

SCENE 2: Nurse, Lady Capulet, Juliet

(The NURSE and LADY CAPULET enter with two chairs, then sit, waiting for JULIET. The silence becomes awkward. JULIET enters.)

LADY CAPULET: Ah, Juliet my dear, sit down will you? I'd like a little chat with you. ***(NURSE smiles up at JULIET until she realizes SHE is sitting in HER chair and gets up. JULIET sits.)***

NURSE: ***(Sighing.)*** So beautiful, so young and innocent. I remember when she was just a wee baby, so tiny and trusting. Then she grew into an active little toddler, into everything.....Oh, she did make me run around after her! Now, such a lovely young woman with so much to offer. Any young man would be --

LADY CAPULET: That will do, Nurse

NURSE: I was only sayin'! ***(LADY CAPULET gives her a look, then turns her attention to JULIET. NURSE sticks her tongue out at LADY CAPULET when she looks away.)***

LADY CAPULET: I want to ask you something, Juliet. Have you thought about getting married?

JULIET: No.

LADY CAPULET: Oh. ***(Pause.)*** Not at all?

JULIET: No. ***(Pause.)*** Why?

LADY CAPULET: Well, County Paris.....you know, that nice young gentleman.....well, he's expressed an interest in you.

JULIET: An interest? What are you talking about? ***(Pauses, then understanding.)*** You don't mean he wants to marry me?!

LADY CAPULET: Well, that was the interest he expressed, yes.

JULIET: You've got to be joking! County Paris is the most boring man in the world!

NURSE: True story. All he talks about is his business and how much money he has. If there was a world boring competition, he'd win it every year! ***(NURSE and JULIET share a laugh.)***

LADY CAPULET: Oh, for heaven's sake! He seems like a very nice man and he's obviously very keen on you, Juliet. Couldn't you just agree to meet him and see what you think?

JULIET: Do I have a choice?

LADY CAPULET: Yes, of course.

NURSE: Probably not.

LADY CAPULET: Well, no, not really.

NURSE: See?

LADY CAPULET: ***(SHE fires a look to NURSE. Then, back to JULIET....)*** Your father likes him very much. He thinks he's very suitable.

JULIET: Oh, well, that's it then. If Dad wants me to meet him then I'll have to, won't I? He'll only go spare if I say no, won't he?

LADY CAPULET: No. Well, yes. Look, just try and keep an open mind. He'll be at the party tonight – do this just to keep us happy. If you really don't like him, then we'll say no more about it.