

“ROMEO & JULIET, ANDY GRIFFITH STYLE

The play that I want to tell you about is Romeo and Juli-et. Now there is a real thing. It's a story about how this boy and girl was in love of one another ... don't you see It is! And ever'thing would have been all right for 'em except that their daddies didn't get along, they didn't, and when the play opens, Juliet's daddy is a-throwin' this big, fancy dress ball, and he invited the whole town to be there, but he didn't invite none of Romeo's people to come. And his buddies learnt of it and they put him up to slippin' on a costume and slippin' in at this party And he was a spunky kind of a boy and he done it. He done it and he got in there and everything was a-goin' good, till all of a sudden this girl Juli-et come down the stairs and he was so struck by her that he give a soliloquy right there He did, and it wasn't about bein' or not bein' ... it was doin' or not doin'.

Well, the do's they won out over the don't's, and so what he done ... he got her by the hand and started to take her out in the yard ... and we'll never know what it was that they was goin' to do out there ... we won't, because this fellow Tybalt recognized Romeo for who he was and come up on him a tryin' to pick a fight, but Juli-et's daddy he didn't want no bloodshed right there in his living room, he didn't, so all he done – he run Romeo off. But Romeo didn't go straight home. No, he didn't. He went out and hid in the yard until everybody left the party and then when they had all went, he popped up and looked around and he seen this light come on way off yonder and he says to hisself, he says,

“Hark,” he says, “What light by yonder winder shines?” ... he did ... and lemme tell you, Julie-et stepped out of her bedroom winder onto this stoop and SHE give a soliloquy, she did, friends, and somewhere in it she says: “Romeo, Romeo,” she says, “Wherefore art thou Romeo?” And he popped up and says, “I'm right here!”

Well, as it happened, they was this great big pea vine a-growin' up to where she was a-standin' and so he clumb up it ... And that is where they had that balcony scene. And they hadn't been there but just a few minutes till he asked her to marry him and that shows that he WAS an honorable boy about it all.

Well, she says, “When?” Well, he says, “Now.” And that shows that he wasn't up there for no light courtin'. He wanted to get on with it.

Back then, the reason everybody lived in castles was that they was so many of 'em to put up at night. Well, they was so many of 'em there that they had to keep a preacher on duty day and night. Fellow Friar Lawrence was his name – and so Romeo and Juli-et they went downstairs and woke him up and told him what it was that they wanted to do and he thought that was all right, so he married 'em right there. But, then, don't you see, it was a question of where they was to spend the night, things being how they was and all ... and Friar Lawrence told Romeo that he ought to go on home THAT night and Romeo he didn't take to it TOO HOT .. he didn't. He didn't ... but he did.

And while he was gone, friends, Juli-et's mamma took a great notion that Juli-et ought to get married and then she WAS in a bind because she didn't want two husbands and so she went back down to Friar Lawrence to see what she ought to do and he mixed her up a drink and she drunk it and she fell out across the bed there and everybody thought she was dead and they had this big, pretty funeral and laid her out in this family tomb and all and before that Friar Lawrence could get word to Romeo that she wasn't really dead, some of them mean boys that lived in that town told him that she WAS dead and he figgered life didn't hold nothin' for him so he went out and got him this big can of lye to drink. So he went over to this tomb where she was laid out and he opened the door of it and he says, "Oh, my love! Oh, my wife!" he did, and he went in and he drunk the lye and kissed her and says, "With this kiss I die," and he fell out across her there ... and he was a big boy for his age ... he was, and the impact of him a-fallin' on her woke her up And she didn't know what was a-goin' on and she seen Romeo a-layin' dead and then she figgered life didn't hold nothin' for her and she then took his knife and she run it into herself and she expired ... she did, friends, and the moral of it is: If you've got a boy that makes a promise to a girl that you don't like, or the other way round, if you don't want the expense of a double funeral on you, the best thing for you to do is to let 'em have a cheap weddin'.