



Once upon a time there lived in Verona two great families named Montagu and Capulet. They were both rich, and I suppose they were as sensible<sup>1</sup>, in most things, as other rich people. But in one thing they were extremely silly. There was an old, old quarrel between the two families, and instead of making it up like reasonable folks, they made a sort of pet<sup>2</sup> of their quarrel, and would not let it die out<sup>3</sup>.



So that a Montagu wouldn't speak to a Capulet if he met one in the street—nor a Capulet to a Montagu—or if they did speak, it was to say rude and unpleasant things, which often ended in a fight.

And their relations and servants were just as foolish, so that street fights and duels<sup>4</sup> and uncomfortablenesses of that kind were always growing out of the Montagu-and-Capulet quarrel.

Now Lord Capulet, the head of that family, gave a party—a grand<sup>5</sup> supper and a dance—and he was so hospitable<sup>6</sup> that he said anyone might come to it except (of course) the Montagues.



But there was a young Montagu named Romeo, who very much wanted to be there, because Rosaline, the lady he loved, had been asked.

This lady had never been at all kind to him, and he had no reason to love her; but the fact was that he wanted to love somebody, and as he hadn't seen the right lady, he was obliged to love the wrong one. So to the Capulet's grand party he came, with his friends Mercutio and Benvolio.



- 1 sensible [ˈsensəbəl] (a.) having sound reason and judgment 明智的
- 2 pet [pet] (n.) a fit of sulkiness 愠怒
- 3 die out: to become less common and finally stop existing 逐漸消失
- 4 duel [ˈduːl] (n.) a fight with weapons between two people, used in the past to settle a quarrel 決鬥
- 5 grand [grænd] (a.) splendid in style and appearance 盛大的
- 6 hospitable [ˈhɒspɪtəbəl] (a.) friendly, welcoming, and generous to guests or strangers 好客的





Old Capulet welcomed him and his two friends very kindly—and young Romeo moved about among the crowd of courtly<sup>7</sup> folk dressed in their velvets<sup>8</sup> and satins<sup>9</sup>, the men with jeweled<sup>10</sup> sword hilts<sup>11</sup> and collars, and the ladies with brilliant gems on breast and arms, and stones of price set in their bright girdles<sup>12</sup>.



The ladies with brilliant gems on breast and arms, and stones of price set in their bright girdles

Romeo was in his best too, and though he wore a black mask over his eyes and nose, everyone could see by his mouth and his hair, and the way he held his head, that he was twelve times handsomer than anyone else in the room.

Presently amid the dancers he saw a lady so beautiful and so lovable that from that moment he never again gave one thought to that Rosaline whom he had thought he loved.

<sup>7</sup> courtly [ˈkɔːrtli] (a.) polite, graceful and formal in behaviour 宫廷式的

<sup>8</sup> velvet [ˈvelvət] (n.) fabric with soft lustrous pile 天鹅绒

愛這個人，對他逝世後所獲得的令譽表達敬意，對他的崇拜也一如其他任何偶像。此君為人坦誠，而且具有開放和自由的特質。」

莎士比亞在死後第二天，即葬於史特拉福教堂的聖壇北側，在墓穴上立了塊平坦的石頭，上面鐫刻了由他自己親自寫下的墓誌銘：

朋友，看在上帝的份上，  
切莫挖掘此墓，  
愛惜墓石的會得庇佑，  
移我屍骨者將受詛咒。

## 羅密歐與茱麗葉

**p.012** 從前在維洛那住了兩大家族，分別是蒙太古和卡普萊特。雙方都很富有，據我推想，他們也像其他有錢人一樣，對大多數事情都很明理，可是在一件事上卻顯得絕頂愚蠢：從很久很久以前，這兩大家族之間就有了紛爭，不過他們並沒有像理性的人們那樣想辦法調和雙方的不愉快，而是不斷鬧著彆扭，無法讓雙方的不和平息。

所以一個蒙太古家族的人如果在街上碰到了一個卡普萊特家族的人，是不會和他交談的，反過來說，卡普萊特家族的人也不會找上蒙太古家族的人，即使雙方談起話來，也都是說些無理和令人不悅的事，所以通常到最後都會大打出手。

另外他們的親戚和僕人也都愚不可及，使得這兩大家族之間的紛爭越演越烈，街頭上演的打架鬧事、決鬥以及種種

不愉快都層出不窮。

卡普萊特家族的大家長卡普萊特爵士這天舉辦一場宴會，那是頓豐盛的晚宴，還有舞會助興。卡普萊特爵士十分好客，因此表示只要不是蒙太古家族，任何人都可以來到那兒。

**p.013** 可是蒙太古家族有個年輕人叫羅密歐，由於愛上了受邀出席的羅莎琳，自然十分渴望參加那場宴會。

這位女孩對羅密歐從沒好言好語過，而他也沒有愛上她的理由，事實上羅密歐雖然很想獻出他的愛，但始終沒有遇到適合的意中人，於是只好愛了一個不該愛的女孩。這次羅密歐是偕同朋友莫卡提歐和賓佛利歐，前去參加卡普萊特家族的盛宴。

**p.014** 老卡普萊特非常親切地歡迎羅密歐和他的兩位朋友，不久年輕的羅密歐就穿梭在穿著天鵝絨和綢緞的眾賓客之間，只見他們渾身散發著出身宮廷的不凡氣派，男士們的刀柄和衣領都鑲著珠寶，女士



們的胸膛和手臂也配戴著閃閃發光的首飾，連美麗的束腰都鑲著貴重的寶石。

羅密歐亦盛裝出席，他心想最好戴上黑色面具遮住自己的眼睛和鼻子，好讓每個人就只能看到他嘴巴和頭髮，這個方法可以讓他看起來比屋內的其他人英俊上十二倍。

不久，他忽然在舞者之中發現一個女孩是這麼的美麗和可愛，使得從那一刻開始，就完全忘了那個過去一直認定是自己所愛的羅莎琳。

**p.015** 他仔細端詳著這另一位美麗的女子，看著她輕移蓮步，舞動著緞子衣服和珍珠，對羅密歐來說，即使把全世界拿來和她相比也似乎毫無意義，而且一點價值也沒有。

當卡普萊特夫人的姪子提伯特聽到他的聲音，並認出他就是羅密歐時，羅密歐還兀自說著這些或是其他類似傾慕的話。

提伯特十分憤怒，於是立刻走到叔叔那兒，告訴他有個蒙塔古家族的人，竟然在沒有受邀的情況下貿然前來參加這場盛宴，可是老卡普萊特是個心腸好的謙謙君子，不會粗魯地對待來到自家屋簷下的人，於是命令提伯特閉嘴，可是這個年輕人卻只想等待機會大大指責羅密歐一番。

**p.016** 在此同時，羅密歐走向這個美麗的女孩，以甜言蜜語訴說愛意，並且吻了她，這時恰好她母親叫人請她過去，羅密歐才發現讓他魂縈夢繫的女孩竟是茱麗葉，也就是他一再詛咒的那位仇敵

卡普萊特爵士的女兒。於是他走開了，真是痛心疾首，可是對她的愛卻沒有一絲減損。

後來茱麗葉對奶媽說：「沒有在跳舞的那位紳士是誰？」

「他叫羅密歐，是蒙塔古家族的人，也是你們最大仇敵的獨子。」奶媽回答。

接著茱麗葉回到自己房間，透過窗戶往外看去，外面是片美麗的灰綠色花園，一輪明月十分皎潔。沒想到羅密歐就隱藏在樹林間的這片花園裡……因為他打算再見到她，不能就這樣一走了之。

茱麗葉並不知道他就在那兒，就大聲說出她不足為外人道的一些想法，告訴寂靜的花園她是多麼地愛羅密歐。

**p.017** 羅密歐聽到後喜悅已非筆墨所能形容，於是躲在下面抬頭仰望，在月光下看到她美麗的臉蛋，正在長滿蔓藤的窗戶邊凝思著。當他仰望和聆聽時，覺得自己就好像是在夢中被人帶走，然後被一些魔法師安置在這個美麗且被施過魔咒的花園裡。

「啊，為什麼你要叫羅密歐？」茱麗葉說：「我愛你，你叫什麼會有多重要？」

「只要把我喚作妳的愛，我就重新受洗和命名，從今以後，就永遠不再叫羅密歐了。」

羅密歐喊道，並從遮蔽他的柏樹和夾竹桃樹蔭處走到潔白的月光下。

茱麗葉起初有些害怕，可是當她看到那是羅密歐本人而且沒有其他陌生人時，也高興了起來。只見他就站在下面