

# Romeo and Juliet Synopsis

## ACT ONE

The citizens of Verona are in the midst of a terrible conflict. The houses of Montague and Capulet engage in a street war until the Duke orders them to desist.

We see a dream – out of a womb of time a life is born. It is one being, but conflict splits it into two parts, separated and confused.

The young Romeo awakes from the dream, still lovesick from a previous affair and is joined by Mercutio, who invites him to come along to sneak into the masked ball of the Capulets. Romeo reluctantly agrees, despite being a Montague and a sworn enemy of the Capulets.

## ACT TWO

Meanwhile Juliet, the young, beautiful daughter of Lord Capulet, is prepared by her Nurse to meet her betrothed, Paris. Her parents and her cousin Tybalt greet her, and upon Paris' arrival the ball begins. Romeo and Mercutio sneak into the ball. During the dancing Romeo meets Juliet, and they are instantly struck by one another. Tybalt sees Romeo, however, and recognizes him, and is about to start a fight when Lord Capulet stops him.

Romeo sneaks away from Mercutio and arrives alone under Juliet's balcony. When Juliet emerges holding his flower, Romeo reveals himself. The two pledge their love for one another, and Romeo runs away when the Nurse calls Juliet in.

## ACT THREE

Romeo goes to his friend, Friar Laurence, and convinces him to wed the two of them – the Friar thinking that this marriage may bring some unity to the warring families.

Juliet sends the Nurse with a message for Romeo. The Nurse finds the Montagues in the street with Mercutio, who harasses her until she makes him tell her where Romeo is. She gives Juliet's message to Romeo, who goes to the church to meet her.

Romeo and Juliet are married by Friar Laurence at the church.

## ACT FOUR

In the streets, Tybalt accosts Mercutio, seeking Romeo. A fight begins between the two, and Romeo arrives. When he tries to break up the fight, Tybalt stabs Mercutio, who dies of his wound. Romeo, in turn, fights and kills Tybalt, and is banished as a result.

Juliet receives the news of Romeo's banishment and sends word to Friar Laurence, who hides Romeo. The Nurse guides Romeo to Juliet's bedchamber for their first night together. In the morning, Romeo flees, and Juliet receives word that she must marry Paris. She refuses and her father strikes her.

## ACT FIVE

Juliet goes to Friar Laurence, who conceives a plan in which Juliet will drink a potion that will make her appear to be dead, and after she is interred, Romeo will come to her and take her away. When she takes the potion, however, the young Balthasar is witness to the funeral and runs to tell Romeo that she is dead.

Romeo goes mad when he hears that she is dead and rushes to her tomb. Seeing her body, he takes a vial of poison and drinks it, killing himself. Juliet awakes, and seeing Romeo's dead body, takes his knife and kills herself.