




**SADDLEBACK**  
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# Romeo and Juliet

**WILLIAM  
SHAKESPEARE**





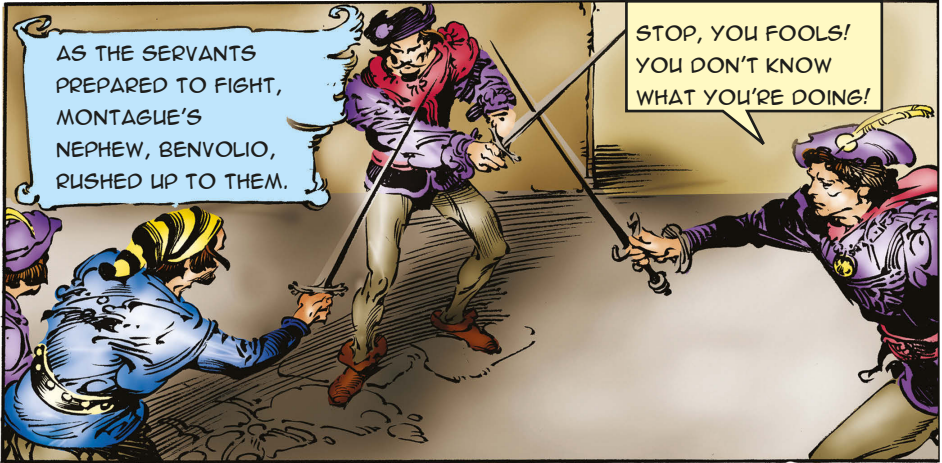
MANY YEARS AGO IN VERONA, ITALY, THERE LIVED TWO FAMILIES WHO HATED ONE ANOTHER. THE MONTAGUES AND THE CAPULETS HAD BEEN CARRYING ON A FEUD FOR AS LONG AS THEY COULD REMEMBER.

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.





AS THE SERVANTS PREPARED TO FIGHT, MONTAGUE'S NEPHEW, BENVOLIO, RUSHED UP TO THEM.

STOP, YOU FOOLS! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!



JUST THEN TYBALT, A NEPHEW OF CAPULET'S WIFE, SAW BENVOLIO WITH HIS SWORD DRAWN. HE THOUGHT BENVOLIO WANTED TO FIGHT ALONG WITH THE SERVANTS.

WHY FIGHT THEM WHEN YOU CAN FIGHT ME, BENVOLIO?



I AM TRYING TO KEEP PEACE, TYBALT. IF YOU MUST USE YOUR SWORD, HELP ME TO SEPARATE THESE SERVANTS.

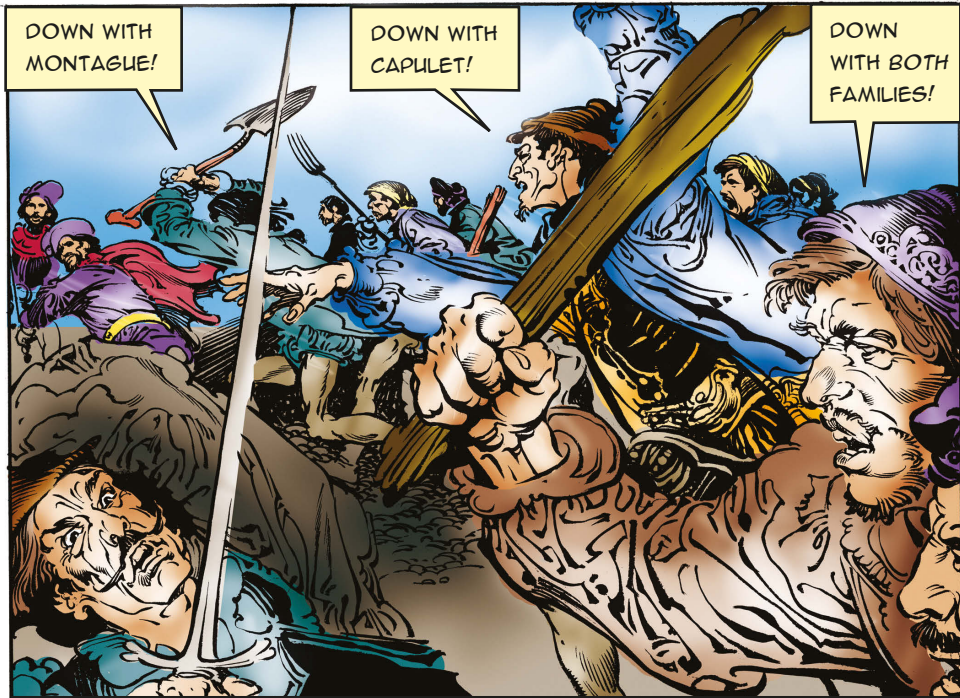
I DO NOT LIKE THE WORD PEACE. I HATE YOU AND ALL THE OTHER MONTAGUES. FIGHT ME, I SAY!



I SHALL BE THE DEATH OF YOU, BENVOLIO.

MANY GOOD CITIZENS OF VERONA WERE TIRED OF THE LONG FEUD. 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.



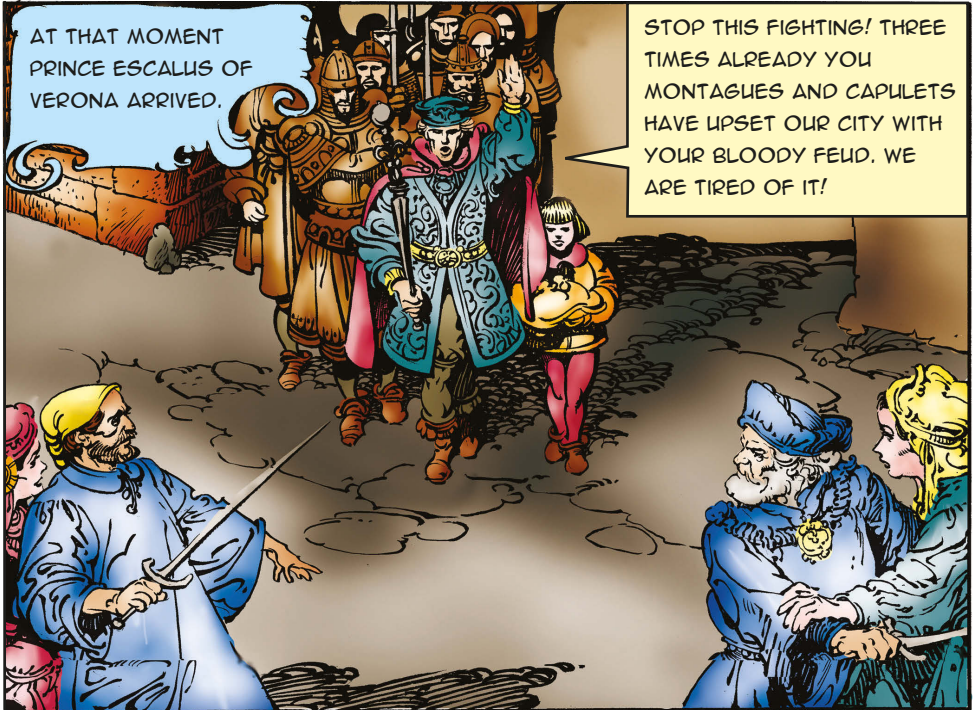
LOOK! HERE COMES MONTAGUE WITH A SWORD. GET MINE FOR ME, WIFE.

NO. YOU ARE TOO OLD TO FIGHT.



THERE IS OLD CAPULET. LET GO OF ME WOMAN!

I WILL NOT!



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.

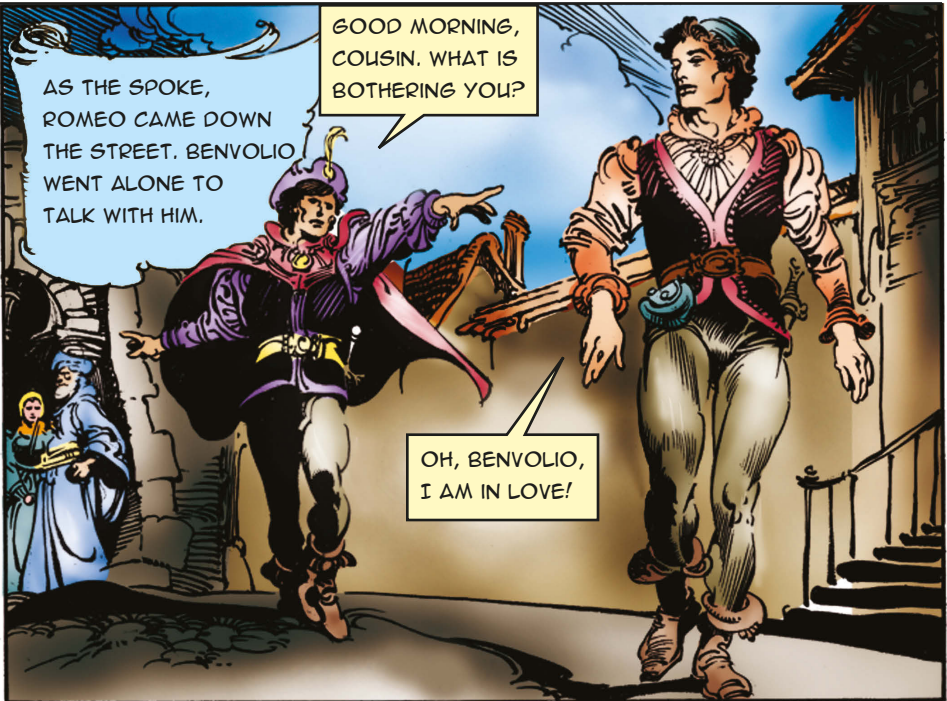
HE HAS BEEN DOING THAT A LOT LATELY, DEAR WIFE. HE STAYS UP ALL NIGHT LONG. AND DURING THE DAY HE LOCKS HIMSELF IN HIS ROOM.



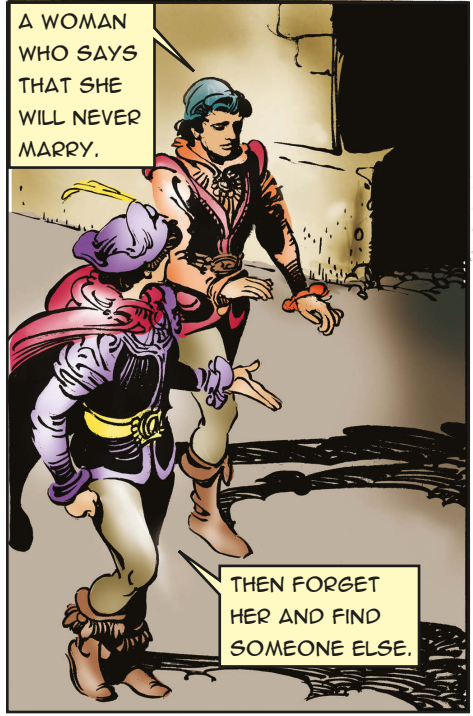
AS THE SPOKE, ROMEO CAME DOWN THE STREET. BENVOLIO WENT ALONE TO TALK WITH HIM.

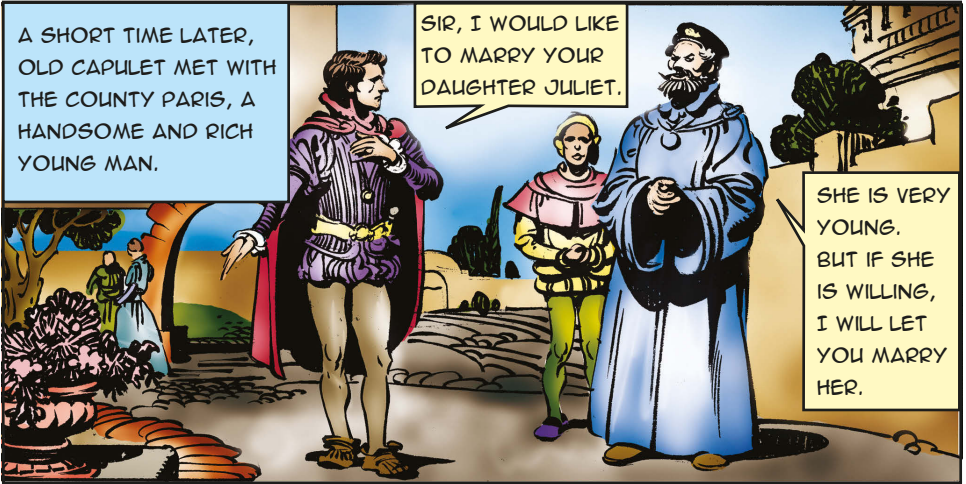
GOOD MORNING, COUSIN. WHAT IS BOTHERING YOU?

OH, BENVOLIO, I AM IN LOVE!









AT HIS MASTER'S ORDER, THE SERVANT TOOK THE LIST AND LEFT. BUT BECAUSE HE COULD NOT READ, HE HAD TO STOP SOMEONE AND ASK FOR HELP. AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, ROMEO AND BENVOLIO HAPPENED TO BE WALKING BY JUST THEN.



EXCUSE ME, GOOD SIR. CAN YOU TELL ME WHOSE NAMES ARE ON THIS PAPER?

AS ROMEO READ THE LIST FOR HIM, HE SAW THAT THE NAME OF THE LADY HE LOVED WAS INCLUDED.



THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME, SIR. MY MASTER IS LORD CAPULET. IF YOU ARE NOT MONTAGUES YOU ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND HIS PARTY.



WHEN THE SERVANT LEFT, BENVOLIO QUICKLY SPOKE WITH ROMEO.

SO YOUR LADY IS ON THE LIST! LET US GO TO THE FEAST TONIGHT. I AM SURE YOU WILL SEE OTHERS THERE WHO ARE JUST AS PRETTY. WHEN YOU COMPARE THEM, YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME!



# 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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