**SHAKESPEARE & ANNE HATHAWAY (APRIL)**

**SHAKESPEARE**

There she is. My beautiful wife!

**ANNE**

Hello everyone! I'm Anne.

**SHAKESPEARE**

Anne spends much of her time in Stratford raising our kids.

**ANNE**

But not tonight. Tonight, is my night out! I got a babysitter.

I'm ready to watch this play and have a very large glass of wine. And hopefully not fall asleep before the interval.

**SHAKESPEARE**

No one will be falling asleep based on the ending I've just written.

**ANNE**

Oh, you've written an ending? That's perfect timing. Since everyone's here.

**SHAKESPEARE**

And they're in for quite a show!

So, you already know the first bit. Romeo and Juliet fall in love but their families hate each other.

So, they marry in secret. Several people end up dead.

**SHAKESPEARE**

But here it's where things get a little more interesting. In order to be with Romeo, Juliet

obtains a sleeping potion from Fray Laurens which will grant her the appearance of being dead.

**ANNE**

Yes, love that!

**SHAKESPEARE**

Fray Laurens sends a messenger to tell Romeo but instead-

**ANNE**

It seems like a pretty important message to leave your messenger but go on.

**SHAKESPEARE**

Well, the messenger fails to reach Romeo!

So Romeo thinks Juliet really is dead. And kills himself!

But then Juliet wakes up, sees Romeo dead - *(to Anne)* you're gonna love this bit - she

plants his dagger into her heart and kills herself too! And that's the ending!

*(PAUSE)*

So, I like it.

**ANNE**

If I could give one tiny thought. And this is probably terrible, you know?

But what if Juliet didn't kill herself?

It seems that she's got a whole life ahead of her. She's only got one boyfriend.

Maybe she doesn't kill herself just because he killed himself.

**SHAKESPEARE**

Okay, but we are not writing by committee. I write every one of my plays completely by myself.

It's too late. The ending has been written.

**ANNE**

I understand. But the ending is shit. What if you just…change it?

**SHAKESPEARE**

You expect me to change my whole play?

**ANNE**

Well, it all depends, William. Are you a strong enough man to write a stronger woman?

**JULIET & ANGELIQUE / NURSE**

**JULIET**

Nurse, please!

**NURSE**

What's the matter, my love?

**JULIET**

What's the matter? My cousin's dead. My husband's dead. My parents are sending me

to a nunnery tomorrow so I might as well be dead!

**NURSE**

And?

**JULIET**

And? My life is over!

**NURSE**

Oh, no! Don't say that, sweet lady. Just look at it this way.

Do we have love? No. Do we have freedom? No. But, do we have hope? No.

**JULIET**

Thank you. That was very inspirational.

**NURSE**

Nothing is as bad as it seems. It's like they always say "being alone is a lot of fun".

**JULIET**

No one ever says that. And I wouldn't even be in this position if it wasn't for Romeo.

What do you call someone that is like a whore but a man?

**NURSE**

My child, there is no word for that.

**JULIET**

He said I was his first! That his heart had never loved and now it turns out-

**NURSE**

That the star-crossed lover crossed starts with every woman in Verona?

**JULIET**

I thought I was special.

**NURSE**

And you are, Juliet. If I would have lived to see you get married, I would have tried happily.

**JULIET**

I was married…

**NURSE**

I know.

**JULIET**

I can get married again!

**NURSE**

No, I don't think so.

**JULIET**

Why should I spend the rest of my life wasting away in a nunnery just because one

relationship didn't work out? I could travel, leave Verona! Meet interesting people, see the world!

I still believe there is something in the stars hiding for me.

**FRANCOIS & LANCE**

**LANCE**

Francois! This is quite the Ce Soir, don't you think?

**FRANCOIS**

Just call it a party, dad.

**LANCE**

You might be having more fun if you weren't too scared to talk to any of the ladies.

**FRANCOIS**

I'm not scared. I'm just shy.

**LANCE**

Ohh! You're just shy. I see.

Well, what if I had been shy when I was serving with the Shandong.

**FRANCOIS**

Okay…

**LANCE**

When I had to ride into battle with the Spanish? Or my wedding night? When I had to ride with your mother?

May she rest in peace.

**FRANCOIS**

I would love for you to never say that again.

**LANCE**

C'mon now, son. I threw this ball just for you. There must be one nice girl you could ask

to dance. Or maybe you don't want to get married.

**FRANCOIS**

No, no. I want to get married. There is no one in there that you haven't already tried to set me up with.

They're all the same!

**LANCE**

Well, we're running out of options. And I am running out of patience.

**MAY**

**JULIET**

May! This place is amazing. How does my hair look? Bathroom attendance, indoor toilets.

Is this place chic, or what?

**MAY**

It's very chic.

**JULIET**

Are you good?

**MAY**

Oh, yes, I'm good. I'm 100% good.

**JULIET**

Okay. It's just the way you're saying that. And your body language. And the fact that I

know you and basically everything about this situation picks out your lie.

**MAY**

It's nothing. It's just…there was this guy-

**JULIET**

What did he do? What did he say to you?

**MAY**

Nothing. It was just this really cute guy and we bumped into each other on the dance floor.

**JULIET**

Go on.

**MAY**

And he smiled, and it was nice.

**JULIET**

And?

**MAY**

And nothing. Which is fine. I just need to accept that some things aren't going to happen for me.

**JULIET & FRANCOIS**

**JULIET**

Oh,sorry. I didn't mean to scare you!

**FRANCOIS**

I wasn't scared. I was surprised.

**JULIET**

It's my fault. I shouldn't be sneaking around. It's just that… I'm not supposed to be at this party.

**FRANCOIS**

That's okay. It's my party.

**JULIET**

Is it?

**FRANCOIS**

Yeah. But don't worry, I won't tell anyone.

**JULIET**

Juliet. And you are?

**FRANCOIS**

Francois.

**JULIET**

*(laughs)* Franky?

**FRANCOIS**

*(laughs)* No.

**JULIET**

So, what are you? Some prince or something?

**FRANCOIS**

Oh no. I'm a musician.

**JULIET**

Damn, all the girls must be after you.

**FRANCOIS**

*(high pitch)* Um…nope. No, I'm not really into drama or big performances.

**JULIET**

That is so refreshing. You know, my ex Romeo was like- nevermind.

**FRANCOIS**

What?

**JULIET**

It's just the last thing I should be doing right now is thinking about Romeo.

**FRANCOIS**

Well, at least you have an ex. My father keeps trying to set me up with people and if I

don't he'll send me to the army! But if I do marry someone, I want to be able to say that I did it my way.

**JULIET**

Exactly! Parents think that just because they raised us, they can decide our entire future for us!

**FRANCOIS**

That's exactly it!

**JULIET**

Doesn't it make you want to drink a bunch of poison or something?

**FRANCOIS**

Nah…

**JULIET**

Me neither.

**FRANCOIS**

It's nice to meet someone who finally understands.

**ROMEO**

**ROMEO**

You want to cut me into little stars?! Like with a knife?

**JULIET**

It's a metaphor, Romeo.

**ROMEO**

Oh. Let me try one. Juliet you are the sun. Arise fair sun. And kill the envious …-

**JULIET**

Romeo, you are not doing this again. If you think you can show up the night before my

wedding and win me back with the same old words-

**ROMEO**

That's not why I'm here.

I just wanted to say I understand why you won't trust me.

It's true. I've been romantic with other girls. But to be honest, I never had much else.

I was never a prince or a soldier or an artist or a fool-

**JULIET**

Well…

**ROMEO**

All I'll ever be is a sexy young man with a tight body and a lot of feelings. But then I met

you. Juliet. You made me want to commit myself to something. To challenge my parents

and everyone's expectations. To do something brave. Something I could be proud of.

You made me want to become…more better.

*JULIET laughs.*

**JULIET**

I totally get that, Romeo. I mean, it's not completely your fault to be the way you are.

Your family is kind of the worst.

**ROMEO**

Well I think your family is kind of the worst.

**JULIET**

I think both of our families are kind of the worst.

*They catch themselves laughing and enjoying the moment.*

But I'm proud of us. For being brave enough to do something we knew they'd hate.

I just wish we were brave enough to tell them we were in love.

**ROMEO**

'We were in love?'

**JULIET**

I'm with Frankie now. I chose Frankie. And this time I'm just trying to own my choices.

**NURSE**

**NURSE**

Well, that was quite dramatic, was it?

**JULIET**

What am I doing? I came all this way to start something new and positive and now… It's

just another tragedy, isn't it?

**NURSE**

You've been through worse and you got through it all. Trust me, it's a long life and you'll

be surprised at how many opportunities there are for love.

**JULIET**

I know.

**NURSE**

It's better to mess up things now while you're still young and have so much time to get it

right.

**JULIET**

I know, I just-. What if I'm the problem? What If I'm destined to mess everything up?

**NURSE**

Juliet, look at me.

**ENSEMBLE (ALL OTHER ROLES) Choose one.**

Most people don’t notice us. The voices behind the curtain. The steady beat beneath

the flash. But then... there’s that moment. The lights swing round. The music fades. And

suddenly, there you are. Centre stage. And for that one note, that one breath, you’re part

of something bigger. Part of the story."

We’re not just background dancers or silent faces. We’re part of the rhythm, part of the

pulse. Juliet’s journey isn’t hers alone. It’s all of ours. We cheer. We sing. We push her

forward when she’s scared. Because in this story, everyone matters. Even the ones who

don’t get a solo."