

JULIET looks at NURSE.

NURSE

Go, girl, seek happy nights to happy days!

ALL exit. Curtain closes.

SCENE 6

*Curtain opens. Outside the house of CAPULET. Music can be heard.
MERCUTIO enters and stands downstage. BENVOLIO and ROMEO follow.
ABRAM and BALTHASAR carry torches behind.
ALL wear masks and simple costumes.*

MERCUTIO

'Tis a lively night! Oh happy music!

ROMEO

And what shall we say if we are asked our reason for entering?

BENVOLIO

Do not fear, cousin. You do not wear worried well.
We'll have a look, dance a dance, and then be gone.

ROMEO

Give me a torch, I am not for dancing.

MERCUTIO

Nay, gentle Romeo, we must have you dance!

ROMEO

Not I, believe me. You have dancing shoes with nimble soles.
I have a soul of lead. It stakes me to the ground.

MERCUTIO

You are a lover! Borrow cupid's wings and soar!

BENVOLIO

Come! Knock and enter!
And no sooner that we're in than every man take to his feet!

All cross upstage. All party guests, wearing masks, enter the stage.

*ANTHONY, POTPAN, and PETER enter
stage right with LUCINDA, ZITA and MARTA*

*CAPULET enters stage left with LADY CAPULET
JULIET and PARIS follow, arm and arm. TYBALT follows.*

CAPULET

Welcome, gentleman! Was once a day when I did wear a mask
and whisper into a fair lady's ear. 'Tis gone for me.
Come, musicians, play!

*A new song starts. ANTHONY, POTPAN and PETER
start to dance with LUCINDA, ZITA and MARTA.*

*MONTAGUES stand upstage right.
TYBALT stands upstage left.
GREGORY and SAMPSON enter and join him.*

Music fades.

CAPULET

Well, daughter, how suits you this fine knight?

JULIET

For a dance, he suits me fine.

PARIS

'Tis you who are truly fine, Juliet. As fine as the morning dew.
Come, shall we have a dance?

*PARIS takes JULIET's hand and they join the dancers.
ROMEO steps forward with BALTHASAR.*

ROMEO

What lady is that who graces the hand of the Count Paris?

BALTHASAR

I know not, sir.

ROMEO

Oh, how she teaches the torches to burn!
How brightly she shines! Did my heart love till now?
I never saw true beauty till this night!
Go, Balthasar, and find her name.

*BALTHASAR roams the room. ROMEO steps back to watch JULIET.
TYBALT steps forward with GREGORY and SAMPSON*

TYBALT

He, by his voice, must be a Montague.
What dares him to enter this house?
Sampson, fetch me my sword.
Now, by the honor of my kin, I'll strike him dead!

SAMPSON exits. CAPULET steps forward.

CAPULET

Why, how now, nephew? What angers you?

TYBALT

Uncle, that is a Montague!

GREGORY

Perhaps young Romeo!

*SAMPSON returns with a small sword.
He hands it to TYBALT.*

TYBALT

'Tis he, the villain!

CAPULET

Calm yourself and let him alone.

TYBALT

Let him alone? As a guest?

CAPULET

I'll not have you shed blood on this happy night.
Therefore be patient. Take no note of him.

TYBALT

I shall not endure him!

CAPULET

He shall be endured! What, good boy! I say he shall!
Am I the master here, or you? Let him alone!

*CAPULET walks away from TYBALT.
The music stops, and the dancers rest. All guests quietly visit and exit.*

SCENE 7

JULIET leaves the dancers and steps downstage.

ROMEO follows, they are alone.

ROMEO suddenly takes JULIET's hand.

ROMEO

Your hand, so smooth and holy, deserves better than my rough touch.
But my lips, like blushing pilgrims, stand ready to smooth it with a tender kiss.

ROMEO bends to kiss her hand.

JULIET takes it quickly away.

JULIET

Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hands too much.
For saints have hands, that pilgrims' hands do touch.
And palm to palm does make a holy kiss.

*JULIET puts her hands up and ROMEO
places his palms against hers.*

ROMEO

Have not saints lips? And holy pilgrims too?

JULIET

Ay, pilgrim, lips that they must use in prayer.

ROMEO

Oh then, dear saint, let lips do what hands do,
and answer this pilgrim's prayer.

JULIET

Yet saints do not move, though they listen.

ROMEO

Then do not move.

ROMEO leans in and kisses JULIET.

JULIET

You kiss by the book!

NURSE enters.