



Romeo and Juliet

adapted from the play by William Shakespeare

Episode 8: The deep sleep

[Scene 1: The Capulet house]

Rosaline

'Mission Wedding' is underway! You'd never even know that Juliet hasn't agreed to it yet. As far as the Capulets are concerned, this wedding is going ahead, whether Juliet likes it or not.

Juliet, however, has been given the sleeping potion by Friar Lawrence. All of the Capulet's planning will come to nothing if she takes it. They'll think she has died.

Lord Capulet

(To servants) Invite all the guests on this list. And you hire twenty skilled cooks. *(To the nurse)* Has my daughter gone to Friar Lawrence?

Nurse

She has.

Lord Capulet

Maybe he can talk some sense into her... *(To Juliet as she enters)*
How are you, my headstrong daughter?!

Juliet

Forgive me, I beg you. From now on I will do what you tell me.

Lord Capulet

Send for Count Paris and tell him about this. We'll move the wedding to tomorrow morning!

Rosaline

That was pretty convincing from Juliet! Oh I wish it hadn't been! I wish Lord Capulet had seen through it. That would have put a stop to this whole sleeping potion business straight away. We have to hope Lady Capulet or the nurse sense something is wrong.

[Scene 2: Juliet's room]

Juliet

Yes, these clothes are the best. But, gentle nurse, please leave me by myself tonight.

Lady Capulet

Are you busy? Do you need my help?

Juliet

No, mother. We have chosen the clothes that will be best for tomorrow. So, if it's alright with you, I'd like to be alone. Let the nurse help you, for I am sure you have your hands full with the wedding arrangements.

Lady Capulet

Good night. Get to bed and rest.

Rosaline

And they've gone...along with all hopes that the sleeping potion would be discovered by anyone who could talk some sense to her. It looks as though everything is going according to Friar Lawrence's plan. Oh Juliet, what are you about to do..?

Juliet

Come, bottle. Romeo, I drink this for you.

[Scene 3: Juliet's room the following morning]

Lord Capulet

(Calling out) Count Paris will be here soon with musicians. He said he would. I hear him coming. Nurse! Wife! Hey! What, nurse, I say! Go wake up Juliet. Get her dressed. Paris is here already!

Nurse

(To the sleeping Juliet) Mistress! Juliet! Fast asleep I bet. Hey you, sleepy head. Hey, love! Madam! Sweetheart! Hey, bride! How sound asleep she is! I must wake you. Lady! Lady! No! Help! Help!

Lady Capulet

(Entering) What noise is this? What is the matter?

Nurse

Look, look! O, awful day!

Lady Capulet

O no, o no! My child! Come back! Help, help! Call for help.

Lord Capulet

(Entering) Bring Juliet here. Paris has arrived.

Lady Capulet

Curse the day, she's dead!

Lord Capulet

Let me see her! O, no!

Rosaline

Juliet has been laid in the Capulet's family tomb. Everyone is distraught. They think she has died, but really she is just in a deep sleep, from the effects of the sleeping potion.

[Scene 4: Mantua - where Romeo is exiled]

Romeo

News from Verona! How are you Balthasar? How is my wife? Is my father well? How is Juliet? I ask again, because nothing can be bad if she is well.

Balthasar

Her body lies in the Capulet tomb, and her soul now lives with the angels. Pardon me for bringing this bad news.

Romeo

Is it true? Then I defy you, stars! You know where I am staying? Bring me paper and ink. And hire horses. I am leaving for Verona tonight.

Balthasar

I beg you, sir, be patient! You have a pale and wild look.

Rosaline

Oh no! Balthasar has the wrong news and poor Romeo thinks Juliet is dead! And now he's asking for a pen and paper and horses... Who is he going to write to? And now it seems he will be heading back to Verona, even though he is banished... Let's hope Friar Lawrence's letter gets to him before he leaves.