



15 Minute Romeo and Juliet

In Verona there are two families that have hated each other for a long time. They yell in the streets (**1. Down with the Capulets!**), and (**2. Down with the Montagues!**) There is a fight in the street that is so disruptive that the Prince, tired of this violence, lays down the law: (**3. If ever you disturb our streets again, your lives shall pay the forfeit.**)

Meanwhile, Romeo has been staying out all night and sleeping all day because he is in love with Rosaline who doesn't love him back. His friends, Benvolio and Mercutio are headed for a party at the Capulets' house. It's a masked ball, so they all can sneak in undetected and no one will know who they are. Benvolio is excited because the ball will give Romeo a chance to get over Rosaline. (**4. Examine other beauties.**) Juliet's father doesn't know that Romeo and his friends are Montagues either, and he welcomes them. (**5. You are welcome, gentlemen! Come, musicians, play!**)

There, at this party, is where Romeo first sees Juliet. (**6. O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!**) They dance. They kiss. She says, (**7. You kiss by the book.**) Only at the end of the party do they learn that the other is from their own family's hated enemy. It's too late, they are in love with each other. Romeo sneaks away from his friends, climbs the wall into the Capulet's orchard, and sees Juliet at her window (**8. But soft, what light through yonder window breaks?**) Juliet, not knowing Romeo is nearby, says (**9. O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?**) They confess their love to each other, but Juliet is called inside. Romeo says, (**10. Wilt thou leave me so unsatisfied?**) Juliet says, (**11. If that thy bent of love be honorable, Thy purpose marriage, send me word tomorrow.**) They enlist the help of Juliet's Nurse to send messages and Friar Lawrence to marry them.

Even so, the feud continues. In the town square, Tybalt, Juliet's cousin, comes looking for Romeo. Mercutio takes the bait. (**12. Tybalt, you rat-catcher, will you walk?**) Tybalt angrily answers, (**13. I am for you.**) They fight. Romeo tries to peacefully break them up, but only gets in Mercutio's way, allowing Tybalt to stab Mercutio. Mercutio dies, and Tybalt runs away. A few minutes later, (**14. Here comes the furious Tybalt back again!**) In a fury, Romeo kills Tybalt. He immediately realizes his horrible mistake and says, (**15. O, I am Fortune's Fool!**) The Prince banishes Romeo to Mantua for killing Tybalt.

Before Romeo leaves Verona, he spends the night with Juliet. As he climbs out her window the next morning, she says (**16. Then, window, let day in, and let life out.**) Juliet's parents burst in to inform her that they have arranged for her to marry the County Paris. She says (**I'll not marry**



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yet.) Her father, angry that Juliet is refusing him, says, **(18. Hang thee, young baggage, Disobedient wretch!)** and tells her that if she won't marry Paris he will cast her into the streets to beg.

Juliet and the Friar come up with a plan. Juliet will take a potion in order to *appear* dead so her parents will put her body in their funeral monument. Then Friar Lawrence will fetch her and take her to Mantua. Juliet takes the potion **(19. Romeo! Here's drink – I drink to thee.)** It works. Her nurse and her mother find her in the morning **(20. Alack the day, she's dead, she's dead, she's dead!)** They put her body in the tomb.

In Mantua, Romeo gets the news that Juliet is dead. He buys some poison and heads to the tomb to join Juliet in death. Friar Lawrence is on his way to the tomb, as well, to get Juliet and take her to Mantua. Paris is also heading to the tomb to mourn his almost-wife. Paris gets there first, and tries to defend the tomb from Romeo. Romeo kills him **(21. O, I am slain!)**. Then Romeo drinks his poison and bids Juliet a final farewell **(22. Here's to my love... thus with a kiss I die.)**

Friar Lawrence arrives to find Romeo dead, Juliet waking up, and the city of Verona on its way to see what the commotion was. He tries to console Juliet and hurry her away **(23. I'll dispose of thee among a sisterhood of holy nuns)**, but Juliet refuses to leave. Friar Lawrence runs away, and Juliet decides to join Romeo in death. **(24. O, happy dagger, this is thy sheath.)** They are discovered by their families who finally see that their quarrels have gone too far. They vow to make peace, for **(25. Never was a story of more woe Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.)**