

Romeo & Juliet - Plot summary

The Capulets and the Montagues are two noble families of Verona, who have been feuding for a long time. At the start of the play, the Capulet and Montague servants are fighting. Benvolio tries to stop them, but Tybalt joins in. The Prince, Escalus, arrives and warns that anyone fighting will be punished with death.

We meet Romeo, who is in love with Rosaline. Romeo and Benvolio meet a Capulet servant who is carrying a letter about a Capulet ball. Romeo and Benvolio decide to gatecrash the ball.

At the ball, Romeo sees Juliet for the first time. They kiss. Tybalt recognises Romeo's voice and wants to fight him. Capulet tells him not to spoil the party. Tybalt vows to get revenge for Romeo's intrusion. Later Romeo climbs into the orchard, to visit Juliet. They decide to get married the next day.

Juliet's Nurse meets Romeo the next day. He tells her that Juliet must go to Friar Lawrence's cell. Romeo and Juliet are married by Friar Lawrence.

On his way back, Romeo is challenged to a fight by Tybalt. Romeo refuses, as he is now related to Tybalt through Juliet. Romeo's friend Mercutio fights Tybalt instead, and is killed. Romeo then kills Tybalt. The Prince banishes Romeo to Mantua.

Romeo goes to see Juliet, but has to flee in the morning. Juliet is told by her parents that she has to marry Paris. Friar Lawrence gives her a sleeping drug, and Juliet returns to apologise to her parents. She takes the sleeping drug that night, and is found 'dead' the next morning.

The letter that Friar Lawrence sends Romeo to tell him of the plan does not reach him. Romeo hears of Juliet's death and rushes back to Verona. He buys a poison and goes to Juliet's tomb. He drinks the poison and dies. Juliet wakes and sees Romeo, dead. She refuses to leave with Friar Lawrence, and instead, stabs herself with Romeo's dagger.

Their parents arrive, and agree to stop fighting.