CAPULET

I did not come out here to argue. I come with good news. I’d been thinking all morning about where I went wrong in raising you, and then I realized: I’ve been approaching this from the wrong direction entirely. I thought you needed a firm father, but ultimately it takes a wife to make a worthy husband. Do you remember my assignment?

TYBALT

Yes, but I must say that I found my cousin Juliet to be by far the fairest maiden there.

CAPULET

Surely you saw the charming Rosaline was in attendance.

TYBALT

The charming Rosaline, who has forsworn the company of men for a life of piety.

CAPULET

Her father, however, has not forsworn the company of gold.

TYBALT

Are you proposing to buy me a bride? What happened to courtship?

CAPULET

I’m not proposing anything. I’ve already done it. Congratulations are in order, nephew. You’re engaged.

TYBALT

You should have asked me first.

CAPULET

I saw a good match and I snatched it while I had the opportunity. You ought to be thanking me.

TYBALT

A nun in the making is a good match?

CAPULET

You haven’t been particularly enthusiastic in your pursuit of women, yourself, nephew. I figured this might be easier for you.

TYBALT

I am not a mule, to be bought and sold without my consent.

CAPULET

No, you are a disrespectful child, and if nothing is done you’ll soon be a disgrace to our household. You have lost the privilege of deciding your own course of action.

TYBALT

I never had it.

CAPULET

You would do well to remember all the privileges you do have—the comforts of wealth and status, of a roof and a bed and 3 meals a day—and to remember who controls them. Your life is not your own, not while you are under my care and it is my reputation at stake for your actions.