*Romeo + Juliet*

Act 2 Review Guide

**CHARACTERS**:

Review them. Know them.

**Basic Overview / Commentary from me:**

Scene 1: BALCONY SCENE

1. Romeo is melodramatic. Again. He jumps back over the wall of the Capulet mansion because he cannot leave his loooove. His friends can’t find him but Mercutio is basically making fun of him. They leave.

Scene 2: BALCONY SCENE

1. Romeo is creeping in the trees outside of Juliet’s house / balcony and ends up overhearing her entire soliloquy about how much she loves him. Some quotes for you:
   1. Basically, his whole intro soliloquy.
   2. “O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou / Romeo? / Deny thy father and refuse thy name. / Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love, / And I’ll no longer be a Capulet.”
   3. “What’s in a name? That which we call a rose / By any other word would smell as sweet.”
2. Romeo decides he can’t take it anymore and he jumps out of the bushes to make himself known. Real smooth. Not creepy at all. They have this entire conversation filled with lots of Shakespearean flirting. Some quotes for you:
   1. “My ears have not yet drunk a hundred words / Of that tongue’s uttering, yet I know the / sound. / Art though not Romeo, and a Montague?”
   2. “Well, do not swear. Although I joy in thee, / I have no joy of this contract tonight. / It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden, / Too like lightning, which doth cease to be / Ere one can say it lightens.”
3. Juliet’s nurse is trying to find her and that’s what causes Juliet to go inside. Then she comes back outside to Romeo and they make plans for tomorrow; she’s going to send someone at 9:00 tomorrow morning to get details about what they’re going to do. They do this whole Shakespearean version of “You hang up first” “No, you hang up first.”
4. Juliet compares him to a pet bird…so that’s weird. “…And yet no further than a wanton’s bird, / That lets it hop a little from his hand / Like a poor prisoner in his twisted gyves, / And with silken thread plucks it back again.”
   1. And then she says something truly weird after Romeo says he wishes he were her pet bird. She says “Yet I would kill thee with much cherishing.” Oh. Okay, cool.
5. Romeo FINALLY LEAVES after Juliet says “Parting is such sweet / sorrow / That I shall say good night till it be morrow.”

Scene 3:

1. Friar Laurence / Lawrence has an entire soliloquy about herbs and their double nature, how some can kill but others give life, etc.
2. Romeo pops in and FL accuses him of being awake all night since he’d never get up this early and asks him if he was with Rosaline all night. \*wink wink\*
3. Romeo gets wordy but eventually he tells the Friar that he is in love with Juliet and he wants the Friar to marry them. The Friar’s response is, rightfully so, a little shocked because Romeo literally spent DAYS crying over Rosaline…yesterday was one of them. They go back and forth but eventually Friar Laurence agrees to do it because he thinks it’ll cause the feud between the two families to end.
4. Romeo says for them to hurry, but Friar Laurence says “Wisely and slow. They stumble that run fast.” (Foreshadowing)

Scene 4:

1. Benvolio & Mercutio still don’t know where Romeo went so they spend some time wondering about it and talking about Tybalt.
2. Romeo enters and they confront him about avoiding them. Then Mercutio gives Romeo a hard time and uses a lot of phrases with double meanings (they’re all sexual because that’s how Mercutio is).
3. Juliet’s Nurse enters. Mercutio makes a lot of inappropriate jokes (again) at the Nurse’s expense.
4. Eventually Romeo and the Nurse get to the point and they make a plan. Romeo tells the Nurse to have Juliet go to Friar Laurence’s for confession, but that’s where they’ll be married. Then Romeo tells the Nurse that he’s going to send someone with a rope ladder so that he can climb in Juliet’s window at night.

Scene 5:

1. Juliet is freaking out because the nurse hasn’t come back yet. When she does, the Nurse takes her sweet time telling Juliet about the conversation and Juliet loses her cool. Finally the nurse tells her to go to Friar Laurence’s cell because that’s where Romeo waits for her.

Scene 6:

1. Romeo is super excited about marrying Juliet. Friar Laurence has an ominous response about rushing into things too quickly: “These violent delights have violent ends / And in their triumph die, like fire and powder, / Which, as they kiss, consume.”
2. They get married.

**Things to be aware of:**

* While you’re reading, make sure you’re keeping up with the timeline of this play. It’s easy to think it covers a long bit of time because it takes so long to read, but it’s only a few days.
* Whenever I type a quote out and it’s got the forward slashes in it ( / ), it’s because that signifies a line break. Whenever you’re quote from a play, you’ve got to put a line break wherever it breaks in the actual written work in order for the quote to be properly formatted.
  + Also, MLA in-text citations for Shakespeare plays are extra, but here is an example:

“Good night, good night! Parting is such sweet / sorrow / That I shall say good night till it be morrow” (*Romeo and Juliet.* 2. 2. 188-190).