

Dying Juliet

by

Leo Rück
(Leo Rueck)

based on

Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet

Log Line

A young doctor falls in love with a dying girl who defies being controlled by her destiny.

Abstract

Being fatally ill, Juliet disagrees with her doctors to expand her life under medical protection, and instead pursues to find love in life's uncertainty. Her story gets a new turn when she meets the young doctor Romeo who actually engages his fate with his moribund patient after a misinterpreted advice from his friend, Dr Mary Cutio, who is barely able to cope her own affair. A drama about self determination with at least one of its conflicts predictably ending in a tragedy.

leo-rueck.de/contact/

A Poem About

This play is not Macbeth,
 though
it does predict a certain death.
This play doesn't need one skull,
that would be just wantonly dull.
 Instead,
a whole skeleton was used,
 but don't be too confused;
It's not that of dying Juliet!
Even though she ends, you bet!
 Said that name,
 you guessed it right,
where this story's leaned on tight.
 To win this game,
 guess
what's wedded to her fate,
 the missing name,
 that becomes her mate.
If you have still no clue,
 just watch these two,
 both alike, strive
 to get a life.

Main Characters:

Dr. Romeo Montague

A talented rookie who is in a deadlocked situation with his ex. Open for some chaos in his life, to escape the feeling of being stuck. He lets himself drift and ignores his premonitions, though he knows that it all will come back at him.

Juliet Tybalt

Burdened all her life with doctors who predicted her how she will die. This formed her defiant character and her unrest to finally getting control over how to live...and lastly, how to croak. Tries to get some drama in the short rest of her life. Refuses to believe that she can not find her love before expiring. She can be both: lovely or a furious thunderclap.

Dr. Mary Cutio

Romeo's best friend and a well-respected doctor. Sometimes her hot temper stands in the way of her intelligence. Tries to hide her own romance, hence she overlooks Romeo's problems and gives him unintentionally bad advice. Loves wordplay.

Dr. Ben Volio

Romeo's friend. Mary's lover. A peacemaker who tries to save everybody's job. He can't hinder the chaos. Firstly because he's been ignored, secondly because he blunders.

Bad Cop

Bad cop = bad language. Doesn't watch his mouth, but being direct and talking unfiltered is why he often succeeds. It's also why he often fails. His skepticism, his eye for detail, and the use of logic combined with relying on his hunch often bring him on the right path.

Further characters are: Imaginary Juliet, Dr. Capulet, Homeless, Good Cop, Lab Assistant.
For written descriptions of these characters please contact me: [contact form](#)

leo-rueck.de/contact/

Short Summaries of the different parts:

Prologue

On a theater stage, Romeo tells Juliet's back story to the audience. The scenery how that doomed child found and lost her first love while battling cancer is played out on stage.

First Act

The young doctor Romeo explains to his absent ex why he will gain her back. His best friend Dr. Mary Cutio interrupts his misery and demands his help with an hopeless case. They found Juliet Tybalt like a cornered wild animal letting nobody get close. Eventually, they can trick her to be examined. But afterwards Mary does not notice Romeo's cry for help, mainly because she has her hands full with hiding her affair with her colleague Dr. Ben Volio.

Second Act

Dissolving another quarrel in Juliet's room, Romeo gets her attention...and an unexpected proposal. Unaware of Romeo's feelings and state of mind, Mary gives him unintentionally the bad advice to get involved with Juliet. Eventually after he daydreams about Juliet, he finds himself in front of her and can't bluff it out as she asks him for a date. Surprisingly the date isn't a failure and ends in a kiss which causes Mary and Ben to break up. The act, however, ends in an hasty wedding.

Third Act

Mary is on a furious rampage and wreaks it out on Juliet. Meanwhile, Romeo unfortunately gets more responsibility as the chief of medicine goes on vacation. Juliet's examination results reveal that she is surprisingly healed. But on his happiest hour, Romeo has to learn that Juliet is gone. As he strikes on the idea that Juliet might be suicidal, a policeman tells him that indeed a girl has jumped off the bridge that night.

Fourth Act

Romeo devolves his responsible task unto Ben and flies to Barcelona on vacation. The lab reveals that a mistake has been made: Juliet Tybalt was not healed. Ben decides not to tell anyone as he thinks Juliet is dead. Meanwhile, being alone in the dark, the frightened Juliet confesses her feelings for Romeo to a billboard. After a talk with a drunk, Ben discovers that Juliet might not be dead.

Fifth Act

Juliet comes back to the hospital in search for Romeo but only finds Ben. She is told that Romeo is in Spain. She follows him. Shortly after that, Ben is quizzed by Bad Cop about Juliet who he suspects to be a crime victim. From a patient the policeman learns that she, like her doctor, went to

Barcelona. He follows, becoming more and more suspicious.

After missing both Juliet and Romeo repeatedly, he finally discovers that Juliet is not a victim. He tells Romeo where he can find her. Romeo and Juliet meet at the beach. Their odyssey comes to an end when they finally kiss. Then, Juliet dies.

Epilogue

In a Spanish hospital, Romeo gets the confirmation about his wife's death. Suddenly, he finds himself on a theater stage where Juliet is laid out. He mourns her death, but then also realizes that she died how she wanted it: happy.

He wakes up in a hospital bed back in the States. Mary needs his help. The everyday life has got him again. He leaves and closes the door.

After the credits started: The door opens again. Ben and Mary enter, kissing.

Plot

Romeo, a doctor in his mid-twenties, enters the apron of a theater. As he starts rhyming the prologue about how a young girl named Juliet, cursed with cancer, found and lost her first love, the curtain opens. It reveals two kids in their hospital beds, both about ten years old. The bald boy approaches the girl, but doctors pulling him back and pushing him in his bed away off stage. The stage is redecorated into a graveyard with young Juliet still in her hospital bed. As Romeo continues about that doomed girl and her dreams, some flower girls giving her a bridal bouquet and putting a bridal veil over her face, making her hospital clothes look like a wedding dress. A young version of Romeo enters the stage, takes young Juliet's hand, and leads her to the altar. As they finally kiss, she dies in his arms and the curtain closes.

Black Frame: Act One

In an examination room, the young doctor Romeo is talking to a plastic skeleton about how his situation with his recent ex is that of a not yet happily ended love story. As his counterpart doesn't give him the approval he needs, Dr Mary Cutio, Romeo's best friend, comes in and asks him for help with a hopeless case. He follows her out.

Mary and Romeo enter a patient room. Juliet standing on her bed like a cornered wild animal. After offending everybody, she zeros in on Romeo which allows Mary to proceed her examinations on her. As Juliet realizes what happened, she calls for vendetta.

Hallway, Mary tries to convince Romeo to go out for a drink with her, but he rather wants to feel sorry for himself.

leo-rueck.de/contact/

Eventually, he is about to be persuaded, but Mary doesn't notice it, because Dr. Ben Volio, friend of both, pulls Mary in an alcove. Romeo continues talking, unaware about what happened.

After a short, playful flirt, Mary and Ben hide in an empty room.

Meanwhile, still talking to himself, Romeo runs into Capulet, chief of medicine. Though Romeo is unable to avert Capulet's worries, he is still instructed to undertake Juliet's case by his own. Capulet spots something, ending the conversation abruptly and leaving Romeo behind.

Capulet catches Juliet who is about to scam. He ushers her back into the room while Romeo hears some giggling behind a door. He knocks. To take vengeance for the examination, Juliet tells Capulet where Mary is hiding.

Capulet scolds Romeo for still not working.

Capulet opens the door and finds only Ben button his shirt. Ben seems not to know where Mary is.

Back in the hallway, Ben tries to thank Romeo with offering a beer later in the pub. As Romeo is about to agree, Capulet orders Ben in his office.

Juliet's next attempt to run away fails. Romeo persuades her not to scam until tomorrow, so he is able to sleep well. He promises her to cure her. She rejects.

Ben in Capulet's Office. Capulet tells him that affairs won't be accepted in his house. Still, Ben stands by Mary, but Capulet was talking about Romeo and doesn't notice. Ben promises to take care of the problem... and Juliet's case. Both relieved.

Romeo comes home. On his balcony, he is surprised to see Juliet. But it's not her. It's just a manifestation of his feelings for her as she tells him. She advises him that he rather should accept that his ex is history and soon Juliet will be, too. He has difficulties with both.

Black Frame: Act Two.

Homeless on a street, who looks like Romeo, is begging for some coins.

Romeo enters Juliet's room where he finds a big quarrel. Mary, armed with a syringe, is ready to "attack". Juliet Tybalt slashes Dr. Mary Cutio (verbally) who then storms out. Romeo scolds Juliet. Being baffled by his assertiveness, she answers him with a proposal. He ignores this like he will ignore his premonitions.

Back in the hallway, Romeo asks Ben to go for a beer 'cause he needs somebody to talk to. Yonder ignores and then scolds Romeo.

Romeo has premonitions while taking a blood sample.

In a CT-Room, Romeo sends a patient with claustrophobia in the tube. Mary enters and thanks Romeo that she isn't responsible for Juliet anymore. She ignores that Romeo desperately needs someone to talk to and even gives him unintentionally advice to date Juliet. She also accepts unintentionally to go out with him the next day. After Mary is gone, the claustrophobic patient

wants to stay in the tube so that his wife won't find him. Romeo confused.

Ben imposes his night shift on Romeo.

Mary hops in in Ben's car. They drive off.

The hallway seems sleepy. Romeo is on his inspection round, alone with a pretty nurse. He leaves disappointed that he doesn't dare to approach her.

Romeo's apartment. Imaginary Juliet, on the balcony, scares him with the idea that he should marry Juliet. He's shocked how right she is.

Capulet is begging the Homeless to leave. Turns out to be an operation with unexpected complications.

On a theater stage, Romeo and Juliet confess their love to each other.

Suddenly, Romeo finds himself in Juliet's room. She asks him out. He tries to elude by stating that he is going out with Mary. Just in that moment, Mary enters and cancels on him.

This time the hallway at night is as vivid as a graduation trip. But all patients jump back to their beds and take the lights out, as they hear Capulet approaching. He doesn't notice that Juliet is missing.

Two drunks on a bridge discuss whether it was a girl or a buoy that jumped off the bridge. They leave in disagreement. Romeo and Juliet appear. She balances over the balustrade. Being worried, Romeo can persuade her to take his hand. Their talk about responsibilities end in a kiss.

The sun rises over the city.

In the locker room, Ben surprises Mary with some flight tickets. Romeo surprises Ben and Mary with his good mood. Ben and Mary start fighting as they learn why Romeo is in such a mood. But actually, they fight over how official their relationship should be. They are breaking up.

Ben catches Juliet who was about to scam. He brings her back to her room. After he's gone, she scrams again.

In his office, Capulet tries to tell Mary something, but she repeatedly cuts him short. Eventually, he accuses her to have an affair. Mary storms out intrigued, stating that no one has an affair.

Romeo is seen in the locker room with a suit. Meanwhile, Juliet enters a wedding gown boutique.

On a stage in a theater, a scene from the original play with Romeo and Friar Lawrence talking about the following marriage with Juliet. She comes in, being Juliet from Dying Juliet.

The sun sets behind the horizon.

Black Frame: Act Three.

Mary puts on some rouge like war paint, then spreading it.

leo-rueck.de/contact/

Ben puts pressure on the lab assistant over the Tybalt results.

Ben Volio accusing Mary Cutio that she is searching for trouble. She denies, storms in Juliet's room and starts a big fight with her. After Mary is defeated, Juliet Tybalt chokes on her pills.

Capulet is about to fire Romeo in his office, but hasn't got the heart to do so. He announces Romeo as his substitution as they both agree that Capulet needs some vacation.

Mary wants to confront Romeo. Yonder is confronted by the Tybalt results instead.

Too good to be true; the results reveal that Juliet is surprisingly healed. But searching her room reveals that she is also surprisingly gone.

Romeo comes home. Meanwhile Juliet vomits off the bridge and climbs on the balustrade. Fearfully, she looks down at the water.

Romeo talks to imaginary Juliet. She concludes that the real Juliet might either come back, which leaves Romeo confident, or be suicidal, which leaves him not so confident. He storms out.

After passing known places, he arrives at the bridge. A policeman tells him that a girl, indeed, jumped off. Romeo runs away...the whole night.

Black Frame: Act Four.

Romeo is sleeping in a metro train. Homeless wakes Romeo up and gives him advice to take fate in his own hands. He observes disappointed that Romeo just writes "I miss you, Juliet. Please, come back!" on a poster ad. He takes the pen from Romeo.

Capulet queues at the airport. On his way to Barcelona.

Out of guilt and her split up with Ben, Mary gives her flight ticket to Romeo.

Romeo makes Ben his substitute for substituting Capulet as he needs some vacation, too.

Lab assistant notices a mistake.

Romeo queues at the airport, on his way to Barcelona.

The moon rises over the city.

Lab assistant confesses his mistake to Ben. Juliet was never healed. Ben makes lab assistant his substitute for substituting Romeo who is substituting Capulet. After Ben exited, Lab assistant reports Juliet as missing.

Ben imitates Mary arguing with him over Romeo. He decides rather not to confront her.

Mary is sad and alone on an inspection round. Ben roams sad and alone through the city.

Ben sits on a bar in a pub. Suddenly, a drunk tells Ben that it wasn't a "buoy" who jumped off the

bridge. Ben confirms. The drunk wails over her eye color. Ben confused as Juliet has different eyes. Eventually, it clicks in his head and he leaves the pub.

Ben runs through the city and passes the same places as Romeo the night before. At the bridge, a policeman confirms that it wasn't Juliet.

Juliet confesses her fears and her feelings for Romeo to a billboard.

The moon sets behind the horizon.

Homeless queues at the airport, on his way to Barcelona.

Black Frame: Act Five.

A pathologist dances with a corpse as Good Cop and Bad Cop appear. They quiz him about someone named Juliet Tybalt. A new menace emerges.

Juliet in the metro on her way home. Someone wrote, "Juliet, please come back," all over the place. It's also written all over the metro station where she dismounts.

The sun burns over Barcelona.

A Spanish groom wants to throw Romeo out of a church. But Romeo doesn't speak Spanish, so he is invited to the wedding instead.

Capulet has trouble with a bellhop as he sees a reflection at a glass door in Barcelona.

Juliet arrives at the hospital. As she enters her former room, she learns that she has been replaced. Ben tells Juliet that now Romeo is the one who has gone...to Barcelona.

Bad Cop sits in a metro train. As the train arrives at the next station, Bad Cop sees the writings all over the place. He dismounts hastily.

As Ben tries to have a patient on drugs, Bad Cop and Good Cop enter the room. They quiz Ben about Juliet. The patient gives all the answers they need.

Juliet queues at the airport, on her way to Barcelona.

Capulet sees Romeo outside a souvenir shop in Barcelona. The shop owner can not confirm.

Ben and Mary run into each other on the hallway. Mary doesn't want to restart their relationship.

Bad Cop queues at the airport, on his way to Barcelona. Good Cop tries to hinder him. Joins him instead.

In Barcelona, Capulet empties a latte macchiato in one go to chase Romeo. He misses him.

In a Spanish Hotel, Juliet asks for a room and her Romeo. She gets neither. Capulet is not sure if he can trust his eyes...or his mind. Juliet is given the address of a sister hotel.

Romeo walks all alone over a Spanish bridge. Suddenly a tomb appears on the middle of it. He enters it.

Being now on a theater stage, he realizes that grief derives from love.

In a metro train in Barcelona, Homeless hands over a pen to Juliet who then starts writing her phone number all over the place.

Capulet wants to distract himself from work, but he is being distracted by Romeo instead. Again. He chases him down to a metro station. Romeo escapes. Good and Bad Cop arrive noticing nothing and no one.

Bad Cop fails to get information from a receptionist, because she takes pleasure in teasing him. But she can't resist giving the information to charming Good Cop. They know now where Juliet put up at.

A creep calls Juliet.

In a taxi, Good Cop and Bad Cop are arguing over what to do next. Suddenly, the car is hit by another taxi with Romeo in the back. While the drivers fight, the three passengers are making small talk. Coincidentally, every time Romeo reveals some information about himself, the other two don't listen. An arriving Spanish policeman drives all three of them to their destinations. A few moments after they have dropped out Romeo at a metro station, Bad Cop realizes who Romeo is. He jumps out at the next station.

Bad Cop sees Juliet's phone number with her name all over the station.

Another creep calls Juliet.

Bad Cop calls Juliet. Juliet doesn't want sex but Bad Cop just wanted to know if she is alright. She is. We can hear breaching waves over the phone line.

A train approaches. Bad Cop rushes to find Romeo who must be on this train. He finally finds him and tells him that Juliet is at the beach.

Romeo realizes that Juliet "is". He dials her number.

At the beach, yet another creep calls Juliet. She hangs on frustrated.

In a taxi, Romeo calls her again.

She wonders where Romeo is. But as he calls, she throws her phone into the sea, regretting that she gave her phone number to the whole world.

Capulet finally relaxes at the beach...as Romeo passes. He follows him. He is confused twice as much as he also sees Juliet. Romeo and Juliet go past each other, buried in thought. An old lady scolds Juliet loudly for littering on the beach. Romeo and Juliet notice each other. They approach and finally kiss. Capulet leaves the scenery amused. In the background, Juliet collapses.

Black Frame: Epilogue

Capulet and Romeo sitting in a waiting room. A doctor tells Romeo something. Yonder enters the operating room.

On a theater stage, Romeo walks over roses and shards. First, he feels guilty, then he is pleased that Juliet died happy.

Romeo wants to explain everything to Capulet, but yonder doesn't want Romeo to explain. He understands nonetheless. He just pleads Romeo to grow from this story.

Mary rejects Ben again.

Romeo sleeps in the hospital back in the States. Mary wakes him up, demanding his help. Exeunt both. The door closes.

Credits.

The door opens again. Ben and Mary stumble in, kissing.

Thank you for reading!

Sincerely,
Leo Rück

You'll find more information about this and my other screenplays on leo-rueck.de.

Or [contact me](#) for more details.

leo-rueck.de/contact/