Romeo and Juliet

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Act 1

- 1 The Prince said that he would punish the Capulets and Montagues by death.
- 2 Romeo was feeling unhappy because he was in love with Rosaline, who had taken a vow of chastity and promised never to love any man.
- 3 Count Paris wanted to marry Capulet's daughter, Juliet.
- 4 Benvolio wanted Romeo to go to Capulet's party, because he would see many beautiful women there. Romeo could compare them with Rosaline. Then Romeo would see that Rosaline was not the most beautiful woman in Verona.
- Tybalt soon found out that Romeo was a Montague and his enemy. Tybalt thought that Romeo had come to scorn the Capulets in their own house. For that reason, Tybalt wanted to kill Romeo.
- 6 Juliet had fallen in love with Romeo, so she was shocked to hear that he was a Montague and her enemy.

Act 2

- 1 Juliet wanted Romeo to change his family name because the Montagues were enemies of the Capulets.
- 2 Romeo and Juliet decided to marry without telling anyone in their families.
- Friar Laurence was worried about Romeo's plan to marry Juliet because he had fallen in love with her so quickly. Overnight, Romeo's first love, Rosaline, had been forgotten.
- 4 But the Friar decided to help Romeo and Juliet. He hoped that a marriage between them would bring their families together.
- Juliet must go to the abbey that afternoon, to be married to Romeo. The nurse must wait behind the abbey wall, where Romeo's servant would give her a rope-ladder.
- 6 Romeo wanted the rope-ladder to climb into Juliet's room that night.

Act 3

- 1 Romeo did not want to fight with Tybalt, because he was a Capulet and Juliet's cousin. Now that Romeo had married Juliet, he was Tybalt's cousin too.
- 2 Mercutio was stabbed to death by Tybalt when Romeo tried to stop them fighting.
- 3 Romeo's punishment for killing Tybalt was exile from Verona.
- 4 Romeo was very unhappy when he heard about his exile, because he would never see Juliet again.
- Juliet's father, Lord Capulet made arrangements for his daughter to marry Count Paris that Thursday. Lord Capulet thought that it would be a pleasant surprise for Juliet. It would cheer her up, after her cousin Tybalt's death.
- 6 The Nurse told Juliet to forget the exiled Romeo and marry Paris.

Act 4

- Juliet met Paris. He was talking to Friar Laurence about the marriage that had been arranged between Paris and Juliet by Lord Capulet.
- 2 Juliet wanted to kill herself, rather than marry Paris.
- 3 The mixture would send Juliet to sleep. Her body would be cold and hard. Everyone would think that she was dead.
- 4 Lord Capulet decided to bring the marriage forward to the next day Wednesday.
- Juliet was first of all worried that the mixture would not work. Then she thought that it might be poison. Her next thought was that she would wake up too soon and die in the tomb because there was no air there. Last of all, she thought that the sounds and sights of the tomb would drive her mad.

Act 5

- 1 Balthasar told Romeo that Juliet was dead. Her body was in the Capulets' tomb.
- 2 Romeo decided to get some poison from the apothecary and kill himself.
- There was an infectious illness in Verona and Friar John had been stopped from leaving the house where he was staying. People were afraid that he would carry the illness with him. So he could not send the letter to Romeo in Mantua or let Friar Laurence know what had happened.
- 4 Romeo thought that Juliet was dead. So he drank all the poison and killed himself.
- Juliet stabbed herself to death with Romeo's knife. Romeo was already dead from the poison and Juliet could not live without him.
- 6 Capulet and Montague decided to be friends. Montague promised to put up a golden statue of Juliet in Verona. Capulet said that he would put a statue of Romeo next to it.

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