

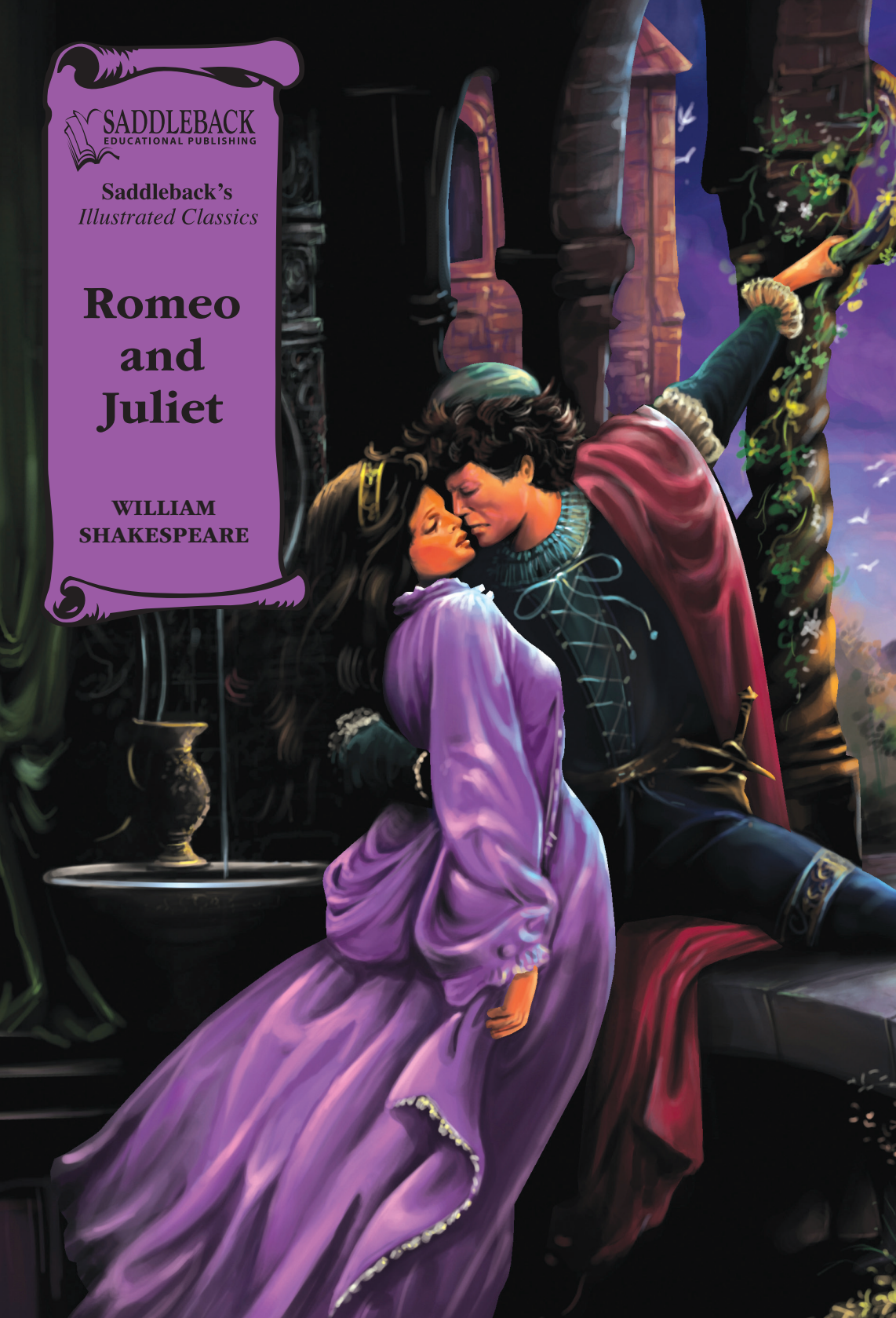


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Romeo and Juliet

WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE



William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare was baptized on April 26, 1564, in Stratford-on-Avon, England, the third child of John Shakespeare, a well-to-do merchant, and Mary Arden, his wife. Young William probably attended the Stratford grammar school, where he learned English, Greek, and a great deal of Latin. Historians aren't sure of the exact date of Shakespeare's birth.

In 1582, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway. By 1583 the couple had a daughter, Susanna, and two years later the twins, Hamnet and Judith. Somewhere between 1585 and 1592 Shakespeare went to London, where he became first an actor and then a playwright. His acting company, *The King's Men*, appeared most often in the *Globe* theater, a part of which Shakespeare himself owned.

In all, Shakespeare is believed to have written thirty-seven plays, several nondramatic poems, and a number of sonnets. In 1611 when he left the active life of the theater, he returned to Stratford and became a country gentleman, living in the second-largest house in town. For five years he lived a quiet life. Then, on April 23, 1616, William Shakespeare died and was buried in Trinity Church in Stratford. From his own time to the present, Shakespeare is considered one of the greatest writers of the English-speaking world.

William Shakespeare

Romeo and Juliet



MANY YEARS AGO IN VERONA, ITALY, THERE LIVED TWO FAMILIES WHO HATED ONE ANOTHER. THE MONTAGUES AND THE CAPULETS HAD BEEN CARRYING ON A FEUD FOR AS LONG AS THEY COULD REMEMBER.

IF THOSE MONTAGUES SHOULD COME BY, I'LL STRIKE BEFORE THEY CAN RUN AWAY!

THEN TAKE OUT YOUR SWORD, FOR TWO OF THEM ARE COMING NOW.

SAMPSON AND GREGORY WERE SERVANTS OF THE CAPULETS. THEY WERE JUST AS READY TO FIGHT THE MONTAGUES AS THEIR MASTERS WERE.





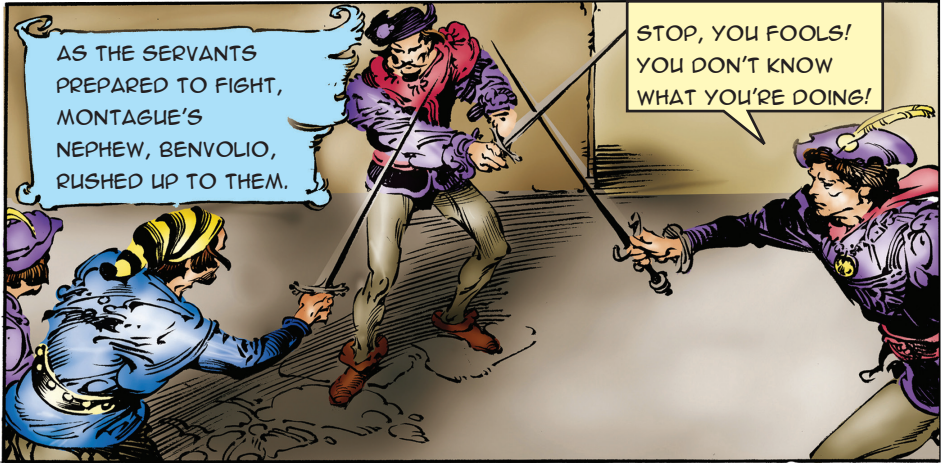
I'LL PICK A FIGHT WITH THEM. STAY NEAR AND HELP ME.

I WILL, AND OTHER CAPULETS WILL JOIN US IF WE NEED HELP.



THE CAPULETS ARE BETTER MASTERS THAN THE MONTAGUES!

WHAT? YOU LIE!



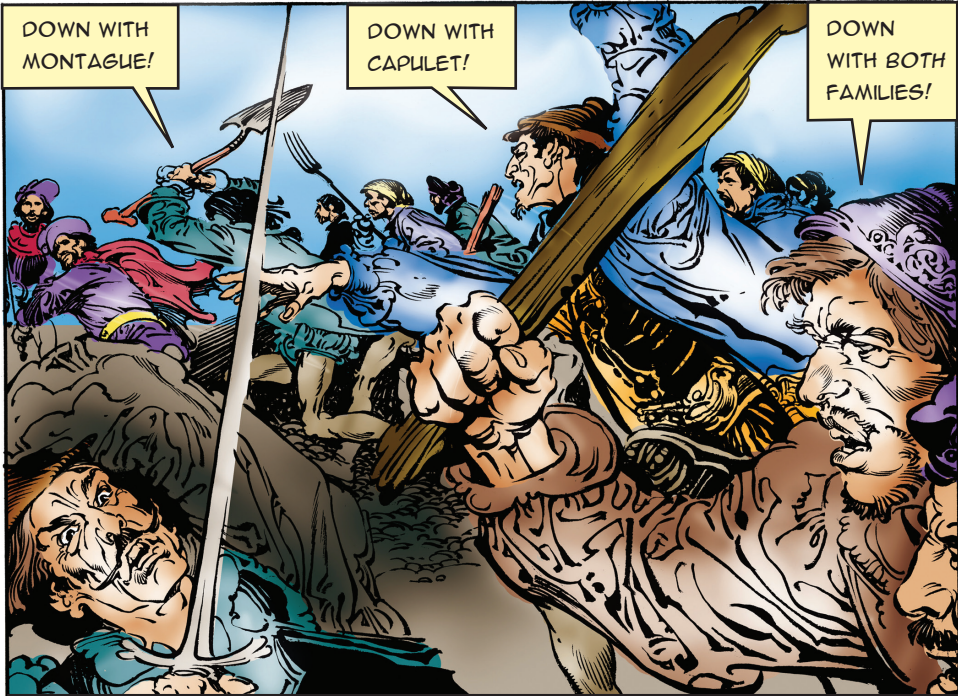


I SHALL BE THE DEATH OF YOU, BENVOLIO.

MANY GOOD CITIZENS OF VERONA WERE TIRED OF THE LONG FELD. THEY RUSHED UP TO THE FIGHTING MEN.



STOP THEM, CITIZENS! STRIKE! BEAT THEM DOWN!



DOWN WITH MONTAGUE!

DOWN WITH CAPULET!

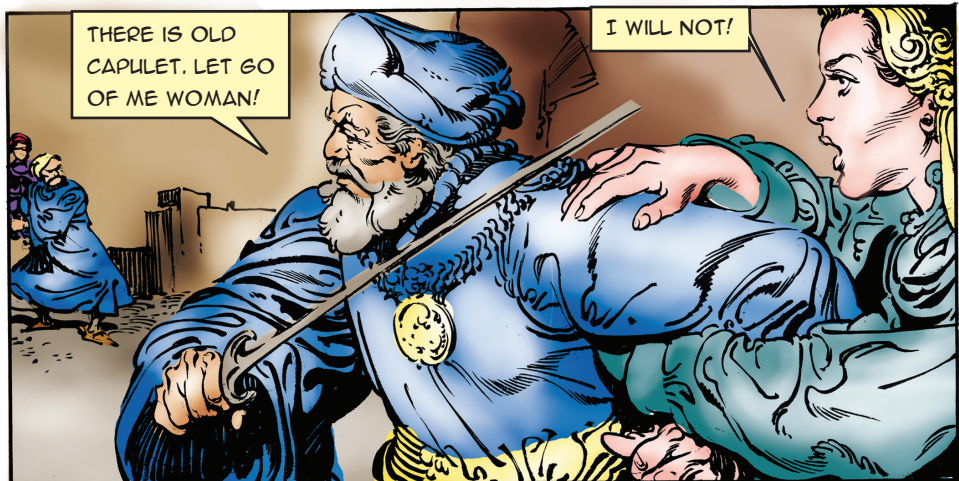
DOWN WITH BOTH FAMILIES!

HEARING THE NOISE, OLD CAPULET AND LORD MONTAGUE CAME OUT OF THEIR HOUSES TO SEE WHAT WAS HAPPENING.



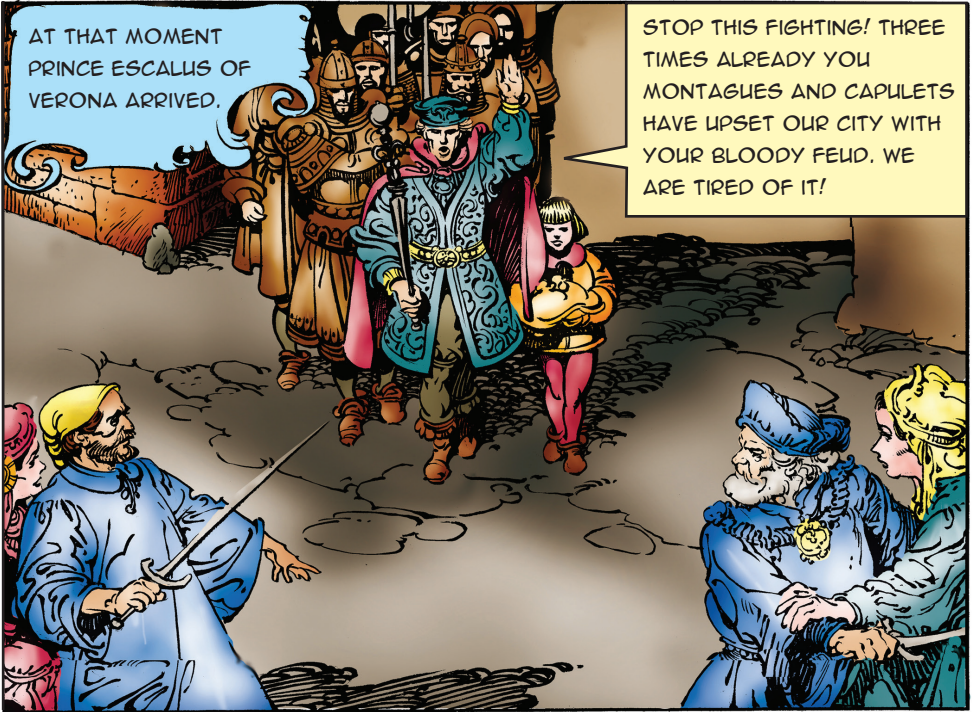
LOOK! HERE COMES MONTAGUE WITH A SWORD. GET MINE FOR ME, WIFE.

NO. YOU ARE TOO OLD TO FIGHT.



THERE IS OLD CAPULET. LET GO OF ME WOMAN!

I WILL NOT!



AT THAT MOMENT PRINCE ESCALUS OF VERONA ARRIVED.

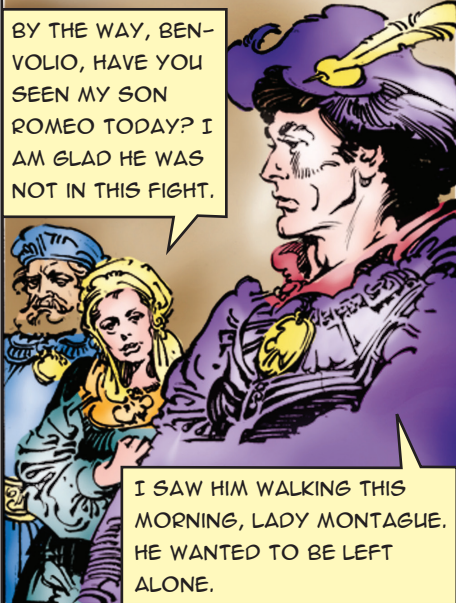
STOP THIS FIGHTING! THREE TIMES ALREADY YOU MONTAGUES AND CAPULETS HAVE UPSET OUR CITY WITH YOUR BLOODY FEUD. WE ARE TIRED OF IT!



FROM NOW ON, ANYONE WHO IS CAUGHT FIGHTING IN THE STREETS WILL PAY FOR IT WITH HIS LIFE!

WITH THIS, THE PRINCE LEFT AND THE PEOPLE WENT BACK TO THEIR HOMES.

BY THE WAY, BENVOLIO, HAVE YOU SEEN MY SON ROMEO TODAY? I AM GLAD HE WAS NOT IN THIS FIGHT.



I SAW HIM WALKING THIS MORNING, LADY MONTAGUE. HE WANTED TO BE LEFT ALONE.

HE HAS BEEN DOING THAT A LOT LATELY, DEAR WIFE. HE STAYS UP ALL NIGHT LONG. AND DURING THE DAY HE LOCKS HIMSELF IN HIS ROOM.



AS THE SPOKE, ROMEO CAME DOWN THE STREET. BENVOLIO WENT ALONE TO TALK WITH HIM.

GOOD MORNING, COUSIN. WHAT IS BOTHERING YOU?

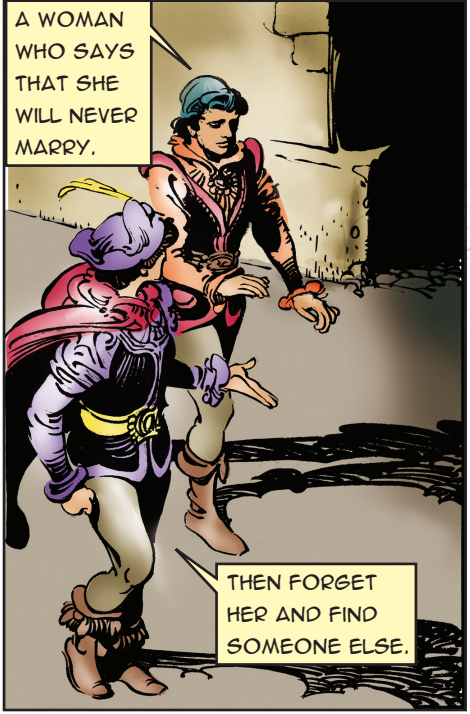


OH, BENVOLIO, I AM IN LOVE!



BUT THE GIRL I LOVE DOES NOT LOVE ME. IT TROUBLES MY HEART.

WHO IS SHE, ROMEO?



A WOMAN WHO SAYS THAT SHE WILL NEVER MARRY.

THEN FORGET HER AND FIND SOMEONE ELSE.



THERE ARE MANY OTHER LOVELY GIRLS IN VERONA.

NO ONE IS AS LOVELY A SHE IS. I CANNOT FORGET HER! GOOD-BYE, COUSIN.



POOR ROMEO! I MUST HELP HIM SOMEHOW!

Romeo and Juliet

Romeo and Juliet has become Shakespeare's most well-known love story. See how true love can blossom, even in an unfriendly setting of hatred and feuding. Read along and find out how their innocence enables them to overlook the fighting between their families. Romeo and Juliet are betrayed by the very families they care about, forcing them to take their lives instead of being separated. In the end, through the pain of losing their children, the families realize how trivial their differences really were.



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