

PLAYS FOR
New Audiences

A Division of Children's Theatre Company

Romeo and Juliet

by William Shakespeare

Adapted by Toby Hulse

The license issued in connection with PNA perusal scripts is a limited license and is issued for the sole purpose of reviewing the script for a potential future performance. All other rights regarding perusal scripts are expressly reserved by Plays for New Audiences, including, but not limited to, the rights to distribute, perform, copy, or alter scripts. This limited license does not convey any performance rights of any kind with this material. By accepting any perusal script(s), Licensee agrees to and is bound by these terms.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

For a cast of seven

EMILY

MERCUTIO/BALTHASAR

ROMEO

CAPULET

JULIET

TYBALT

NURSE

For a cast of six

EMILY

MERCUTIO/BALTHASAR

ROMEO

CAPULET

JULIET

TYBALT/NURSE

NOT LICENSED FOR PRODUCTION

Scene One

Emily is in her bedroom playing.

It is the type of bedroom that only a Disney Princess herself could imagine. All is pink. The walls are lined with fairy tale books.

Emily is looking through the books.

Emily Snow White – a story of true love. Sleeping Beauty – a story of true love. Cinderella – a story of true love. The Little Mermaid – a story of true love.

Emily finds a book she has not seen before. She opens it and begins to read...

'Romeo and Juliet, by William Shakespeare. A story of true love.'

True love... happy-ever-after.

Romeo and Juliet. Romeo is a handsome prince: Juliet is his princess. They meet and fall in love. There is some obstacle to their love. A cruel father, or a wicked stepmother, or an evil witch. But in the end good wins through, and with true love's kiss, they marry and live happy-ever-after. And that is just how it should be...

She continues reading.

'Two households both alike in dignity
(In fair Verona, where we lay our scene)'

Verona – that's in Italy. How romantic!

'From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.'

I wonder what that means?

*She is interrupted by the entrance of **Tybalt**.*

Hello. Who are you? Are you Romeo?

Tybalt I am Tybalt, of the house of Capulet.

Emily Not Romeo?

Tybalt Romeo is a Montague, and my foe.

Emily So, are you in this story?

Tybalt *nods.*

Good. And what do you do?

Tybalt I strike quickly being moved. A dog of the house of Montague moves me. Here comes a friend of them.

Emily A friend?

Tybalt Of the Montagues. I hate him, as I hate hell, and all Montagues.

Emily What's his name? Is this Romeo?

Tybalt He is Mercutio. I will bite my thumb at him, which is disgrace if he does bear it.

Enter Mercutio.

Mercutio Do you bite your thumb at me, sir?

Tybalt I do bite my thumb, sir.

Mercutio Do you bite your thumb at me, sir?

Tybalt *draws.*

Tybalt I bite my thumb, sir? Do you quarrel, sir? If you do, sir, I am for you.

Mercutio *draws.*

Mercutio Put up your sword.

Emily Put up your swords! Why are you fighting? This is a love story!

Tybalt Turn thee, Mercutio, look upon thy death.

They fight.

Emily *interrupts them.*

Emily Stop!

Emily Stop! Why aren't you stopping?

Mercutio You have to say it in Shakespeare. Otherwise we can't understand you.

Emily Ok, I'll say it in Shakespeare, then...

Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace –
If ever you disturb this tale again
Your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace.
Depart away.

Exit Tybalt.

Scene Two

Emily and Mercutio.

Emily 'From forth the fatal loins of these two foes –'

The Montagues and the Capulets –

'A pair of star-cross'd lovers...'

Romeo and Juliet.

O where is Romeo, saw you him today?

Romeo enters.

Mercutio Romeo!

Emily So, this is Romeo...

Mercutio Good morrow, cousin.

Romeo Is the day so young?

Mercutio But new struck nine.

Romeo Ay me, sad hours seem so long.

Mercutio What sadness lengthens Romeo's hours?

Romeo Not having that which, having, makes them short.

Emily In love?

Romeo Out.

Emily Of love?

Romeo Out of her favour where I am in love.
Dost thou not laugh?

Mercutio No coz, I rather weep.

Romeo Good heart, at what?

Mercutio At thy good heart's oppression.

Emily Tell me, who is that you love?

Romeo I do love a woman.

Mercutio The fair Rosaline?

Emily The fair *Rosaline*? What about...

Mercutio Forget to think of her.

Romeo O teach me how I should forget to think.

Mercutio By giving liberty unto thine eyes:
Examine other beauties.

Romeo Farewell, thou canst not teach me to forget.

***Romeo** begins to exit.*

Emily Wait!

*She hastily scribbles a note, and hands it to **Romeo**.*

Read this guest list.

Romeo *[Reading.]* 'Signor Martino and his wife and daughters...'

Emily And Juliet.