



Romeo and Juliet

adapted from the play by William Shakespeare

Episode 2: Love arrives at a party

[Scene 1: The Capulet party]

Rosaline

I usually love a party - the excitement and anticipation! Capulet parties are always amazing. But with an uninvited Romeo in attendance, I can't help thinking things might be slightly different tonight. I wonder if he's arrived yet? Let's just hope that a masked ball prevents him from being recognised. I hate to think what might happen if it doesn't!

Capulet

Welcome, everyone! Come, musicians, play! Let the dancing begin!

Romeo

(To servant) Who is that lady, dancing with that gentleman over there?

Servant

I don't know, sir.

Romeo

Oh she teaches the torches to burn brighter! Did my heart love til now?
I've never seen true beauty before tonight!

Rosaline

How quickly things can change! One minute I was the only one for him and the next, it would appear I'm completely forgotten! Juliet *is* lovely. But Romeo and Juliet? The son of the Montagues and the daughter of the Capulets? Someone had better talk some sense into him...and quickly before everything starts to go very wrong! Uh-oh! Too late!

Capulet

How are you doing, Tybalt? What are you storming about for?

Tybalt

Uncle this (*he points to Romeo*) is a Montague, our enemy.

Capulet

Young Romeo, is it?

Tybalt

Yes, it is. That villain Romeo.

Capulet

Calm down. Leave him alone.

Tybalt

I will not put up with him being here.

Capulet

Yes. You shall. Am I in charge? Or you? You'll ruin the party for everyone.

Capulet

Be quiet! (*To the party*) More light, more fun! Keep dancing everyone!

Tybalt

I will hold back for now. But this insult will be paid for later.

Rosaline

Of all people to be discovered by! It couldn't be worse than Tybalt. He hates the Montagues - especially Romeo - though I don't think even he knows why he does. I don't know what Tybalt's problem is, but I do know that once he gets angry something usually happens - he can't seem to stop himself. Where's Romeo off to?

Romeo

(*To Juliet*) If I disrespect your hand by taking it, my gentle punishment should be this: to smooth my rough touch with a tender kiss.

Rosaline

If Tybalt sees this he'll get even more angry. Why are they touching hands? It looks like they're going to kiss? Phew!

Well, that happened rather quickly, didn't it? They look sweet together... Wait, what am I saying!? This is not good! And to think, they still don't know each other's name! They are very sweet together, aren't they? It's just shame that no one else in the family will agree.

Nurse

Madam, your mother would like a word with you.

Romeo

Who is her mother?

Nurse

Her mother is the lady of the house, and a good lady, very wise and virtuous. I helped raise her daughter, the young lady you were just talking to.

Romeo

Is she a Capulet?

Nurse

She is.

Romeo

What a price to pay! I'm now in debt to my greatest enemies for bringing me my greatest love.

Benvolio

Let's go now while everything is still going well.

Rosaline

Couldn't Benvolio have taken Romeo out earlier? *Before* he met Juliet might have been more helpful. Imagine if Tybalt had seen!

Juliet

Come here, nurse. Who is that gentleman?

Nurse

His name is Romeo, the only son of your great enemies, the Montagues.

Juliet

My only love, comes from my only hate!

Rosaline

Romeo might have left and the party might be coming to an end, but I have a feeling things are just getting started. The love story of Romeo and Juliet - the 'star-crossed lovers' - has begun. What will be will be.