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Juliet and this guy Romeo

A comedy in one-act

By Don Zolidis

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One-act comedy
7W 3M, plus ensemble, expandable

Two rival families are at war in Verona, Wisconsin. The adults argue about politics on Facebook all night long, while the teenagers aggressively hashtag each other all day. But when a pair of teens from the different families fall so crazy in love that they start speaking in iambic pentameter, it's a tragedy waiting to happen. This zany comedy skewers the online animosity between liberals and conservatives with a little help from Shakespeare.

Cast of Characters

The Capulets:

JULIET, 16
LADY CAPULET, her Mom, either male or female (may be Dad)
NELLY, her best friend
TIFFANY/TYBALT, male or female
SAM
MEG
PARIS, this guy from another town
ROSALINE

The Montagues:

ROMEO, 16, a guy
MERCUTIO, his friend, may be male or female
BENVOLIO, another friend, may be male of female
SANDY MONTAGUE, his Mom
MR. MONTAGUE, his Dad

COUNCIL MEMBER DIANA
PHARMACIST
SWORDFIGHTING APP
Other GOONS as needed

Setting: Present day. Verona, Wisconsin.

A note for the iambic pentameter sections: Make sure the audience doesn't zone out during the sections from the original script. I suggest going over-the-top with it, or even accompanying all original Shakespearean dialogue with underscored dramatic music.

The World premiere of Juliet and this Guy Romeo was presented at The Lovett School, Atlanta, GA on May 4, 2017. It was directed by Chris Ekholm, and the original cast was as follows:

The Capulets:

Juliet – Chloe Beaver
Lady Capulet – Elaina Samady
Nelly – Sibley Brown
Tiffany – Sara Kate Cole
Sam – Margaret Anne Coleman
Meg – Katie Stubbs

The Montagues:

Romeo – Daniel Johnson
Mercutio – Lindy Benton
Benvolio – Ashley Marshall
Sandy Montague – Ciara Seminara
Mr. Montague – John Amabile

Rosaline – Camille Summers
Council Member Diana – Hailey Hammond
Paris – Joe Urbanowicz
Pharmacist – Joe Urbanowicz

(JULIET is in her room. She speaks to the audience.)

JULIET

All right, so. First of all, none of this my fault. Okay? I don't know what you heard, I don't know who's talking, but it was crazy, and like – I just want to say that there are stupid people in this town; I don't know if they weren't raised right or whatever, but, some people around here have no sense. Just saying it. Just putting that out there.

It all used to be cool around here. Before Facebook. Not that I was around before Facebook, but like, in olden times, Facebook was for like, kids, right? And then like everyone's Mom and Dad got on it? Total mistake. Cause they ruined it. Totally destroyed the scene. And like, everyone my age, is like um… that's cool, we're just gonna be on snapchat and y'all can have Facebook, and we'll just be over here – and the old people are like, "What's snapchat let's check that out" and we're like, dang it, no, we're not on Snapchat, we're on um… Loofa. It's a new thing. It's just for sharing emojis. Like all you do – just smiley faces. So anyway, my Mom used to be chill and now she's like this -

(Lights up on LADY CAPULET typing furiously on a laptop.)

Hey Mom. I'm going to bed.

(LADY CAPULET keeps typing)

You should probably get some sleep too.

LADY CAPULET

Hold on honey. Someone's wrong on the internet!

JULIET

Okay, but like –

LADY CAPULET

Google don't fail me now! I'm gonna post some links.

JULIET

Right. Um…

LADY CAPULET

Copy and paste. Here we go. Boom. Devastation. That was a like a nuclear bomb of logic I just dropped.

(she turns to JULIET)

Yes honey?

(the computer boops and LADY CAPULET turns back to it.)

Oh really? Oh REALLY? We'll just see about that!

JULIET

Hey Mom?

LADY CAPULET

What?

JULIET

Have you ever, like, changed anybody's mind on the internet?

LADY CAPULET

Oh sweetheart. You're adorable. It's not about changing people's minds. It's about re-asserting the fact that I'm right. And I'm always right. And they're always wrong. See? And they need to see that. And I will keep arguing until they do.

(she goes back to typing)

JULIET

Yeah. That's pretty much all the adults do in this town now.

(Lights up on other adults – furiously typing on laptops)

ADULT

Oh really?

ADULT 2

You're a moron!

ADULT 3

You're three morons stuffed into a moron sandwich!

ADULT 2

That's not even a real sandwich!

ADULT 3

You spelled sandwich wrong!

ADULT 4

Only a sheep would post that!

JULIET

I'm gonna turn down that noise. Let's just say that there are people in this town that hate each other now. And like, first of all, we're in Verona. Wisconsin. It's a suburb of Madison. It's a pretty nice place actually. Until, you know, the stuff I just outlined. So then this went down. Ordinary day. Couple of Capulets walking down the street.

(MEG and SAM enter.)

MEG

I was like, what are you doing?

SAM

I know.

MEG

Right?

SAM

Seriously.

MEG

Like, do you think you're cool enough to talk to me, because I'm like comparing our number of followers, and you have twelve, okay? I'm not gonna follow you.

SAM

Right.

MEG

Euugh.

(BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO enter, opposite, on their phones.)

OMG.

SAM

I know.

MEG

Montagues.

SAM

Euggh.

MEG

They are so wretched.

SAM

I feel sorry for their pets. Their pets must have like no self-esteem. Uh I guess I could fetch the ball but what's the point my master is still lame.

MEG

That was funny. You should tweet that.

SAM

Good call.

(SAM tweets that.)

(BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO look up from their phones.)

BENVOLIO

Did you just tweet about my pets?

MERCUTIO

Whoah. You did not just tweet about our pets.

SAM

What if I did? What are you gonna do about it?

MERCUTIO

Do not get him started, Capulet. He's crazy.

BENVOLIO

I'm gonna tag you on Instagram, that's what I'm gonna do.

(BENVOLIO takes a photo of SAM with his phone.)

Oh. Check it.

(BENVOLIO tags her on Instagram.)

MERCUTIO

Boom. Sick!

MEG

Uh uh. No.

SAM

That's it! That is it. It's on!

(SAM takes out her phone. Starts taking pictures.)

I'm tagging you all over my feed. Hashtag basic. Hashtag –

MERCUTIO

Don't you hashtag me! Woman, nobody hashtags me!

SAM

I just did!

MERCUTIO

I will end you!

(MERCUTIO takes out his phone and starts taking pictures.)

I got filters like you've never seen! You ever seen the oompa loompa filter!? It's on you now! Ohhhh!

MEG

You wouldn't dare!

(They all pull out smartphones and start texting, tagging, taking pictures, etc…)
(TIFFANY runs in.)

TIFFANY

What is going on?! My phone is blowing up!

MEG

Help us!

TIFFANY

This is madness! Stop what you're doing!

MERCUTIO

This is only the beginning! I got unlimited data storage! You don't even know!

(TIFFANY comes at MERCUTIO.)

TIFFANY

Put down the phone, Mercutio.

MERCUTIO

You put down your phone.

TIFFANY

I don't even have it out.

MERCUTIO

Put it down. Put it on the ground.

TIFFANY

You think I'm stupid?

MERCUTIO

Yes. Ohhh. Boom. Did you get that?

BENVOLIO

Oh yeah. Totally recording this.

(LADY CAPULET runs in.)

LADY CAPULET

What's going on here?

TIFFANY

Aunt Linda!

LADY CAPULET

Skipping Forward

MR. MONTAGUE

I'm not sure you have that kind of power.

DIANA

I can do whatever I want I'm an elected official. Now get out of here. Go to your own compounds or whatever.

LADY CAPULET

Ours is nicer.

DIANA

Shut it.

LADY CAPULET

I'm just saying it was featured on HGTV. That's a pretty awesome channel.

DIANA

Off! Get off! Leave!

(DIANA pushes the CAPULETS off-stage.)

MONTAGUE

Well it's a good thing that ended before Romeo got here.

BENVOLIO

No doubt. He's a problem.

SANDY MONTAGUE

Do any of you people have any sense?

MERCUTIO

Sorry.

SANDY MONTAGUE

You can't compete with those girls. They destroyed you online. It wasn't even close. Look how many likes their photos got.

MERCUTIO

Daaaang.

(ROMEO enters.)

ROMEO

What's going on?

BENVOLIO

What have you been up to?

ROMEO

Oh man. I am in love.

SANDY MONTAGUE

All right. I'm outta here. I can't deal.

ROMEO

Mom, I want to tell you about her –

SANDY MONTAGUE

Nope. Not interested.

MONTAGUE

I gotta get back to my laptop anyway. I'm making some great comments on Huffington Post.
(MONTAGUE, MERCUTIO, and SANDY MONTAGUE exit.)

ROMEO

All right Ben I know what you're gonna say.

BENVOLIO

Who is it this time?

ROMEO

What, shall I groan and tell thee?

BENVOLIO

No, don't start with this.

ROMEO

In sadness, cousin, I do love a woman.

BENVOLIO

Great. But look –

ROMEO

She hath Dian's wit,
And in strong proof of chastity well armed,
From love's weak childish bow she lives unharmed.

BENVOLIO

Dude. English! I hate it when you go all crazy.

ROMEO

Her name's Rosaline.

BENVOLIO

Thank you.

ROMEO

She is too fair, too wise, wisely too fair
To merit bliss by making me despair.

BENVOLIO

All right I'm done. Whatever, dude. I'm done! I can't handle you when you're in love!

(BENVOLIO exits.)

(ROMEO is left there a moment. JULIET steps forward.)

JULIET *(to the audience)*

All right that's like every day, okay? Someone from my family gets into it with someone from their family. The whole town hates all of us. And then at night all of the adults get on Facebook and it's a tragedy. Okay? It is a rolling tragedy.

(NELLY enters.)

NELLY

You know what we should do?

JULIET *(to the audience)*

My best friend, Nelly.

NELLY

We should have a party. Your parents are going out of town and we should like, just go nuts. We'll have clowns. We'll have jugglers. We'll have juggling clowns. We'll have like clowns on stilts walking around. Everybody can get in those T-Rex suits and just dance. Have you seen those T-Rex suits?

JULIET

Can you rent those?

NELLY

Yes. Probably. We get them from Amazon. Everyone looks like a T-Rex. It'll be sweet.

JULIET

All right, let's do it.

NELLY

Awesome! I love this idea!

JULIET

One problem. T-rex suits are like super expensive.

NELLY

Okay, so we'll just add more clowns then –

JULIET

What is it with you and clowns? You worry me.

NELLY

I like them.

JULIET

That's just wrong.

NELLY

YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND ME!

(NELLY runs off.)

JULIET

Meanwhile –

(Elsewhere on stage, ROMEO, BENVOLIO, and MERCUTIO are getting ready for the party.)

ROMEO

Do you think I look cute in this?

BENVOLIO

I don't know, man.

ROMEO

It's not trashy is it?

BENVOLIO

I don't like these questions.

MERCUTIO

Yo, Romeo, you look fine.

ROMEO

Like fine fine, or just like okay fine.

MERCUTIO

You got problems.

(MR. MONTAGUE is on his laptop, arguing. He calls out.)

MR. MONTAGUE

Hey Romeo come here.

(ROMEO approaches.)

This isn't a Capulet party, is it?

ROMEO

No. Absolutely not.

MR. MONTAGUE

Because you know how I feel about them.

(His computer boops.)

Uh uh. You did not just do an ad hominem attack! You did not just do that! First off all, attacking the messenger is a classic tactic when you have no ability to make a coherent argument!

(Elsewhere on stage, LADY CAPULET is on her computer.)

LADY CAPULET

I don't think you know what the word coherent means. Perhaps you could look it up on Wikipedia, since that's where you get all the rest of your information.

MR. MONTAGUE

I want to keep this discussion about the issues you idiot!

LADY CAPULET

You're the one calling people an idiot! I've been trying to keep this civil you diaper rash of a human being!

MR. MONTAGUE

You spelled civil wrong!

LADY CAPULET

It was a typo!

MR. MONTAGUE

Perhaps if you spent more time –

ROMEO

So you're going to be at this for a while?

MR. MONTAGUE

Oh yeah. Got my Saturday planned. `Perhaps if you spent more time thinking through your points before posting you wouldn't make such idiotic mistakes!'

(Lights down on them and up on the party.)

(Party music.)

(All the kids are there, wearing masks.)

(MERCUTIO stops ROMEO and helps him with his mask.)

MERCUTIO
Now if you start talking to chicks, I don't want you to go all iambic pentameter or whatever, all right?

ROMEO
Yeah.

MERCUTIO
You got me? Ladies do not like it.

ROMEO
Actually –

MERCUTIO
They do not like it. It makes you look like a freak.

BENVOLIO
Sometimes that's good. What!

MERCUTIO
Not helping, Ben.

ROMEO
I'm good.

MERCUTIO
You can do this. I'm your wing man.

ROMEO
Wing man.

MERCUTIO
I have no role in this other than to support you because I am not a major character.

ROMEO
Right. Let's do this.
(They put their hands in and yell)

ROMEO, MERCUTIO, and BENVOLIO
ONE TWO MONTAGUE!
(Everyone in the party looks at them.)

MERCUTIO
I mean. Nothing.
(They try to separate and act sly.)

(ROSALINE enters.)

ROMEO

There she is.

(ROSALINE approaches MEG.)

ROSALINE

This party is lame.

MEG

Right?

ROSALINE

I thought we were gonna dance in formation or whatever, but like, literally no one is doing that.

MEG

We were supposed to have T-Rex costumes. That would've been sweet.

ROSALINE

I know, right?

(ROMEO does a kind of pimp walk over to them.)

ROMEO

Yo, what up ladies?

ROSALINE

Haaaay.

(ROMEO removes his mask a little bit.)

ROMEO

It is I, Romeo. Incognito.

ROSALINE

Oh.

ROMEO

Fair Rosaline, you doth teach the torches to burn bright
It seems you hang upon the cheek of night –

ROSALINE

I'm gonna stop you right there. Cause you keep doing this. Like, I'm not interested, okay? I have a boyfriend in Canada. He's like a kung fu master or whatever. He hates you.

ROMEO

I shall battle him for -

ROSALINE

All right, I lied. I don't have a boyfriend, I just don't like you. You're weird. Just stop. Go home. Don't say anything else. Go home. Re-evaluate your life.

ROMEO

I take my leave of you.

ROSALINE

Thank you.

(ROMEO moves away)

MEG

What *was* that?

ROSALINE

I know.

(MERCUTIO intercepts ROMEO on the opposite side of the stage.)

MERCUTIO

You rhymed, didn't you?

ROMEO

I may have rhymed.

MERCUTIO

Man, what are you doing?

ROMEO

I don't know. It just comes over me – like I'm talking to them, and it's like… there's this spirit, and it takes hold of me-

MERCUTIO

Dude. This is like demonic possession. I can't take you anywhere.

ROMEO

No, I'm over it. I'm – whoah…

(he spots JULIET coming forward. She has a microphone.)

JULIET

So I know some of you guys are waiting for the electric slide, and we will get to it. We're waiting on the DJ right now. So like mingle, okay?

ROMEO

Who is that?

MERCUTIO

Skipping Forward

Come on dude. My phone is blowing up. They're all over snapchat right now. We gotta get out of here.

(They pull him away and exit.)

NELLY

Do you know who that was?

JULIET

A dream.

NELLY

Girl, you're crazy. That was Romeo Montague.

JULIET

Aw dang it.

(Lights down on the party.)

(Lights up on LADY CAPULET, typing on one side of the stage and MR. MONTAGUE, typing on the other side of the stage.)

LADY CAPULET

Stop drinking the Kool-Aid, if you had any brain cells left you'd realize –

(JULIET enters)

JULIET

Hey Mom?

LADY CAPULET

Hold on. If you check out this article from –

JULIET

Mom!

LADY CAPULET

Fine. What is it? And please make this quick.

JULIET

Could you maybe stop making political comments online for a minute?

LADY CAPULET

Honey, the older I've gotten, the more I've realized that I'm completely right about everything. And I'm only getting more right. People need to know.

JULIET

Okay, but um… why do we hate the Montagues?

LADY CAPULET

What?

JULIET

Like, we hate them right? What if – and I'm just throwing this out there – one of them was pretty cute?

LADY CAPULET

Don't you know who the Montagues are?

JULIET

Who are they?

LADY CAPULET

Honey. They're liberals.

(Lights up on MR. MONTAGUE typing)

MR. MONTAGUE *(typing)*

Maybe if you didn't get all of your information from Fox News, you'd realize that the Spotted Owl is an important part of the ecosystem! But of course you can't be bothered to consider the needs of ENDANGERED SPECIES! You disgust me!

(Lights fade on him.)

(JULIET talks to the audience as the scene changes to the balcony.)

JULIET

Okay, so – yeah I had talked to him for about three minutes, fine. It's normally not my thing to go nuts over a guy, but – after listening to my parents talk for a few minutes –

LADY CAPULET

They wear clothes made of hemp. Do you know what hemp is? It's marijuana. They wear marijuana clothes! What kind of people do that?

(she exits)

JULIET

I figured – maybe I could run away. Or maybe, just like, maybe we could change his name. He could be Romeo Jones or something. No one would know.

(ROMEO enters below, listening.)

ROMEO

I'll take thee at thy word,
Call me but love, and I'll be new baptized.
Henceforth I never will be Romeo.

JULIET

What are you doing here?

ROMEO

My Dad took away my phone. He said I was using it irresponsibly by not liking his Facebook comments.

JULIET

I didn't even know you were on Facebook.

ROMEO

I'm not. It's for old people.

JULIET

You shouldn't be here. My family's insane.

ROMEO

Alack, there lies more peril in thine eyes
Than in twenty of their swords.

JULIET

I'm not sure that's true. How'd you find this place?

ROMEO

By love, that first did prompt me to inquire.
He lent me counsel, and I lent him eyes.
I am no pilot, yet wert thou as far
As that vast shore washed with the farthest sea,
I would adventure for such merchandise.

JULIET

Thou knowest the mask of night is on my face,
Else would a maiden blush bepaint my cheek.
Dost thou love me?

ROMEO

Ay.

JULIET

Oh man.

ROMEO

Lady, by yonder blessed moon I swear –

JULIET

Oh swear not by the moon, th' inconstant moon
That monthly changes in her circled orb,
Lest thy love prove likewise variable.

ROMEO

What shall I swear by?

JULIET

Do not swear at all. Just get your butt up here and kiss me.

ROMEO

Awesome.

(ROMEO tries to climb whatever is preventing him from reaching JULIET. He has a hard time of it.)

(NELLY calls from-stage)

NELLY *(off-stage)*

Hey Juliet!

JULIET

I'M BUSY LEAVE ME ALONE!

NELLY *(off-stage)*

Can I talk to you for a second?

JULIET

NO I AM SUPER BUSY!

(ROMEO is struggling to get up to the balcony.)

Do you want me to come down? I can come down.

ROMEO

No I'm good.

(he continues to struggle.)

Dang it. Arrgh. Got a cramp. Hold on. Ow.

(JULIET gets tired of waiting and starts climbing down.)

JULIET

Stay right there.

NELLY *(off-stage)*

Juliet! We're having popcorn!

JULIET

HOLD ON DANG IT!

ROMEO

I'm trying.

JULIET

Not you. Her. Okay.

(JULIET spider-climbs down to ROMEO.)

All right let's do this.

(They try to kiss, but can't quite reach.)

NELLY *(off-stage)*

We're watching Mad Max, come on!

ROMEO

Wait. Hold on. Ow.

JULIET

Urrrhg.

(They manage a kiss of some kind.)

ROMEO

I would I were your bird.

JULIET

I don't quite get that, but all right.

ROMEO

So I could fly up to you –

JULIET

Oh right –

ROMEO

Or you could keep me in a cage.

JULIET

Yeah. I wish I was like a lizard. So I could climb the wall.
Good night. Good night. Parting is such sweet sorrow
That I shall say good night till it be morrow.

NELLY *(off-stage)*

JU-LI-ET!

JULIET

I AM COMING WOMAN!

ROMEO

Until tomorrow then. I'll text you when I get my phone back.

(He's off.)

(JULIET speaks to herself.)

JULIET

Give me my Romeo. And when I shall die
Take him and cut him out in little stars
And he will make the face of heaven so fine
That all the world will be in love with night
And pay no worship to the garish sun.
(short pause, then to the audience)
I was losing it, y'all.
Okay, so here's the point where it all went to heck.
(ROMEO has his phone and is texting her.)
(She texts back.)

ROMEO

Hey.

JULIET

Hey.

ROMEO

So I'm thinking our parents are crazy and we should just get married and run away.

JULIET

I'm down with that.

ROMEO

Sweet. I'm sure nothing bad will happen because of this.

JULIET *(to the audience)*

But things were happening. Big things.
(LADY CAPULET enters)

LADY CAPULET

You know what we don't do anymore, girl time. Just for us girls.

JULIET

`Cause you're always on the computer.

LADY CAPULET

I'm not on the computer now, am I? We should just hang out. Dish. Do you kids still use that word? Dish?

JULIET

Like a dish that you eat on?

LADY CAPULET

No! That's where we gossip. Talk. You know, who do you like, that sort of thing.

JULIET

Oh.

LADY CAPULET

You ask me first.

JULIET

Um… who do you like?

LADY CAPULET

Your father.
(she laughs)
Ha ha ha ha okay now my turn. Who do you like?

JULIET

Nobody.

LADY CAPULET

You sure?

JULIET

Yeah?

LADY CAPULET

There's nobody who you think is cute?

JULIET

Not really.

LADY CAPULET

Awesome!
(she calls out)
Bring him in!
(MEG and SAM bring PARIS in.)
This is Paris.

PARIS

What's up?

LADY CAPULET

He's amazing. His parents are super rich, okay? Bonus! And check out his teeth. Smile.
(PARIS smiles.)
Look at these. I mean are these great or what?

JULIET

Uh…

LADY CAPULET

Go ahead. You can talk to him. Find out about his hobbies and whatnot. Tell her about your hobbies, Paris.

PARIS

I like video games.

LADY CAPULET

Ha ha ha ha! Oh my gosh he's PERFECT! You two kids get acquainted. I'll just be over here!

(LADY CAPULET moves to the side and watches eagerly.)

JULIET

Do you do any poetry?

PARIS

What.

JULIET

Like poetry? Do you speak in iambic pentameter or anything?

PARIS

I don't know.

LADY CAPULET

Don't be weird, honey!

(JULIET looks at her)

Just pretend I'm not here.

PARIS

So um… do you like to do stuff?

JULIET

I guess. Depends on what the stuff is.

PARIS

Yeah. Me too.

(Painful pause)

I like… I like sports.

(LADY CAPULET swoops in.)

LADY CAPULET

Ohmygosh you guys are so CUTE together! Adorable. Okay. Well that's enough getting to know you time! I hear wedding bells! All right come on Paris.

(She escorts PARIS out.)

Skipping Forward

BENVOLIO

Oh! That's going on snapchat.

(he takes a picture of TIFFANY.)

TIFFANY

You wanna go?

MERCUTIO

Go where? I'm fine right here in the street.

TIFFANY

All right. Meg. Did you bring my sword?

(MEG hands TIFFANY a sword.)

Let's do this.

MERCUTIO

Come at me.

(BENVOLIO hands MERCUTIO a sword.)

JULIET

All right pause for a second here. You're probably wondering why people are just like carrying swords in downtown Verona. Like I said, things are going crazy. Like, can anyone actually tell me what we're fighting about?

LADY CAPULET

Well, we're talking about the Constitution –

MR. MONTAGUE

The Constitution is a living document. It was never intended to –

LADY CAPULET

How is it living? Is it alive? Does it bleed? How are we supposed to know –

MR. MONTAGUE

I'M STARTING A PROTEST!

JULIET

All right shut up! That's not what we're fighting about right now. So – all civility or whatever is breaking down, people are carrying swords, et cetera. Crazy stuff is going on in the streets. Someone plays fight music.

(pause)

Someone plays fight music.

(MEG taps her phone and fight music plays.)

BENVOLIO

I'm totally recording this!

(BENVOLIO, SAM, and MEG take out their phones and begin recording.)

(MERCUTIO and TIFFANY circle each other with swords.)

TIFFANY

I've been waiting to shut your mouth for a long time. I wanted to just do it online, but I figure this is better.

MERCUTIO

Cause I've got like five times the amount of followers you do.

TIFFANY

That's a lie.

MERCUTIO

Check my Instagram.
(TIFFANY takes out her phone -)
(MERCUTIO attacks!)
(Back and forth they go.)
There's something you don't know. I got a swordfighting app.
(MERCUTIO takes out his phone and holds it in his left hand while he fights.)

SWORDFIGHTING APP *(recorded, continuous)*

Strike left. Strike left. Parry down. Strike right. Stride forward two paces.
(Etc… it keeps going)

TIFFANY

Totally not fair!
(ROMEO rushes in.)

ROMEO

Dude, what's going on! I was following this on my phone!

MERCUTIO

It's cool dude!
(TIFFANY stabs MERCUTIO.)
Aaaarrghgh!
(MERCUTIO falls)

SWORDFIGHTING APP

Get up. Get up you loser. Come on. Don't die. Loser.

ROMEO

WHA-A-A-T JUST HAPPENED??!

MERCUTIO

Ohhhh… I am slain…
(MERCUTIO dies.)

SWORDFIGHITNG APP

Fail.

ROMEO

WHAT THE CRAP?!

TIFFANY

Whoops.
(ROMEO grabs MERCUTIO's sword and charges TIFFANY.)

ROMEO

That was my cousin!

TIFFANY

Sorry I –
(ROMEO stabs TIFFANY.)
Aaarrghghg.
(she falls)

MEG

Whoah.

SAM

Daaaang.
(ROMEO stands there for a second.)

BENVOLIO

Um… dude? We gotta get out of here.
(BENVOLIO and ROMEO run off in one direction.)
(SAM and MEG run off in the other direction.)
(After a second, they all run back and drag TIFFANY and MERCUTIO off.)

JULIET *(to the audience)*

All right so. Like this was a cool little love story and now my boyfriend basically murdered my cousin in the street. So that's a bummer. Um… and it's like not something you really want to deal with, you know? Like - `hey let's plan what our sheets are gonna look like when we're married and let's try to get you out of prison' – it's just, you know, not cool. But… I'm about commitment, so…

MR. MONTAGUE

We need sensible sword regulation!

LADY CAPULET

It wasn't the swords that killed them, it was people wielding the swords!

MR. MONTATGUE
I'M STARTING ANOTHER PROTEST!

JULIET
Stop it! Romeo texted me later that night.

ROMEO
Hey.

JULIET
Hey.

ROMEO
So… um… sorry about your cousin.

JULIET
Yeah.

ROMEO
She did murder my best friend, so…

JULIET
Yeah. I didn't really like her.

ROMEO
Uh… so basically I'm banishèd.

JULIET
Banishèd?

ROMEO
Yeah. Three syllables. It's more impactful. So look uh… maybe you could run away with me and –

JULIET
My Mom wants me to marry this guy Paris. He's totally lame.

ROMEO
No way.

JULIET
Yeah. But, here's my plan –
(lights down on ROMEO.)

ROMEO

Oh shoot my battery died. Well I hope that won't cause any problems.

(The PHARMACIST enters.)

PHARMACIST

You wanted to see me?

ROMEO

What ho, Apothecary!

PHARMACIST

Pharmacist, actually. I work at Walgreens.

ROMEO

I need a drug that can kill me in large doses.

PHARMACIST

Pretty much all of them do that.

ROMEO

Really?

PHARMACIST

Oh yeah. Little known secret. If you take twice the recommended dosage of anything, it'll kill you really fast. I'm not supposed to tell you that. Pharmacist's Code. But… yeah.

ROMEO

I've got Affrin for my allergies.

PHARMACIST

That'll do the trick. Snort the whole thing and you'll be dead in seconds.

ROMEO

Great. Good to know.

PHARMACIST

Any other reason you wanted to see me?

ROMEO

Nope. That's pretty much it.

PHARMACIST

Great. You have a nice day.

(They exit.)

JULIET

So the day of my wedding came, and I hadn't heard from Romeo. Apparently his Dad confiscated his phone again. So I texted Benvolio to let him know my plan.

(NELLY enters.)

NELLY

Don't ask me how I got this, but I got some crazy voodoo drugs here.

JULIET

That's great.

NELLY

You take it, and it makes it seem like you're dead. At least that's what they told me.

JULIET

Did you get this from Amazon?

NELLY

Amazon Prime. That's where they got the cool stuff.

JULIET

Are you sure this is gonna work?

NELLY

Oh yeah. I faked my death all the time before. We pretend you get killed, Romeo shows up at the tomb, you guys run off together, buy some fake passports, move to Canada or wherever – start a new life. Okay? It's foolproof. Probably. Probably nothing will go wrong.

(LADY CAPULET enters)

LADY CAPULET

I just love how quick this came together!

JULIET

Mom, I'm kinda busy.

NELLY

What's up, Lady Cap?

LADY CAPULET

Are you getting her ready for her wedding?

NELLY

Sure. That's what we've been doing. Hey you ever think about ending the patriarchy?

LADY CAPULET

Nope.

NELLY

Okay. Juliet – I'll see you on the flip side. Peace. Take it with water.

LADY CAPULET

Take what with water?

JULIET

Penguins. Raising penguins on the side. They need water.

LADY CAPULET

Okay. Nervous?

JULIET

This has been kind of a fast engagement, seeing as how I never agreed to it and I've only known him two days.

LADY CAPULET

I know! You're going to learn to love Paris! I'm sure he seems boring and stupid right now, but all husbands seem boring and stupid eventually. That's why you get hobbies. Like arguing on the internet.

JULIET

I don't really want to learn to argue on the internet.

LADY CAPULET

But you have to understand that other people are wrong and we are right. That's called growing up. All right let's get you ready for your wedding that we're railroading you into.

(She exits)

End of Excerpt.
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