

Romeo and Juliet abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 3

Mother to Daughter

Situation: Ambitious Lady Capulet is eager to see her daughter, Juliet, married. She suggests to her rather young daughter that she keep her eye on the County Paris, the Prince of Verona's nephew.

LADY CAPULET: "Marry" is the very theme I came to talk of. Tell me, daughter, how stands your disposition to be married?

JULIET: It is an honor that I dream not of.

LADY CAPULET: Well, think of marriage now. The valiant Paris seeks you for his love.

NURSE: He's a flower, in faith, a very flower.

LADY CAPULET: What say you?

Lady Capulet to Juliet

Think of marriage if this man seeks your love,
Though it is an honor you dream not of.
Here tonight you shall be with him at our
Home. Read the volume of his face and find
Delight writ there with beauty's pen. Next hour,
Examine each feature there, and once dined
Note how each lends content to another.
And what in this fair book may be obscure
Find written in the margins of his eyes.
This precious book is an unbound lover
That needs to share its glory with gold ties,
This golden story lacking a cover.
Seek to share all that he doth possess for
By having him, you make yourself the more.

NURSE: No less? Nay, bigger. Women grow by men.

LADY CAPULET: Speak briefly. Can you like of Paris' love?

JULIET: I'll look to like, if looking liking move.