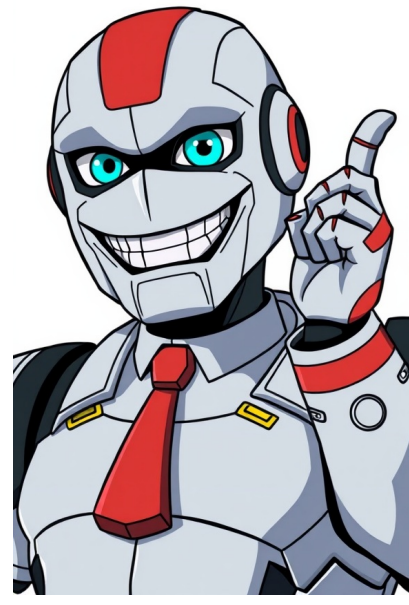


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Act 2, Scene 2 of Romeo and Juliet is a pivotal moment in Shakespeare's play that has transcended time to become an iconic cultural reference. The balcony scene, where Juliet appears above the garden, has spawned a lucrative industry catering to lovers and is now one of Verona's must-see attractions. It draws huge crowds in the summer, making it nearly impossible to move in its vicinity. The Romeo and Juliet balcony scene is undeniably romantic, reflecting the play's inherent focus on love and passion. However, as the story progresses, this romance gives way to tragedy, leaving the audience with a sense of foreboding. Watching Juliet on her balcony is an emotional experience, capturing the intensity of adolescent emotions and teenage hormones in Shakespeare's beautiful poetry. Juliet first catches Romeo's eye after he gatecrashes her father's party. He climbs over Capulet's orchard wall and sees Juliet through a window, exclaiming, "But soft, what light through yonder window breaks?" This moment marks the beginning of their secret love affair. Romeo is smitten, and his thoughts are consumed by her beauty. When Juliet appears on her balcony, she says one of Shakespeare's most famous lines: "O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?" Her lamentation about the families' feud and the societal norms that keep them apart serves as a poignant reminder of their doomed love. The scene is replete with celestial imagery, emphasizing the idea that fate plays a crucial role in their lives. Shall we know if she hath eyes of blue Brightness of her cheek doth shame stars bright As daylight doth a lamp, She sees the world with them shining Birds sing and think it not night How she leaneth on her hand O that I were glove upon That I might touch her cheek! Juliet. Ay me! Romeo. She speaks. O speak again Bright Angel For thou art As glorious to this night, being o'er my head, As is a winged Messenger of heaven unto the white-upturned wondering eyes Of mortals that fall back to gaze on him When he bestrides the lazy-puffing clouds And sails upon the bosom of the air. Juliet. O Romeo Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo? Deny thy father and refuse thy name; Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love, And I'll no longer be a Capulet. Romeo. [Aside.] Shall I hear more or shall I speak at this? Juliet. 'Tis but thy name that is my enemy; Thou art thyself though not a Montague. What's Montague? It is nor hand, nor foot, Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part Belonging to a man O be some other name. What's in a name? That which we call a rose By any other name would smell as sweet; So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called, Retain that dear perfection which he owes Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name And for that name, which is no part of thee, Take all myself. Romeo. I take thee at thy word. Call me but love and I'll be new baptis'd; Henceforth I never will be Romeo. Juliet. What man art thou that thus bescreened in night so stumblest on my counsel? Romeo. By a name I know not how to tell thee who I am My name dear saint is hateful to myself Because it is an enemy to thee. (120) Had I it written I would tear the word Juliet. My ears have yet not drunk a hundred words Of thy tongue uttering Yet I know the sound Art thou not Romeo and a Montague? Romeo. Neither fair saint if either thee dislike Juliet. How cam'st thou hither tell me and wherefore The orchard walls are high and hard to climb And the place death considering who thou art If any of my kinsmen find thee here Romeo. With love's light wings did I o'erperch these walls For stony limits cannot hold love out And what love can do that dares love attempt: Therefore thy kinsmen are no stop to me Juliet. If they do see them will murder thee Romeo. Alack there lies more peril in thine eye Than twenty of their swords Look thou but sweet and I am proof against their enmity Juliet. I would not for the world they saw thee here Romeo. I have night's cloak to hide me from their eyes And but thou love me let them find me here; My life were better ended by their hate Than death prorogued wanting of thy love Juliet. By whose direction foundst thou out this place? Romeo. By love that first did prompt me to enquire He lent me counsel and I lent him eyes I am no pilot yet wert thou as far As that vast shore wash'd with the furthest sea I should adventure for such merchandise Juliet. Thou knowest the mask of night is on my face Else would a maiden blush bepaint my cheek For that which thou hast heard me speak tonight Fain would I dwell on form fain deny What I have spoke But farewell compliment Dost thou love me? I know thou wilt say 'Ay' And I will take thy word Yet if thou swearst Thou mayst prove false At lovers perjuries They say Jove laughs O gentle Romeo If thou dost love pronounce it faithfully Or if thou thinkest I am too quickly won I'll frown and be perverse and say thee nay So thou wilt woo but else not for the world In truth fair Montague I am too fond And therefore thou mayst think my behaviour light But trust me gentleman I'll prove more true Than those that have more cunning to be strange I should have been more strange I must confess But that thou overheard'st ere I was ware My true love passion therefore pardon me and not impute this yielding to light love Which the dark night hath so discovered. Romeo. Lady by yonder blessed moon I vow Juliet. O swear not by the moon the inconstant moon That monthly changes in her circled orb Lest that thy love prove likewise variable Romeo. What shall I swear by Juliet. Do not swear at all Or if thou wilt swear by thy gracious self Which is the god of my idolatry And I'll believe thee Romeo. If my heart's dear love Juliet. Well do not swear although I joy in thee I have no joy of this contract to-night It is too rash too unadvised too sudden Too like the lightning which doth cease to be Ere one can say 'It lightens.' Sweet good night! This bud of love by summer's ripening breath May prove a beauteous flower when next we meet Good night good night as sweet repose and rest Come to thy heart as that within my breast Romeo. O wilt thou leave me so unsatisfied Juliet. What satisfaction canst thou have to-night Romeo. The exchange of thy love faithful vow for mine Juliet. I gave thee mine before thou didst request it And yet I would it were to give again Romeo. Wouldst thou withdraw it for what purpose love Juliet. But to be frank and give it thee again And yet I wish but for the thing I have My bounty is as boundless as the sea My love as deep The more I give to thee The more I have For both are infinite. Nurse callsO blessed, blessed night! I am afeard. Being in night, all this is but a dream, Too flattering-sweet to be substantial. ###ENDARTICLEThe Tragic Tale of Romeo's Witty Banter and the Star-Spangled Adventures of Buffalo Bill Cody

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