



Romeo and Juliet

adapted from the play by William Shakespeare

Episode 4: A secret wedding

[Scene 1: Friar Lawrence's church]

Rosaline

It's very early, but after everything that happened last night at the party, there's no time to lose. There's only one person who Romeo could ask for help and who could marry Romeo and Juliet - Friar Lawrence. If Romeo is going to be going anywhere, it'll be here - and soon. He's got to get everything arranged in time to meet Juliet's messenger at 9 o'clock! *(Seeing Romeo arrive)* Told you.

Friar Lawrence

The dark of night is gone and a happy morning begins, as sunlight streaks through the clouds in the east.

Romeo

Good morning, Friar Lawrence.

Friar Lawrence

Who is greeting me so early? Being awake at this time must mean you have had trouble sleeping. Or, or if that's not true, then I'd guess our Romeo has not been to bed last night.

Romeo

That guess is correct.

Friar Lawrence

Did you go to the party? Did you see Rosaline?

Romeo

Rosaline? No. I have forgotten all about Rosaline and the misery she caused me.

Friar Lawrence

Well that's good. But what's troubling you then?

Romeo

I will tell you simply. I am in love with the beautiful daughter of Lord Capulet. I love her. And she loves me. And we want to be married. I'll tell you the story of how, when and where we met later. But now I hope that you will agree to marry us today.

Friar Lawrence

How things have changed!

Rosaline

I'm betting the good friar knows the trouble this may cause...

Friar Lawrence

I'll agree to help you, as it may just be possible that this marriage could turn your two families' feelings of hatred towards each other into those of love.

Rosaline

That's one way of seeing it I guess. Their marriage might bring the families closer...

Romeo

Let's go then! Let's do this quickly.

Friar Lawrence

Go wisely, and go slowly. Those who rush into things often stumble.

Rosaline

The friar's right: it's all a bit sudden, isn't it? One minute he was crying over me and the next he wants to marry Juliet. Either Romeo has just learned what love really is...or he's acting too quickly and this is just another short-term crush. But maybe the friar is right: this marriage could be just the thing the families need to end their feud. Oh, I really hope he is right.

[Scene 2: the streets of Verona]

Rosaline

With the friar agreeing to help, there's only one other hurdle that might prevent these two 'star-crossed lovers' from marrying today. Who is Juliet going to trust to send to meet Romeo? No one in her household would agree, surely? I don't see anyone coming from the Capulet house and it's past 9 o'clock now. Oh, hang on a minute, there's someone I recognise...

Nurse

Gentlemen, can any of you tell me where I may find young Romeo?

Romeo

I am he.

Nurse

I need to speak with you: my young mistress sent me to find you. What she has asked me to say, I will keep to myself. But first let me say that if you are lying to her, or fooling her... Well, that would be a terrible thing to do.

Rosaline

She's making sure Romeo is serious. She's checking his love and offer of marriage is genuine.

Romeo

Nurse, tell her I am true, I promise you.

Nurse

I will tell her your heart is good. She will be so happy.

Romeo

Tell her to find a way to come to the church this afternoon. And there, Friar Lawrence will marry us!

Nurse

This afternoon, sir? Well, she will be there!

Rosaline

Juliet's nurse has agreed to help. More than that - she's going to help Juliet sneak out of the house, go to the friar's and watch her get married to Romeo. She knows the trouble this could cause...

[Scene 3: Juliet's room]

Juliet

It was nine o'clock when I sent the nurse. She said she'd be back in half an hour! Maybe she couldn't find him... It's been three hours and she's still not back.

Rosaline

Maybe the nurse has changed her mind and isn't going to help organise the wedding after all?

Juliet

Ah, she's back! Sweet nurse, what news? Oh no, why do you look so sad?

Nurse

I'm tired. Give me a moment. Ah, my bones are aching!

Juliet

I wish you could have *my* bones, then maybe I could have *your* news! Please tell me good nurse, speak. Is your news good or bad? What did Romeo say of our marriage?

Nurse

You must go to Friar Lawrence's. Romeo is waiting there to marry you!

[Scene 4: Friar Lawrence's church]

Friar Lawrence

May the heavens smile upon this marriage. Come, come with me and we will do the ceremony quickly. And the holy church shall unite you both as one.

Rosaline

As the doors close and secret marriage vows are made, we can only hope that the Friar is right...that the heavens are smiling down on them, and that this will bring peace and unite the families.