

Hello! I'm Laura, the playwright of *Juliet Wakes Up*.

If you would like to perform this script, please contact me through my website or at [laura.j.neill@gmail.com](mailto:laura.j.neill@gmail.com). I will get back to you within a week, usually sooner.

Royalties for one performance are usually \$50, but if that cost is prohibitive to your organization, please reach out and let's chat about a sliding-scale fee.

If you'd like to use Juliet's monologue for an audition or monologue competition, or use this play in a classroom setting (i.e. no audience), that's free! Just please drop me a line so I can send good vibes your way.

JULIET WAKES UP  
by Laura Neill

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Characters

JULIET, a teenager. Her new husband just killed himself and she, um, didn't.

ROSALINE, a teenager. Half-heartedly playing the hero. Okay, quarter-heartedly.

WILLOW, a teenager. The apothecary's apprentice. Determined to get rid of the evidence.

ROMEO, a teenager. Killed himself with poison. Or did he mess it up?

Time

Ten minutes before the end of Romeo and Juliet

Place

Verona, Italy

Content Note

Violent death, suicide, blood, mention of teen pregnancy

A tomb. Not a lot onstage. Cold and darkness.

In stumbles JULIET, in a wedding dress, covered in blood.

JULIET

'Sblood 'sblood 'sblood!!!

ROSALINE

Blood!!

JULIET shrieks. She totally did not know Rosaline was there.

JULIET

Ghost! Vampire! Murderer!

ROSALINE

Um pretty sure you're the murderer, you're the one with blood all over your hands.

JULIET

I'm not—I just—he's DEAD.

ROSALINE

Yeah, he was dead before I got here, but like there was a vial or whatever, he poisoned himself, so like why do you have--

JULIET

He's dead. He's dead he's dead he's dead and I freaked out and took his dagger but then like I couldn't do it, I couldn't kill myself but it felt like I had to do SOMETHING like I had the dagger so I just well I freaked out and tried to put it back but I guess I missed because it sort of went in.

ROSALINE

You stabbed his dead body?

JULIET

I didn't MEAN TO, I was going to send myself to my eternal rest with my husband but then like--

ROSALINE

You stabbed his dead body.

JULIET

You're giving a lot of judgment for like a ghost or whatever.

ROSALINE

I'm not a GHOST. What the eff Juliet. Do you really not recognize me.

JULIET

Ummmm...

ROSALINE

It's ROSALINE! Your COUSIN! You could at least like remember that I exist! Not that anyone else does.

JULIET

Oh right. Sorry. Why?

ROSALINE

Why do I exist??

JULIET

Why are you like—here--

ROSALINE

Well back when your dead boyfriend was MY boyfriend the friar came up with this whole stupid “pretend you're dead” plot and I was like “NO THAT'S INSANE who would do something that stupid” but then I remembered that you're stupid and Romeo is REALLY STUPID so out of like family loyalty or whatever I came to, like, save you.

JULIET

But you didn't save him.

ROSALINE

Like I said, dead when I got here. He killed himself, like, really fast. There's also, like, another dead guy out there, but maybe that was unrelated?

JULIET

But you weren't trying to save me--

ROSALINE

Girl I SHOOK you, you were really under.

JULIET

Okay but you could have at least hung out near my body or like--

ROSALINE

It's been like FOUR HOURS, I had to pee--

JULIET

You let me almost kill myself because you had to pee??

ROSALINE

Girl you're the one who almost killed yourself! I am not OBLIGATED to be here okay! I tried!  
Stop yelling at me!

JULIET

Stop yelling at ME!

ROSALINE

NO!

JULIET

SOMEONE IS GOING TO HEAR US!

ROSALINE

MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT BEFORE YOU STABBED A DEAD  
BODY!

JULIET

THEY'RE GOING TO THINK I KILLED HIM! AND THE OTHER GUY! WHO'S THE  
OTHER GUY?

ROSALINE

YOUR OTHER FIANCEE! LONDON! BUENOS AIRES!

JULIET

PARIS??

ROSALINE

SURE!

JULIET

I DON'T REALLY CARE BECAUSE HE WAS GROSS BUT SOMEONE IS GOING TO  
HEAR US AND THINK I KILLED THEM AND DRAG ME TO JAIL OR EXILE OR  
WHATEVER!!

WILLOW

By'r rood SHUT UP.

WILLOW emerges from the shadows of the tomb.

ROSALINE and JULIET both scream.

ROSALINE and JULIET  
Ghost!!

WILLOW  
Yeah totally a ghost, I'm the Great Undead Ghost of Willow, I'm gonna haunt you forever if you don't shut up.

ROSALINE  
Wait you don't look like a ghost.

WILLOW  
No I totally am, I'm the all-powerful Ghost of Willow and I'm asking you to keep your voices down.

JULIET  
I don't think ghosts are all-powerful.

ROSALINE  
Yeah aren't they like condemned to wander the earth or whatever--

WILLOW  
Whatever, maybe I'm just regular Willow, can you please shut up.

JULIET  
I guess you said please that time--

WILLOW  
And yet you're still talking.

JULIET  
I'm allowed to express myself, okay, I just got married and then my husband killed himself and then I accidentally stabbed his dead body and apparently my gross fiance is also dead, just like give me a second to feel feelings--

WILLOW  
Where's the vial?

ROSALINE  
The poison vial?

WILLOW  
Yeah, a-duh.

JULIET

How do you know about the poison vial??

WILLOW

Because my stupid boss the stupid apothecary gave it to stupid Romeo and if my stupid boss gets excommunicated or whatever then I will too so I came to hide the stupid evidence.

ROSALINE

Oh. Word.

JULIET

Don't call my husband stupid!

ROSALINE

Wasn't he though.

JULIET

Yes but that's not the point!

WILLOW

I literally do not care how you felt about your dead husband, I literally just need to cover up his death so if you could like--

JULIET

I don't know how I feel about my dead husband. Oh wow. I don't know how I feel. I feel sadness and anger and love but also--

WILLOW

Literally do not care--

JULIET

Oh wow I feel relief. I'm relieved. I'm the worst wife in the entire world but part of me is--

ROSALINE

Glad he's dead?

JULIET

How DARE you say such a thing—but yeah part of me is like actually glad because I am TOO YOUNG TO GET MARRIED to someone I met three days ago.

WILLOW

You met him three days ago???

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JULIET

(And also the sex wasn't that good.)

JULIET gasps and puts her hands over her mouth.

ROSALINE

That's the part that's a surprise to you?

JULIET

Like I wanted him to stay so we could go again because I didn't, um, I heard there's supposed to be a good part and we didn't get to that part, but he really just cared about his part and then he like had to go, so--

WILLOW

Oh girl no. If any guy only cares about his part, you ditch him. Okay?

ROSALINE

Or stab his dead body in a tomb. That works too.

WILLOW

Now can we clean up the evidence and get out of here??

JULIET

How are we supposed to CLEAN anything, I'm covered in blood and like did you bring any cleaning supplies?

WILLOW

I didn't know there was going to be BLOOD, it's poison, I mean--

ROSALINE

You are both so unprepared.

WILLOW

Um excuse me and your contribution is??

JULIET

You're sure he was dead, right.

WILLOW

What.

ROSALINE

Oh Paris was def dead like Romeo kind of went to town. Ooh and if Romeo like "disappears" people are gonna think he just murdered Paris and then ran so like that's actually a good plan we

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ROSALINE (continued)  
should just get rid of his body and then--

JULIET  
But like Romeo like my husband like you're sure that the poison killed him right.

ROSALINE  
For real?

JULIET  
Like what if he wasn't, what if he wasn't, what if he wasn't and then I--

ROSALINE  
Girl I CHECKED.

JULIET  
But like how good did you check, did you--

ROSALINE  
He was dead.

WILLOW  
Are you sure. Because actually my problems personally would go away if this was like a stabby stabby murder and not a poison poison oops.

A noise from the other side of the tomb.

ROSALINE  
What was that.

WILLOW  
Um I don't know, like a rat.

JULIET  
Does that mean the rats are like eating his body.

WILLOW  
Probably.

ROSALINE  
Shut up, she's traumatized!

WILLOW  
Actually I think she killed him.

ROSALINE

No she didn't, don't try to make this a Capulet Montague thing okay.

JULIET

Hey shut up.

ROSALINE

He was definitely dead when I got here.

WILLOW

Well you're a Capulet too AND an ex so I'm not sure I believe you, maybe you both killed him.

JULIET

Hey--

ROSALINE

Well you're the one who gave him the poison so I'm pretty sure we're all like implicated at this point.

JULIET

HEY!!!

JULIET points toward the other side of the tomb.

A bloody, almost-but-not-quite-dead ROMEO stumbles in.

JULIET, ROSALINE, and WILLOW scream.

ROSALINE

Holy shit he's not dead!

JULIET

He's not dead--

WILLOW

He's almost dead.

ROMEO

Help... me...

JULIET

Husband! Um!

ROSALINE

He's not going to make it.

JULIET

But he could—if we call for help--

ROSALINE

We can't call for help!

WILLOW

Who's going to help us??

ROSALINE

Who's going to believe us that we thought he was dead when he very clearly is not. And also we need everyone to think he murdered Paris and ran, like.

ROMEO

Help. Juliet--

WILLOW

And this tomb is in the middle of nowhere. The nearest apothecary is like sixteen miles away.

ROSALINE

He's not gonna make it no matter what we do.

ROMEO

Juliet—my love--

JULIET

I don't know what to do.

ROMEO was crawling toward JULIET but changes direction.

ROMEO

Rosaline—I love you—you are my one true--

ROSALINE

Ew.

JULIET

He's dying, he doesn't mean it. He loves me.

ROMEO

I love you—just help me--

JULIET

What are we doing, we have to, we have to--

WILLOW

There's nothing to do.

JULIET

What do you mean there's NOTHING, we have to do SOMETHING--

WILLOW

DO YOU WANT TO DIE TOO.

JULIET

NO. Obviously.

WILLOW

We're all on the Capulet side of this. If we show up somewhere with a bloody Montague who let's face it is gonna be dead by the time we get there, this isn't going to end well.

ROSALINE

Girl I think you stabbed him kind of hard.

JULIET

I was just trying to get the thing back in the thing--

WILLOW

Were you?

ROMEO

Help—argh--

WILLOW

Unless you want to get prosecuted for his murder we're gonna need to hide the body. And for that to happen there has to be a body.

ROMEO collapses.

ROSALINE

Okay he's probably dead now.

JULIET

'Sblood--

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WILLOW

No I don't think he's dead yet.

ROSALINE

You were the one who said he was almost dead.

WILLOW

Yeah but he's still breathing, I can see it.

JULIET

My husband--

ROSALINE

Girl you already stabbed him, clearly there was more to that story.

JULIET

I can't believe I had a husband.

WILLOW

Have. Almost had. Wait for it--

JULIET

I'm sorry my love--

And JULIET grabs the dagger sticking out of ROMEO and stabs him again. And maybe again.

Until he is DEFINITELY dead.

WILLOW

Right. So.

ROSALINE

Dead. Yup.

WILLOW

Yup.

JULIET

I killed him.

WILLOW

Yeah.

JULIET

I KILLED him.

ROSALINE

I mean so did I because honestly I could have gotten here sooner, like I didn't rush over exactly as fast as I should have. I mean it's not like he was ever there for me so like I miiiiight have sort of taken my time--

WILLOW

Ooh yeah, this is also your bad.

ROSALINE

Hey.

WILLOW

Okay yeah I guess I also killed him because I miiiiight have mixed the poison a tiny bit stronger than I needed to.

ROSALINE

Oh by'r rood.

WILLOW

Like I'm new at this okay, who lets the apprentice mix the actual poison, like I meant to make it less deadly but I think I--

JULIET

I'm free.

They quiet and look at her.

JULIET

I didn't mean to kill him, I know you don't believe me, but I didn't, at least not on the surface, but also with the whole death plan I can't say it didn't cross my mind like what the flip am I doing, like why am I giving up my entire life and my like princesshood and my mom for this guy who was in love with someone else three days ago, am I really sure that this is what I want, and then when I was taking the sleeping potion thing like as I counted back from ten I got to eight and I was like NO THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANT but then it was too late and I was dead like fake dead right but also when I realized that it also felt like I was dead dead like I had gone from one totally controlled and patriarchal relationship into another one into another one and I'm only barely a person like what if I never got to actually be a person because Romeo wasn't going to save me from the thing, he was the thing, he was also the thing, and that's not exactly his fault but also why didn't he care when I didn't get to the part that felt good and why didn't he check in on me more like why didn't he do any of the emotional labor in our relationship and why didn't he even really TRY to ask my parents for my hand in marriage like he just wanted to cut me off

JULIET (continued)

my whole life because it was easier for him that figuring it out with me, like isn't that such a man thing to do like 'sblood like I really did think he was dead most of me thought he was dead but also it felt kind of good to stab his body.

ROSALINE grabs the dagger and stabs ROMEO too.

WILLOW

Holy--

ROSALINE

He's already dead, I might as well get some catharsis too. He didn't even answer my carrier pigeon when I thought I was preggers.

WILLOW

By'r rood are you--

ROSALINE

Nah, I was just late, but he didn't know that and then suddenly he was in love with someone else.

WILLOW

Wow you both really dodged a sword.

JULIET

Yeah. Sorry, Rosaline.

ROSALINE

Hey, if it wasn't for you he wouldn't be dead, so. No apologies necessary.

JULIET

Yeah but like if you and I had just talked to each other we wouldn't be like implicated in murder and stuff.

ROSALINE

Classic girl problems.

A pause.

WILLOW

Sooooo, like...

JULIET

There's a lake.

ROSALINE

Stones?

JULIET

Stones.

WILLOW

I saw a bucket for the horses near the entrance. For water.

ROSALINE

So we can wash away the blood.

JULIET

I have the vial.

WILLOW

We're gonna need to run. After we toss the body. I mean--

ROSALINE

Yeah the Prince is probably on his way and stuff. We should definitely run.

JULIET

Yeah, I mean, I'm already dead, so.

ROSALINE

I'm basically dead for how much attention anyone pays to me.

WILLOW

Yeah, being an indentured servant wasn't great either.

JULIET

I hear Venice is nice.

ROSALINE

Ooh, it's supposed to be pretty.

JULIET

And I don't mind wearing pants, I hear people are pretty easily fooled by pants and a ponytail under a hat.

They gather around Romeo's body and assume lifting positions.

WILLOW

Are you two strong enough for this?

ROSALINE

Oh yeah.

JULIET

Yes. We are.

WILLOW

One.

Two.

Three--

Blackout as they're about to lift Romeo's body to go throw it in the lake.

End of play.