



Romeo and Juliet: The Oxford Shakespeare (Oxford World's Classics)

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Jill L Levenson (Editor) This edition of Romeo & Juliet in the Oxford Shakespeare series offers an authoritative, modern-spelling text with on-page commentary and notes to explain meaning, staging, language and allusions. An extensive introduction gives full attention to the play's themes, composition and sources, performance history and changing critical attitudes. Publisher: Oxford University Press Paperback ISBN 9780199535897

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460 pages

Amazon Review

This is undoubtedly the greatest love story ever written, spawning a host of imitators on stage and screen, including Leonard Bernstein's smash musical *West Side Story*, Franco Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet* filmed in 1968, and Baz Luhrmann's postmodern film version *Romeo + Juliet*. The tragic feud between "Two households, both alike in dignity/In fair Verona", the Montagues and Capulets, which ultimately kills the two young "star-crossed lovers" and their "death-marked love" creates issues which have fascinated subsequent generations. The play deals with issues of intergenerational and familial conflict, as well as the power of language and the compelling relationship between sex and death, all of which makes it an incredibly modern play. It is also an early example of Shakespeare fusing poetry with dramatic action, as he moves from Romeo's lyrical account of Juliet--"she doth teach the torches to burn bright!" to the bustle and action of a 16th-century household (the play contains more scenes of ordinary working people than any of Shakespeare's other works). It also represents an experimental attempt to fuse comedy with tragedy. Up to the third act, the play proceeds along the lines of a classic romantic comedy. The turning point comes with the death of one of Shakespeare's finest early dramatic creations--Romeo's sexually ambivalent friend Mercutio, whose "plague o' both your houses" begins the play's descent into tragedy, "For never was a story of more woe/Than this of Juliet and her Romeo". --*Jerry Brotton Review*

many students will no doubt relish the fullness of Professor Levenson's notes. Indeed, they may often be particularly grateful for the care with which she directs readers to even fuller discussions to be found elsewhere (*The Review of English Studies, Vol.52, No.207*)

Professor Levenson provides an excellent and often very thought-provoking account of performance history, and many of her most interesting discussions and annotations relate to questions of staging, traditional, unusual, or possible (*The Review of English Studies, Vol.52, No.207*)

excellent decision to include the whole of the Q1 text as well as Q2 (*The Review of English Studies, Vol.52, No.207*) From the Inside Flap

(back cover)

" aBut, soft! what light through yonder window breaks?

It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.a

" When teenagers Romeo and Juliet meet at a masked ball, itas love at first sight. But Romeo is a Montague and Juliet a Capulet a and the two families are sworn enemies. Watch tragedy unfold as the astar-crosseda lovers try to overcome the obstacles ahead of them.

Perhaps the most famous love story of all time, Shakespeareas classic is brought to life in this exciting graphic novel.

(front flap)

The enmity that simmers between the Veronese houses of Montague and Capulet comes to a head in a street fight that is halted by the Prince of Verona. Although open fighting has ended, hatred persists between the families. But when Lord Montagueas son Romeo falls in love with Juliet, the daughter of Lord Capulet, the kindly Friar Laurence hopes to bring the families together through their childrenas marriage. All goes wrong when Romeo is impelled to kill Julietas cousin Tybaltatthe first of several killings that concludes with the deaths of Romeo and Juliet.

" aFor never was a story of more woe

Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.a

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