

Romeo & Juliet Act III

Scene 1

- The scene opens with Benvolio and Mercutio
- They are talking about how Benvolio likes to fight, no matter how small an issue may be
- Tybalt shows up and Mercutio starts the fight telling Tybalt that what he has to say, he can add a blow (punch) with it
- Tybalt says something to Romeo and Romeo does not care and acts calmly. Romeo is still happy about his marriage to Juliet and Tybalt is now consider his cousin-in-law (Tybalt does not know about this)
- Tybalt wants to fight but Romeo does not. Tybalt assumes that Romeo is afraid to fight.
- Tybalt and Mercutio draw their swords and start to fight; Romeo tries to stop the fight and gets ahold of Mercutio. While Mercutio is being held Tybalt stabs him
- Mercutio is hurt and bleeding
- Mercutio says "you shall find me a grave man"- a pun using the word grave
 - grave- buried in a grave or depressed/somber
 - this could be foreshadowing that he is about to die
- Romeo is upset because his friend is dying because of him, his reputation has been damaged by a man who has been my relative for only an hour. My love for Juliet has made me less manly and brave.
 - If Romeo fights he is a dead man because the Prince does not want the fighting and it is now his family but if he doesn't fight it will show that he doesn't care about Mercutio
- Mercutio dies.
- Tybalt comes back and Romeo and Tybalt fight
- Romeo stabs Tybalt and Romeo runs off before the Prince comes
- Benvolio tells the Prince what happens (he is very specific)
 - tells him that Tybalt killed Mercutio
 - Romeo tried to break it up when Mercutio dies.
 - Romeo killed Tybalt because he killed Mercutio
 - Benvolio is specific about details and makes it seems like he could not do anything to stop the fighting (he leaves himself out of the account- he is trying to save himself)
- Lady Capulet is upset and saying that Benvolio is not telling the entire truth.
 - she says that Romeo should pay for this
- Romeo is guilty only of avenging Mercutio's death; he was doing what the law would have done anyway
- Instead of killing Romeo, Prince exiled Romeo from Verona
- Mercutio was related to the Prince so now his family is directly affected by this feud.
- Prince also says that if Romeo does not leave then he will put to death

Scene 2

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- Juliet is waiting for Romeo to come to her room
- The Nurse comes into Juliet's room to tell her he is dead (Juliet thinks that it is Romeo who is killed)
- Juliet asks if Romeo slain himself- foreshadow to the end of the book; and it is irony- we know that he will be dead by the end of the play
- Juliet is confused and thinks that both Romeo and Tybalt is dead. Juliet is more concerned about Romeo over Tybalt
- The Nurse finally says that Tybalt is dead and Romeo is banished
- Juliet makes contradictory phrases to show her conflicting feelings. (oxymoron)
 - fiend angelical
 - beautiful tyrant
 - damned saint
 - honorable villain
 - husband and loves him but he killed Tybalt
- Juliet is upset that she criticized her husband and then realizes that if he didn't kill Tybalt than Tybalt would have killed Romeo
- The worst punishment Juliet could receive is to be apart from Romeo
- Nurse will go find Romeo to bring him to Juliet before he leaves

Scene 3

- Friar Laurence tells Romeo that the prince has banished him from Verona
- Romeo says that he would rather be dead than banished because he will be separated from Juliet
- Friar Laurence is mad at Romeo for the way he is acting towards the news about him being banished. Laurence tells Romeo that the Prince has mercy on him because the crime he committed deserves death
 - Friar Laurence tells Romeo he should be thankful for:
 - 1. Romeo's life- he is not sentenced to death
 - 2. Juliet is alive
 - 3. exile- he is exile but he and Juliet can still be together
- Shakespeare foreshadows the death when Romeo says, "Hadst thou no poison mixed, no sharp-ground knife" (line 47)
- There is a knock on the door and it is the Nurse
- The Nurse has come to see Romeo. She tells him that Juliet is just upset about him being banished. She tells Romeo to be a man.
- Canceled love- they are separated and can't be together (hinting at being separated for life)
- Romeo pulls out a dagger planning to kill himself

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- The Friar is shocked by this. He tells Romeo think about what you doing. You need to stand up and be thankful. You still have Juliet and exiled is better than losing your life. Count your blessings instead of feeling sorry for yourself.
- The Friar tells Romeo to go see Juliet for the night but make sure you leave before you are discovered and escape to Mantua.
- The Friar comes up with the plan to tell the people about Romeo and Juliet's marriage and ask the Prince for a pardon for Romeo
- The Friar thinks this might work because the Prince wants peace and this might bring peace

Scene 4

- The scene opens with Lord Capulet, Lady Capulet and Paris
- Capulet changes his mind about Juliet not getting married and having a choice in who she marries.
- Juliet is locked up in her room and won't come down and her parents think it is because she is mourning the death of Tybalt (example of dramatic irony: we know why Juliet is sad (banishment of Romeo) but her parents do not).
- Capulet thinks that Juliet will obey him and pledges to marry Paris. He also decides that the wedding will happen on Thursday
- Capulet sends Lady Capulet to go see Juliet to tell her the news

Scene 5

- It is morning and Romeo must leave town and Juliet is trying to keep him from going
- Romeo says he will stay even if it means death he will stay for her
- "Come, death, and welcome! Juliet wills it so" (line 24)
 - foreshadowing the end
- The Nurse comes to the door to let her know that her mother is coming to her room
- Romeo and Juliet say goodbye
- Lady Capulet comes to her room and tells her to stop her sadness and she hopes that someone will Romeo poison
- Juliet plays along with Lady Capulet about her hatred for Romeo
- Lady Capulet tells Juliet about the marriage on Thursday
- Juliet is upset and tells her mother that she would rather marry Romeo than Paris
- Capulet is surprised that Juliet does not want to do what he wants
- He calls her some names and threatens her (he is very angry)
- Nurse tries to stand up for Juliet but Capulet puts her down
- Capulet is made because he has found a good man for Juliet and she refuses to obey his wishes and says if she does not marry then she will be kicked out of the house
- Juliet is worried about being married to two men
- The Nurse tells Juliet to marry Paris since Romeo is banished

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- Juliet agrees but in reality she does not (verbal irony)
- Juliet tells the nurse that she will go see Friar Laurence to confess (but she is going to him for help)
- Once she is alone, Juliet calls the Nurse names

Only 4 people know about Romeo and Juliet's marriage:

- 1. Romeo
- 2. Juliet
- 3. Friar Laurence
- 4. Nurse