

ROMÉO ET JULIETTE

THE STORY

PROLOGUE

The story is told of the endless feud between the Montague and Capulet families, and of the forbidden love between their children.

PART ONE

Juliette Capulet is the center of attention at a masked ball at the palace. Her cousin **Tybalt** is showing off the Capulets' wealth and Juliette's beauty to **Count Pâris**, to whom Juliette is promised to be wed.

Their disguises have allowed **Roméo Montague** and his friends to enter the palace undetected. Roméo recounts a worrisome dream, but his friend **Mercutio** makes light of it.

Roméo and Juliette meet and quickly fall in love, but when they learn they are from rival houses, they realize that their love is doomed. Roméo flees after Tybalt recognizes him.

Later that night, Roméo returns to the Capulet palace and declares his love to Juliette.

The lovers ask **Frère Laurent** to unite them in marriage. Hoping that their love might reconcile their families, he carries out the ceremony.

INTERMISSION

PART TWO

Outside the palace, Roméo's page **Stephano** mocks the Capulets with a song, and it provokes a fight. Roméo tries to make peace, but when Tybalt kills Mercutio, Roméo stabs Tybalt. Both families renew their vow of vengeance.

The next morning, the newlyweds awake after their secret wedding night, and Roméo reluctantly leaves before he can be discovered. Lord Capulet tells his daughter that she must wed Count Pâris that same day, and that the marriage was the dying wish of her cousin Tybalt.

Frère Laurent gives Juliette a sleeping potion that will make her appear to be dead, and he promises that when she wakes, Roméo will be beside her. Juliette drinks the poison, and when her father arrives to lead her to the wedding, she collapses.

Roméo arrives at Juliette's grave, and believing her dead, drinks poison. At that moment, she wakes. As Roméo weakens, she realizes what he has done and kills herself. The lovers die together, praying to God for forgiveness.