

Romeo and Juliet abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 3

Fear

Situation: Early in the evening of the night before her not-aware-of-all-the-facts father's plan for her marriage to the County Paris, Juliet returns home, having accepted the vial of a 'secret potion' from Friar Lawrence. She reflects alone in her bedroom on her momentous near-term future.

LADY CAPULET: Good night. Get thee to bed and rest, for thou hast need.

Lady Capulet and the Nurse exit.

JULIET: Farewell. My dismal scene I needs must act alone. Come, vial.

She takes out the vial.

JULIET: What if this mixture do not work at all? Shall I be married then tomorrow morning?

She takes out her knife and puts it down beside her.

Juliet to herself, No. 3

What if it be a poison the Friar
Hath subtly ministered, so to not lure
Me to this marriage, lest he be disgraced
Having married me to Romeo? I
Fear it is, yet methinks my thought misplaced,
He a holy man. How if, as I lie
In the tomb I wake before Romeo
Come to redeem me? Shall I not be so
Stifled in the vault where no healthsome air
Breathes in, that I die there strangled, my bliss
So denied? And if I live and wake there,
Shall I not be distraught, enclosed with this
Fear, the horrible fear of death I'll face,
Together with the terror of the place.

JULIET: Romeo, Romeo, Romeo! Here's drink. I drink to thee.