

# The Balcony

## Scene

(Penguin  
Act II,  
Marriage Plans)

BENVOLIO: Yes, let's go. He doesn't want us to find him.

[*Benvolio and Mercutio leave.*]

ROMEO [*coming back*]: Mercutio laughs at things that he doesn't understand. He has never felt those things. [*Juliet opens the window of her room, above. He looks up.*] But wait! What's that light, shining from that window? It's the east, and Juliet is the sun! She's much more beautiful than the pale moon. It's my lady! Oh, it's my love! But she doesn't know that she's my love. [*Juliet says something to herself*] She's speaking, but she isn't saying anything. I'll answer her. But no, I'm wrong to do that. She isn't speaking to me. Her eyes shine like two of the most beautiful stars in heaven. But the light in her face shines even more brightly than her eyes.

JULIET: Oh!

ROMEO [*to himself*]: She speaks. Oh, speak again, beautiful lady!

JULIET: Oh Romeo, Romeo – why are you called Romeo? Say that you aren't your father's son. Say that Montague isn't your name. Or if you don't want to do that, promise to be my love. And I won't be a Capulet any longer.

ROMEO [*to himself*]: Shall I listen to more, or shall I speak?

JULIET: It's only your name that is my enemy. You're yourself, not a Montague. What is a 'Montague'? It isn't a hand, or a foot, or an arm, or a face. If we call a rose by a different name, it will still smell just as sweet. So Romeo will still be perfect without the name 'Romeo'. Romeo, throw away that name. And in its place, take all of me.

ROMEO: Only say that I'm your love. I'll never be Romeo again.

JULIET [*frightened*]: Who are you?

ROMEO [*showing himself*]: I don't know how to tell you my name. I hate my name because it's your enemy.

JULIET: I've only listened to a few words, but I know your voice. Aren't you Romeo, and a Montague?

ROMEO: I'm neither of those things, beautiful lady, if you don't like them.

JULIET: How did you get in here? Why did you come? The garden walls are high and difficult to climb. And this place is death for you, if any of my relatives find you here.

ROMEO: Love helped me to fly over the walls. No stone walls can keep love out. Love can do anything it wants. So your relatives can't stop me.

JULIET [*worried*]: But if they see you, they'll murder you.

ROMEO: There's more danger in your eyes for me than from twenty of their swords!

JULIET: But I don't want them to find you here!

ROMEO: The dark night will hide me from their eyes. And if I have your love, they can kill me. I prefer to die than to live without your love.

JULIET: You heard everything that I said tonight. You know how I feel about you. Do you love me too? I know that you'll say 'yes'. But if you love me, please don't play games with me. You make me very happy, but I'm not happy about this meeting tonight. It's happened too suddenly. My dear love, good night. I hope that by our next meeting our love can grow into a lovely flower.

ROMEO: Are you really going away without making me happy?

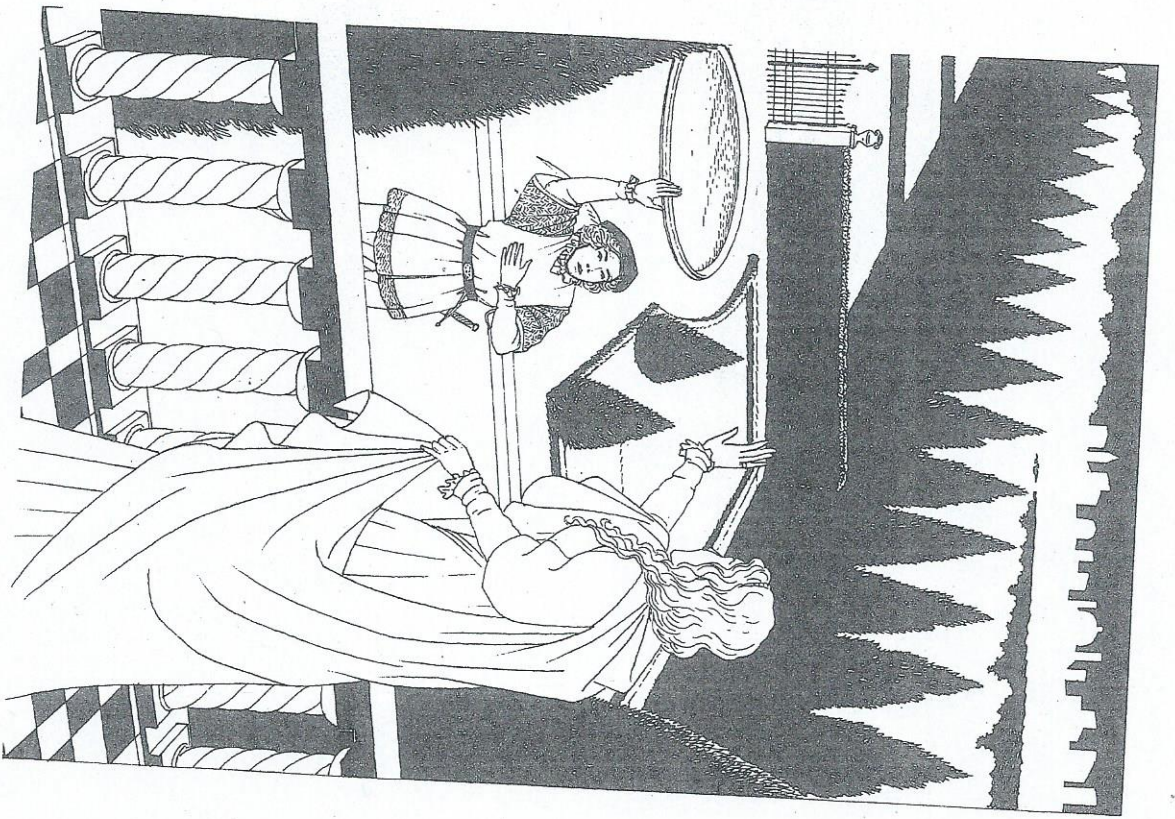
JULIET: How can I make you happy tonight?

ROMEO: By giving me your love in return for mine.

JULIET: I gave you my love before you asked for it. My love is as deep and as endless as the sea. [*listening*] I can hear a noise inside. Goodbye, my dear love! [*The Nurse calls from inside the house.*] I'm coming. Nurse! [*to Romeo*] Dear Montague, don't go away. Stay here for a little. I'll come back. [*She goes inside.*]

ROMEO: Oh, what a wonderful night! I'm afraid that all this is only a dream – it's not real.

[*Juliet comes back to her window, above.*]



*'My love is as deep and as endless as the sea.'*

**JULIET:** Just a few more words, dear Romeo, then it's really good night. If your love for me is true, I'll send somebody to you tomorrow. Give that person a message for me. Tell me the time and place that you'll marry me. Then I'll give you everything I have. I'll follow you all over the world.

**NURSE** [*from inside*]: Madam!

**JULIET** [*calling to the Nurse*]: I'm coming now! [*to Romeo*] But if you're not serious about me, I ask you . . .

**NURSE** [*from inside*]: Madam!

**JULIET** [*to the Nurse*]: I'm just coming! [*to Romeo*] . . . to go away and leave me to my pain. I'll send a message to you tomorrow.

A thousand times good night! [*She goes inside.*]

**ROMEO** [*to himself*]: The night is a thousand times darker without your light. A lover runs to his love as fast as schoolboys run away from their lessons. But he walks away from his love as sadly as boys on their way to school.

[*Juliet comes back to the window again.*]

**JULIET:** Romeo! What time shall I send you the message?

**ROMEO:** Nine o'clock.

**JULIET:** All right. It seems like twenty years until then. I've forgotten why I called you back.

**ROMEO:** Then I'll stand here until you remember.

**JULIET:** And I'll still forget if you continue standing there. It's nearly morning. Good night, good night! It's so sad to leave you. [*She goes inside.*]

**ROMEO:** Sleep in peace, my love! Night has ended. The grey morning is bringing light to the clouds in the east. I'll go to Friar Laurence's house. I'll tell him about my good luck and ask for his help.