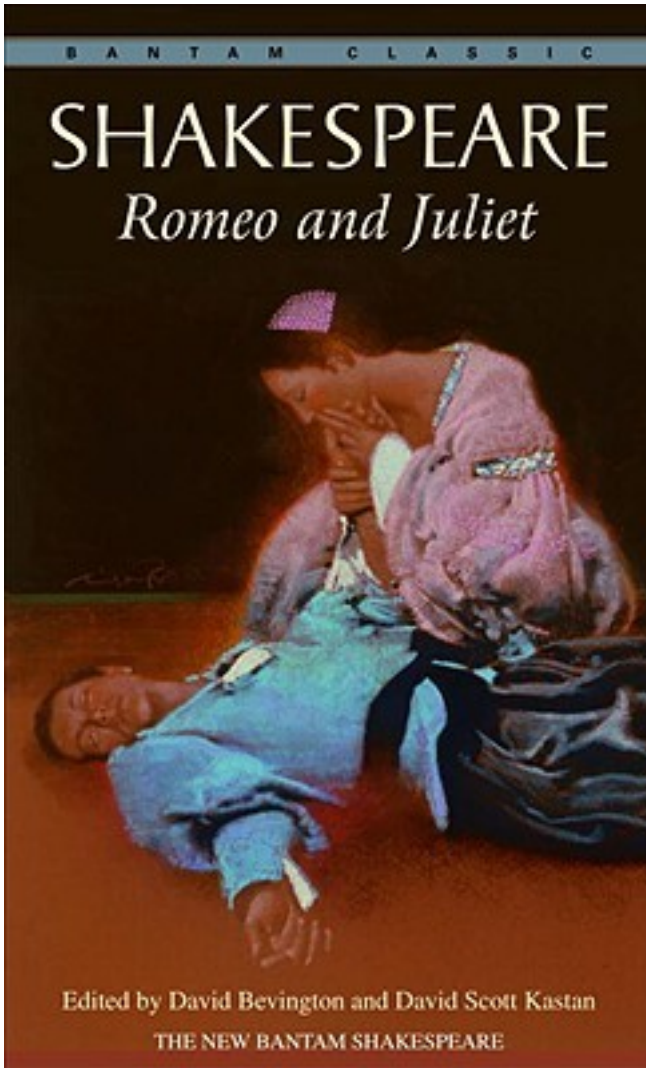


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# William Shakespeare

## Romeo and Juliet



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## Description

THE BANTAM SHAKESPEARE

ROMEO AND JULIET

An exciting new edition with these features:

- illustrated with photographs from New York Shakespeare Festival productions
- vivid, readable introductions for each play by noted scholar David Bevington
- a lively, personal forward by Joseph Papp
- an insightful essay on the play in performance
- modern spelling and punctuation
- comprehensive source material and scholarship for each play, with notes
- up-to-date, annotated bibliographies
- a convenient listing of key passages

## Insightful reviews

Demo: Enter at your own risk. This is a bitchfit waiting to happen.

You know, I'm quite certain that if Shakespeare was the "genius" everyone claimed him to be, that Romeo & Juliet has been poorly interpreted. They were two young teenagers that fell "in love" in three days, and resulted in a shitload of deaths for a stupid reason. If Shakespeare was so brilliant, I don't think he'd call that true love or romantic. I think his point was that the families' feud was stupid, and in turn it caused their youth to do stupid things. They were fools.

Isn't that a bit blatantly obvious? I haven't read or seen the damn play, but I know enough about to figure this out. They were young. They were stupid. And their idiot families forced them into doing something crazy.

Now, first demonstration of their idiocy: Juliet fakes her own death. Fanfuckingtastic. I know there was something about a message being delayed or whatever (damn snail mail) but that's no excuse. First off, I'd much quicker go all Rapunzel on these whackjobs and climb out a tower window than fake my own death. Wasn't being buried alive, like, a huge fear back then? What if she'd woken up somewhere she couldn't escape? Or even worse, in a *coffin* six feet underground? And you think *you* had a bad day. Why didn't she run away? Why didn't she carry through with the wedding and then, at the least expected moment, haul off and bitch slap Paris? HM? Why not wait until they let their guard down, and elope?

Ah, my Manipulative Bitch side is showing.

Then there's Romeo killing himself. Goddammit. Does he not have any self-worth? He met this chick, what, three days ago? And it was "love a first sight," too. ~~Which is like totally not a souped up term of INSTA-LOVE.~~ He could lived on to be a wonderful singer, or an artist, or an actor, or a delusional dictator. You know, something *worth* being famous for. Not poisoning yourself

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because your girlfriend for all of three days is dead.

Plus, here's another hole: Why didn't he *wait* to see if she was really dead? As I'd mentioned before, wasn't premature burials a big issue back then? (Or am I getting this mixed up with George Washington and Edgar Allen Poe?) Was he unaware of comas? Also, did they ever figure out the "cause of death" before he freaked the fuck out? What, that she was *poisoned*? Bitch please. Who would poison her? Montague? No. How the chiz would they manage to get into the Capulets' castle/tower thingy? Yeah. So that's out. Paris? No. He's probably use her as some creepy love slave. Or was he suspected of necrophilia? (I don't know much about him... Not that I care). Another option gone.

WHO POISONED HER, ROMEO? YOUR THINKING: IT LACKS REASONING.

So no poison.. Heart attack? That's a lame excuse. That's an excuse writers come up with when there's no other probable cause of death. No heart attack. And if she didn't show any outward signs of damage...

OH WELL I GUESS SHE JUST FELT LIKE BEING DEAD. OKAY.

Stupid, stupid, stupid.

Then Juliet wakes up and kills herself because both Paris and Romeo are dead. Friggin' great. You know what? Let's roast s'mores, cause this moron-parade is just getting bigger by the moment.

Okay, so you wake up after faking your own goddamn death for some unknown reason, miraculously still above ground, to find your one-night stander and sort-of-fiance dead. You know what's the smart thing to do? *Kill yourself for real*. That solves everything. Totally.

No. You'd be traumatized, maybe mentally unstable, and possibly locked up in an asylum, but you would not commit suicide for that. Juliet did not love Paris, and the three-day fling with Romeo was lust. Meanwhile, she has all these other people, as well as the hope of finding *real* love someday.

But no. She stabs herself.

[image error]

Anyway, don't ever expect me to read this book, play, or movie. I am not sitting through this fuckfest. My point is, everyone hails Shakespeare as a genius and a classic and blah blah blah. Well, if he is, then he would not be calling this crap true love. He was making a point that their asshole families drove them to idiotic extremes that resulted in Tybalt's, Mercutio's, Romeo's, Juliet's, Paris's, and whoever the hell else's deaths.

KK?

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KK.

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SASSY GAY FRIEND KNOWS ALL:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwnFE\\_...](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwnFE_...)

Trevor: I was in the staff room a couple of weeks ago. Obviously, I stand out from the other student teachers. In fact, given I'm nearly 50 and male and they are nearly 25 and female, I imagine I look like one of those incredibly sad men that react to mid-life in ways other than looking for a new career.

Anyway, one of the teachers (a retired man who works covering absent teachers and seems to be there every day) asked me what I did before becoming a student teacher and then why in God's name I would ever want to be a teacher instead. You know, high stress, low pay, crazy kids – the list of features is nearly endless.

I told him that in my previous job I had all that too, the kids were just older (well, the pay was better too, admittedly) but the other main feature of my previous job was getting to read the same enterprise agreement over and over again for 8 years straight without remission. It was like the myth of Sisyphus without the interest of seeing the amusing ploy the Gods would come up with this time to mess things up right at the end. At least this way, I told him, I would be reading and re-reading Shakespeare, and that has got to be an improvement. Cute line, but would it hold up?

And so my new journey began right away by having to read and teach this little play to a group of 16 year olds. I've never studied this play before. I have read it, but I've learnt that to teach something 'reading it' once isn't really quite enough.

I wouldn't have said I knew everything about the play before I started teaching it, but I wasn't quite prepared to learn some of the things about the play that I did. Take this little sonnet as a case in point. I can't begin to tell you what finding it has done for my regard for my mate Bill.

If I profane with my unworhiest hand  
This holy shrine, the gentle sin in this,  
My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand  
To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss.  
Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much  
Which mannerly devotion shows in this.  
For saints have hands that pilgrim's hands do touch,  
And palm to palm is holy palmers' kiss.  
Have not saints lips, and holy palmers too?  
Ay, pilgrim, lips that thy must use in pray'r.

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Oh then, dear saint, let lips do what hands do,  
They pray – grant thou, lest faith turn to despair.  
Saints do not move, though grant for prayer's sake.  
Then move not while my prayer's effect I take.

Now, as you know, a sonnet is like a little song, it has 14 lines, ten syllables per line, alternating stressed and unstressed syllables and rhymes ababcdcdefeg. But this isn't like the sonnet that begins this play – this sonnet is hidden in the dialogue and is spoken Romeo and Juliet together built from their dialogue in an incredibly important scene in the play. It is their very first words together and the sonnet ends in their very first kiss.

How sexy is that? Imagine thinking of having your main characters' first words together as a sonnet. God, it makes my head spin.

So, the options before me were to read yet another maternity leave clause or to read and re-read *Romeo and Juliet* for the next twenty years. There really wasn't a lot of choice, was there?

Matt: How someone can go and get two degrees in English and not read *Romeo and Juliet*, I have absolutely no idea. Why I would take it upon myself to read Shakespeare when I'm under no obligation, I'm afraid only fellow writers and lit geeks will understand.

It's among the best-known stories in history, even for people who've never come within a mile of the Bard's plays. Two lovers are kept apart by their feuding families. They must thus pursue their love in secret. But it's not called *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* because they live happily ever after.

The play features some of Shakespeare's most famous and most eloquent passages; read parts aloud if you can get away with it. It's also highly compressed, so there's never any point where you hope for things to just move on. And even if the language is at times hard to follow, you can't ever get too lost with what's happening.

The lovers' plight, while sympathetic and heartfelt, is diminished by its lack of dramatization. Their courtship happens in such short order, and a goodly portion off-stage, that it prevents readers from identifying more. Yes, the ultimate tragedy is heightened because of the brevity, but I just feel like it's a missed opportunity. (A moot point, I suppose, when the author is four centuries deceased.)

In the event someone else hasn't read it yet, do. Every love story owes its existence to *Romeo & Juliet*. Just don't expect it to be a definitive rendition on the theme. A lot has happened since the days of Shakespeare.

**Grade: B-**

Nate: i am not yes what annoys me extra - the play that increased a narrative approximately little ones assembly at a ball and immediately "falling in love" then figuring out to get married

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after realizing one another for one evening into the main famous love tale of all time, or the center faculties that feed this to teenagers of an analogous age staff because the major characters to help their angst-filled heads with the concept that yes, they are surely in love with that guy/girl they met 5 mins ago, and not anyone can cease them, particularly no longer their meddling parents! Keep in brain that Juliet used to be 13 YEARS OLD. (Her father states she "hath now not but obvious the switch of fourteen years" in 1.2.9). Even in Shakespeare's England, most girls have been not less than 21 prior to they married and had children. it isn't transparent how previous Romeo is, yet both he is additionally a silly little child who should be slapped, or he is a toddler molester, and neither one is an efficient thing. When i used to be in heart university or excessive school, round the time we learn this book, I consider a classmate announcing at school that once her and her boyfriends' eyes met around the quad, they only knew they have been intended to be jointly forever. How handy that her soulmate occurred to be an immensely renowned and handsome soccer player, and his soulmate occurred to be a beautiful cheerleader! that is not love initially sight, that is lust firstly sight. in the event that they have been rather lucky, might be as time went on they might additionally occur to "click" very well, that lust may turn into love (it didn't), and they might prove jointly ceaselessly (they didn't). but when they observed one another at a faculty dance, determined they have been "like, completely in love," after which the following day determined to run off and get married, we will not inspire that as a romantic love story, we should always slap the hell out of them either to wake them as much as reality. For what it truly is worth, my cynicism does not come from any bitterness in the direction of lifestyles or love. I met my spouse once we have been 17, and we now have now been jointly nearly 10 years, married for a bit over 2. thankfully for me, she became out to be awesome. If we had determined the day after assembly one another that we have been hopelessly in love and had to get married immediately, we might were idiots, and that i desire anyone who I depended on and revered may have slapped me, hard. If we have been thirteen on the time, that might be even worse. Enlightened adults injecting this into our adolescence as a vintage love tale for the generations, offering additional aid for his or her angst-filled fake principles of affection and marriage, is perhaps worst of all.

Kat (Lost in Neverland): Lookie the following everyone, the world's first insta-love! You particularly need to move into this tale with an open mind, or you cannot make odds or ends of it. this can be not, by means of any means, a romance. it's a tragedy, period. The tragedy of 2 youngsters (Juliet is thirteen and Romeo is 18, for those who have been wondering) who get sexy once they see one another fall in love, get married the day when they meet, after which dedicate suicide. yet hey, it really is Shakespeare. it's a bit alleged to be ridiculous.

Jasmin: Shakespeare IS Shakespeare. His works are thought of literary masterpieces. William Shakespeare is considered the best author within the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. he's referred to as England's nationwide poet.. The truth is sort of irrefutable. I repeat. ALMOST It is simply because I, decide to disagree. Don't get me wrong. Yes, William Shakespeare is a superb playwright. The dialogues are wonderful! The plot is breathtaking! Well, if that's the case, then what the hell is my problem? Oh my! Is it simply me? yet why are the characters so dumb, umm, unlikable? I keep in mind whilst i used to be young, being round a flock of becoming lady adolescents, muttering words nearly just like this: the place am i able to locate my Romeo? i feel sooner or later I stated that too. I've watched the movie. i have studied it in excessive school. i have watched a play of it. It used to be good. yet now that I've grown, I

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couldn't see the point. Why? Why is Romeo thought of an epitome of a woman's excellent man? How did it come to that point? Romeo grew to become slang for excellent man. Even the dictionary virtually says so: Ro•meo (r??m?-??)noun pl. Romeos Ro•meosA guy who's dedicated to lovemaking or the pursuit of love.But really? Having learn this, i may merely reflect on expensive Romeo as a shallow witted creature. He was once in love with Rosaline, that he used to be so weary and virtually suicidal. yet simply as he sees Juliet's reasonable beauty, he has a surprising swap of heart. And whilst I say sudden, I suggest rather abrupt. Hmm, do women actually need that? Okay, so Rosaline was once a nun, yet still, wouldn't we need our males to grieve for the lack of us even somewhat longer? Yes, Romeo has the sweetest strains ever. yet in our Filipino language, he's a BOLERO! BTW, bolero is a man that claims really candy compliments which aren't inevitably true. That's what Romeo is. Oh Juliet. Do you're thinking that you've gotten kept away from my watchful eye and criticism? Hell, no! Juliet, you're a flirt. You're speaking approximately marriage simply after the second one meeting? And the second one assembly was once under hours after the first. I'm no nonbeliever of affection before everything sight, yet good day sister, you have a minimum of inspiration a bit extra approximately it. on the delicate age of thirteen, Juliet already longs to be touched intimately. fanatics can see to do their amorous rights THIRTEEN. Oh my, thirteen! while i used to be thirteen, I wasn't even taking into consideration kissing yet. yet she was once approach ahead, contemplating more. Is Juliet wondering intercourse or what? Or is it simply me? Am i actually simply eco-friendly minded an excessive amount of to think about "amorous rights" as sex?Oh my. Truly, Romeo and Juliet is a tragedy. Oh thy wrinkles!Thee look on thy foreheadThis ebook hath denied me my youthAnd I'd relatively devour my footThan learn this one other bout!Well, apart from the wrinkles part, it's a tragedy that the characters weren't any smarter. and they roamed the streets with swords. Them with out swords might have kept us from loads of trouble.Anyway, I gave it 3 stars still, which feels beneficant of me. i could not provide it something less, on the grounds that i believe like i am being sacrilegious if its purely two.

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