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William Shakespeare

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ROMEO and JULIET

William Shakespeare



HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO, IN VERONA, ITALY, TWO NOBLE FAMILIES FEUDED BITTERLY. THE TWO FAMILIES WERE THE MONTAGUES AND THE CAPULETS. EVERY MEMBER OF THE TWO HOUSEHOLDS, FROM THE SERVANTS TO THE MASTERS TOOK PART IN THE CEASELESS FIGHTING.

THE HEADS OF THE FEUDING HOUSES EACH HAD ONLY ONE CHILD. MONTAGUE HAD A SON, ROMEO. CAPULET HAD A DAUGHTER, JULIET.

BENVOLIO HELPED MERCUTIO INTO A NEARBY HOUSE. A FEW MINUTES LATER . . .

O ROMEO, ROMEO, BRAVE MERCUTIO'S DEAD!

MY FRIEND HATH GOT HIS MORTAL HURT IN MY BEHALF. O SWEET JULIET, THY BEAUTY HATH MADE ME EFFEMINATE AND IN MY TEMPER SOFTEN'D VALOUR'S STEEL!

AT THAT MOMENT, TYBALT REAPPEARED.

NOW, TYBALT, MERCUTIO'S SOUL IS BUT A LITTLE WAY ABOVE OUR HEADS, STAYING FOR THINE TO KEEP HIM COMPANY. EITHER THOU, OR I, OR BOTH, MUST GO WITH HIM.

THEY FOUGHT BITTERLY. TYBALT WAS SLAIN.

ROMEO, AWAY, BE GONE! THE PRINCE WILL DOOM THEE DEATH IF THOU ART TAKEN.

O, I AM FORTUNE'S FOOL!