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*Romeo & Juliet*

Act III, Scene 5

**Summary**

Just before morning, Romeo prepares to climb down from Juliet’s window to begin his exile. Juliet tries to convince Romeo that the birdcalls they hear are from the nightingale, a night bird, instead of a lark, a morning bird. Romeo cannot listen to her; he must leave before morning comes or be put to death. Juliet says that the light outside doesn’t come from the sun, but from some meteor. Overcome by love, Romeo says that he will stay with Juliet, and that he does not care if the Prince’s men will kill him. Faced with this turnaround, Juliet says that the bird they heard was the lark; this means it is morning and he must leave. The Nurse enters to warn Juliet that Lady Capulet is coming. Romeo and Juliet tearfully say goodbye. Romeo climbs out the window. Standing in the orchard below her window, Romeo promises Juliet that they will see each other again, but Juliet says that Romeo looks as pale as a dead person. Romeo says that she looks the same way, and that it is sadness that makes them both look pale. Romeo hurries away as Juliet pulls in the ladder and hopes that Romeo will return to her quickly.

Lady Capulet calls for Juliet. Juliet wonders why her mother would come to speak to her so early in the morning. Lady Capulet does not know that Juliet is married to Romeo. Lady Capulet comes into Juliet’s room and when she sees that Juliet has been crying, she assumes that it must be because of Tybalt’s death. Lady Capulet tells Juliet that she wants to see “the villain Romeo” dead. Juliet leads her mother to believe that she also wishes that Romeo was dead. However, Juliet is speaking in riddles, and what she actually says is that she loves Romeo more than anything. Lady Capulet tells Juliet about Capulet’s plan for her to marry Paris on Thursday, explaining that he wants to make her happy. Juliet is very upset. She says, “I will not marry yet; and when I do, I swear… it shall be Romeo – whom you know I hate – rather than Paris.” Capulet enters Juliet’s room. When he learns that Juliet is determined to go against his wishes, he becomes angry and threatens to disown Juliet if she refuses to obey him. When Juliet asks her mother to help, her mother refuses to try and help.

After Capulet and Lady Capulet leave, Juliet asks the Nurse how she might escape her problem. The Nurse tells her to go through with the marriage to Paris – he is a better match, and Romeo is as good as dead anyhow. Juliet is upset, but pretends to agree. Juliet tells her nurse that she is going to make confession at Friar Lawrence’s. Juliet hurries to the friar, promising that she will never again trust the Nurse. If the friar is not able to help her, Juliet says that she has the power to take her own life.

**Questions**:

1. How does Romeo get out of Juliet’s room in the morning?
2. Does Lady Capulet know that Juliet is married to Romeo?
3. When Lady Capulet sees Juliet crying, what does she think Juliet is crying about?
4. What does Capulet threaten to do if Juliet does not marry Paris?
5. What does the Nurse say Juliet should do now?
6. Does Juliet trust Nurse anymore?
7. What will Juliet do if Friar Lawrence can’t help her?