



With a kiss I die

William Shakespeare

Romeo and Juliet (1594–96)

Act V, Scene III

This scene is set at night, in a graveyard with the Capulets' vault in the background. The effect of Juliet's potion is beginning to disappear. Romeo has opened Juliet's vault to see his wife's face and to take the ring from her finger.

WARM-UP

1 **DISCUSS.** What does the title of this extract make you think of? How do you feel about Romeo and Juliet?

ROMEO Ah, dear Juliet,

Why art thou yet so fair? Shall I believe
 That unsubstantial death is amorous¹,
 And that the lean abhorred² monster keeps
 5 Thee here in dark to be his paramour³?
 For fear of that, I still will stay with thee,
 And never from this palace of dim night⁴
 Depart again. Here, here, will I remain
 With worms⁵ that are thy chambermaids⁶. O, here
 10 Will I set up my everlasting rest⁷,
 And shake the yoke of inauspicious stars⁸
 From this world-wearied flesh⁹. Eyes, look your last¹⁰.
 Arms, take your last embrace! and, lips, O you
 The doors of breath, seal with a righteous kiss
 15 A dateless bargain to engrossing Death¹¹. [...]
 Here's to my love! *[Drinks]* O true apothecary¹²,
 Thy drugs are quick. Thus with a kiss I die.
[He falls] [...]

JULIET What's here? a cup, closed in my true love's hand?

Poison, I see, hath been his timeless end¹³.
 20 O churl¹⁴. Drunk all, and left no friendly drop
 To help me after? I will kiss thy lips.
 Haply¹⁵ some poison yet doth hang on them¹⁶
 To make me die with a restorative¹⁷. *[She kisses him]*
 Thy lips are warm! [...]
 25 Yea, noise? Then I'll be brief. O happy dagger.
 This is thy sheath¹⁸. There rust¹⁹, and let me die.
[She stabs herself²⁰ and falls]

- 1 **unsubstantial ... amorous.** La morte senza corpo può innamorarsi.
- 2 **the lean abhorred.** Lo scarno aborrito.
- 3 **to be his paramour.** Per essere la sua amante.
- 4 **dim night.** Oscura notte.
- 5 **worms.** Vermi.
- 6 **thy chambermaids.** Le tue ancelle.
- 7 **will ... rest.** Fisserò il mio riposo eterno.
- 8 **shake ... stars.** Scuoterò il giogo delle stelle avverse.
- 9 **this world-wearied flesh.** Questa carne stanca del mondo.
- 10 **look your last.** Guardate per l'ultima volta.
- 11 **seal ... Death.** Suggellate con un bacio legittimo un contratto eterno con la morte ingorda.
- 12 **apothecary.** Speciale.
- 13 **timeless end.** Fine immatura.
- 14 **churl.** Scortese, egoista.
- 15 **Haply.** Forse.
- 16 **some poison ... hang on them.** Del veleno è ancora su di esse (labbra).
- 17 **with a restorative.** Con un conforto.
- 18 **This is thy sheath.** Questa è la tua guaina.
- 19 **There rust.** Arrugginisci là.
- 20 **She stabs herself.** Si trafigge.