**William Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet***

**PROLOGUE**

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| Two households, both alike in dignity,  In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,  From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,  Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.  From forth the fatal loins of these two foes  A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;  Whose misadventured piteous overthrows  Do with their death bury their parents' strife.  The fearful passage of their death-mark'd  love,  And the continuance of their parents' rage,  Which, but their children's end, nought could  remove,  Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;  The which if you with patient ears attend,  What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to  mend. | Two families (Montague and Capulet), both equally honorable,  Live in beautiful Verona, Italy. This is where the play takes  place.  A long-standing hatred between the two families erupts into  new violence  And citizens of Verona stain their hands with the blood of their  fellow citizens.  Each family gave birth to a child: Romeo Montague and Juliet  Capulet.  These two unlucky children of these enemy families become  lovers and commit suicide.  The unfortunate and pitiful defeat/death of these lovers put an  end to their parents’ feud.  The story of their doomed (death-mark’d) love,  As well as their parents’ ongoing anger  —An anger that only the deaths of these lovers could end—  Will be the story that we perform for you on this stage over the  next two hours.  If you listen to us patiently,  We will work hard to make up for everything that we have left  out of this prologue. |