



SYNOPSIS – spoiler alert!!!

The ancient feud of two rival families, the Capulets and the Montagues, spills out on to the streets of Verona, fuelled by the fiery Tybalt Capulet. It is broken up by the Prince who threatens death for anyone “who disturbs our streets”.

Later that evening the Capulets hold a great celebration to which everyone in the town is invited, except the Montagues. The reason for the ball is to introduce their daughter, Juliet to a young count, Paris, whom they wish her to marry. The young members of the Montague family, Romeo and his cousin, Benvolio along with their friend Mercutio, decide to attend the event in disguise.

During the ball Romeo sees Juliet from across the room, and is instantly enchanted by her. He woos her to such an effect that Juliet only has eyes for him. Juliet’s cousin Tybalt notices the presence of the Montagues, but Capulet reminds him of the Prince’s warning and the party comes to an end without a fight.

Romeo sneaks back into the garden, where he hears Juliet on her balcony talking to herself about the danger of loving an enemy. Their overwhelming attraction for one another results in the exchange of vows of love and they plan to marry in secret the next day.

That morning Romeo confesses his love to Friar Lawrence and begs him to marry them. The Friar considers that the marriage might end the feud between the families and bring peace to Verona and agrees to marry them. Once married, they go their separate ways, until they may be secretly together that night.

However, before they can meet, Tybalt tries to pick a fight with Romeo, but when Romeo refuses to fight, Mercutio takes up his sword and a street fight ensues. Mercutio is killed and Romeo, enraged at the death of his friend, kills Tybalt and is banished by the Prince.

Before he flees Verona, Romeo and Juliet have their one night together. The strength of their love for one another transcends the uncertain future, yet a shadow hovers over them.

Unaware of this secret marriage, the Capulets continue to go ahead with their plans for Juliet to wed Paris. In a panic, Juliet goes to Friar Lawrence for help. He gives her a sleeping

poison that will make her appear "as though dead" and assures her he will get word to Romeo of the plan. When she awakes they will be reunited.

Tragically, the message goes astray; from Benvolio, Romeo receives word of Juliet's supposed death and blinded by grief, he returns to Verona, determined to be with her in death. At the tomb he meets Paris who has also heard of Juliet's death. To stop Romeo entering her tomb Paris challenges him and is killed. Then at the side of Juliet's body, Romeo drinks a fatal draught of poison.

Just as the poison takes its effect, Juliet wakes up. Seeing Romeo dead beside her and using his dagger, she takes her own life.

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