then have at thee, boy!

*(They fight)*

PAGE: O Lord, they fight! I will go call the watch.

*(Exit)*

PARIS: O, I am slain!

*(Falls)*

If thou be merciful,  
Open the tomb, lay me with Juliet.

*(Dies)*

ROMEO: In faith, I will. Let me peruse this face.  
Mercutio's kinsman, noble County Paris!  
What said my man, when my betosséd soul  
Did not attend him as we rode? I think  
He told me Paris should have married Juliet:  
Said he not so? or did I dream it so?  
Or am I mad, hearing him talk of Juliet,  
To think it was so? O, give me thy hand,  
One writ with me in sour misfortune's book!  
I'll bury thee in a triumphant grave;  
A grave? O no! a lantern, slaughter'd youth,  
For here lies Juliet, and her beauty makes  
This vault a feasting presence full of light.  
Death, lie thou there, by a dead man interr'd.

*(Laying PARIS in the tomb)*

How oft when men are at the point of death  
Have they been merry! O my love! my wife!  
Death, that hath suck'd the honey of thy breath,  
Hath had no power yet upon thy beauty:  
Thou art not conquer'd; beauty's ensign yet  
Is crimson in thy lips and in thy cheeks,  
And death's pale flag is not advanced there.  
Tybalt, liest thou there in thy bloody sheet?  
O, what more favour can I do to thee,  
Than with that hand that cut thy youth in twain  
To sunder his that was thine enemy?  
Forgive me, cousin! Ah, dear Juliet,

Why art thou yet so fair? shall I believe  
That unsubstantial death is amorous,  
And that the lean abhorréd monster keeps  
Thee here in dark to be his paramour?  
For fear of that, I still will stay with thee;  
And never from this palace of dim night  
Depart again. Eyes, look your last!  
Arms, take your last embrace! and, lips, O you  
The doors of breath, seal with a righteous kiss  
A dateless bargain to engrossing death!  
Come, bitter conduct, come, unsavoury guide!  
Thou desperate pilot, now at once run on  
The dashing rocks thy sea-sick weary bark!  
Here's to my love!

*(Drinks)*

O true apothecary!  
Thy drugs are quick. Thus with a kiss I die.

*(Dies)*

*(Enter, at the other end of the churchyard, FRIAR LAURENCE,  
with a lantern, crow, and spade)*

FRIAR LAURENCE: Saint Francis be my speed! how oft to-night  
Have my old feet stumbled at graves! Who's there?

BALTHASAR: Here's one, a friend, and one that knows you well.

FRIAR LAURENCE: Bliss be upon you! Tell me, good my friend,  
What torch is yond, that vainly lends his light  
To grubs and eyeless skulls? as I discern,  
It burneth in the Capel's monument.

BALTHASAR: It doth so, holy sir; and there's my master,  
One that you love.

FRIAR LAURENCE: Who is it?

BALTHASAR: Romeo.

FRIAR LAURENCE: How long hath he been there?

BALTHASAR: Full half an hour.

FRIAR LAURENCE: Go with me to the vault.

BALTHASAR: I dare not, sir!  
My master knows not but I am gone hence;  
And fearfully did menace me with death,  
If I did stay to look on his intents.

FRIAR LAURENCE: Stay, then; I'll go alone. Fear comes upon me:  
O, much I fear some ill unlucky thing.

BALTHASAR: As I did sleep under this yew-tree here,  
I dreamt my master and another fought,  
And that my master slew him.

FRIAR LAURENCE: Romeo!

*(Advances)*

Alack, alack, what blood is this, which stains  
The stony entrance of this sepulchre?  
What mean these masterless and gory swords  
To lie discolour'd by this place of peace?

*(Enters the tomb)*

Romeo! O, pale! Who else? what, Paris too?  
And steep'd in blood? Ah, what an unkind hour  
Is guilty of this lamentable chance!  
The lady stirs.

*(JULIET wakes)*

JULIET: O comfortable friar! where is my lord?  
I do remember well where I should be,  
And there I am. Where is my Romeo?

*(Noise within)*

FRIAR LAURENCE: I hear some noise. Lady, come from that nest  
Of death, contagion, and unnatural sleep:

A greater power than we can contradict  
Hath thwarted our intents. Come, come away.  
Thy husband in thy bosom there lies dead;  
And Paris too. Come, I'll dispose of thee  
Among a sisterhood of holy nuns:  
Stay not to question, for the watch is coming;  
Come, go, good Juliet,

*(Noise again)*

I dare no longer stay.

JULIET: Go, get thee hence, for I will not away.

*(Exit FRIAR LAURENCE)*

What's here? a cup, closed in my true love's hand?  
Poison, I see, hath been his timeless end:  
O churl! drunk all, and left no friendly drop  
To help me after? I will kiss thy lips;  
Haply some poison yet doth hang on them,  
To make die with a restorative.

*(Kisses him)*

Thy lips are warm.

First Watchman: *(Within)* Lead, boy: which way?

JULIET: Yea, noise? then I'll be brief. O happy dagger!

*(Snatching ROMEO's dagger)*

This is thy sheath; *(Stabs herself)* there rust, and let me die.

*(Falls on ROMEO's body, and dies)*

*(Enter Watch, with the Page of PARIS)*

PAGE: This is the place; there, where the torch doth burn.

First Watchman: The ground is bloody; search about the churchyard:  
Go, some of you, whoe'er you find attach.

Pitiful sight! here lies the county slain,  
And Juliet bleeding, warm, and newly dead,  
Who here hath lain these two days buried.  
Go, tell the prince: run to the Capulets:  
Raise up the Montagues: some others search:  
We see the ground whereon these woes do lie;  
But the true ground of all these piteous woes  
We cannot without circumstance descry.

*(Re-enter some of the Watch, with BALTHASAR)*

Second Watchman: Here's Romeo's man; we found him in the churchyard.

First Watchman: Hold him in safety, till the prince come hither.

*(Re-enter others of the Watch, with FRIAR LAURENCE)*

Third Watchman: Here is a friar, that trembles, sighs and weeps:  
We took this mattock and this spade from him,  
As he was coming from this churchyard side.

First Watchman: A great suspicion: stay the friar too.

*(Enter the PRINCE and Attendants)*

PRINCE: What misadventure is so early up,  
That calls our person from our morning's rest?

*(Enter CAPULET, LADY CAPULET, and others)*

CAPULET: What should it be, that they so shriek abroad?

LADY CAPULET: The people in the street cry Romeo,  
Some Juliet, and some Paris; and all run,  
With open outcry toward our monument.

PRINCE: What fear is this which startles in our ears?

First Watchman: Sovereign, here lies the County Paris slain;  
And Romeo dead; and Juliet, dead before,  
Warm and new kill'd.

PRINCE: Search, seek, and know how this foul murder comes.



First Watchman: Here is a friar, and slaughter'd Romeo's man;  
With instruments upon them, fit to open  
These dead men's tombs.

CAPULET: O heavens! O wife, look how our daughter bleeds!  
This dagger hath mista'en – for, lo, his house  
Is empty on the back of Montague, –  
And it mis-sheathed in my daughter's bosom!

LADY CAPULET: O me! this sight of death is as a bell,  
That warns my old age to a sepulchre.

*(Enter MONTAGUE and others)*

PRINCE: Come, Montague; for thou art early up,  
To see thy son and heir more early down.

MONTAGUE: Alas, my liege, my wife is dead to-night;  
Grief of my son's exile hath stopp'd her breath:  
What further woe conspires against mine age?

PRINCE: Look, and thou shalt see.

MONTAGUE: O thou untaught! what manners is in this?  
To press before thy father to a grave?

PRINCE: Seal up the mouth of outrage for a while,  
Till we can clear these ambiguities,  
And know their spring, their head, their true descent;  
And then will I be general of your woes,  
And lead you even to death: meantime forbear,  
And let mischance be slave to patience.  
Bring forth the parties of suspicion.

FRIAR LAURENCE: I am the greatest, able to do least,  
Yet most suspected, as the time and place  
Doth make against me of this direful murder;  
And here I stand, both to impeach and purge  
Myself condemned and myself excused.

PRINCE: Then say at once what thou dost know in this.



Where's Romeo's man? what can he say in this?

BALTHASAR: This letter he early bid me give his father,  
And threatened me with death, going in the vault,  
If I departed not and left him there.

PRINCE: Give me the letter; I will look on it.  
Where is the county's page, that raised the watch?  
Sirrah, what made your master in this place?

PAGE: He came with flowers to strew his lady's grave;  
Anon comes one with light to ope the tomb;  
And by and by my master drew on him;  
And then I ran away to call the watch.

PRINCE: This letter doth make good the friar's words,  
Their course of love, the tidings of her death:  
And Romeo writes that he did therewithal  
Come to this vault to die, and lie with Juliet.  
Where be these enemies? Capulet! Montague!  
See, what a scourge is laid upon your hate,  
That heaven finds means to kill your joys with love.  
And I for winking at your discords too  
Have lost a brace of kinsmen: all are punish'd.

CAPULET: O brother Montague, give me thy hand:  
This is my daughter's jointure, for no more  
Can I demand.

MONTAGUE: But I can give thee more:  
For I will raise her statue in pure gold;  
That while Verona by that name is known,  
There shall no figure at such rate be set  
As that of true and faithful Juliet.

CAPULET: As rich shall Romeo's by his lady's lie;  
Poor sacrifices of our enmity!

PRINCE: A glooming peace this morning with it brings;  
The sun, for sorrow, will not show his head:  
Go hence, to have more talk of these sad things;  
Some shall be pardon'd, and some punishèd:  
For never was a story of more woe  
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

(Exeunt)