

"Robert and Jane"

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Adaption of 'Romeo and Juliet' to a modern day rivalry in  
Rome

The American University of  
Rome  
Adapting Literature to the  
screen  
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INT. JANE'S BEDROOM - EVENING

JANE a petite, 20 year old girl with long brown hair sits in front of a full length mirror putting on eye make-up. Her best friend NANCY a bigger framed girl with short curly hair, is standing behind her with two different high heels on.

NANCY

Which one looks better?

JANE

They're both black and it will be dark in the club so whichever is comfortable.

Nancy shrugs and kicks off one of the heels and puts on the matching pair.

EXT. GILDA CLUB ENTRANCE - NIGHT

ROBERT and MARKUS, two well built, brown haired boys from John Cabot University are walking from their cab to the entrance of the club. The BOUNCER lifts up the red rope as they approach.

BOUNCER

Right this way.

TIMOTHY, a clean cut blond haired boy walks up to the entrance with his posse of friends following. They are wearing different shades of green dress shirts.

BOUNCER

Ah and the boy from The American University have arrived.

He lifts the rope for The American University of Rome group. The bouncer turns to the second bouncer.

BOUNCER

This should be an interesting night. Two rival soccer captains from rival schools in one club.

He motions for the extra bouncer to go inside.

INT. GILDA CLUB - NIGHT

The AUR VIP table is directly across the club from the JCU table. Markus sends a glare across the club to the AUR Captain Timothy.

MARKUS

What are they doing here?

ROBERT

Just let it go Markus, we are here to have fun. Have a drink or something.

Robert hands Markus a glass and fills up his glass with Vodka from their table.

EXT. GILDA CLUB ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Jane and Nancy step out of the cab in front of the club entrance. They walk up to the bouncer who is standing with his arms crossed and he puts up his hand.

BOUNCER

Are you on a list?

JANE

Yes, I'm Timothy's sister and we're on his table tonight.

BOUNCER

Under AUR's table?

JANE

Yes sir.

BOUNCER

Sorry for the hold up, right this way please.

He lifts the red rope and the girls walk past the line of people waiting outside.

NANCY

That's right, apology accepted.

Nancy glares at the bouncer before going into the club.

INT. DANCE FLOOR IN GILDA - NIGHT

Timothy sits around his table cheering with his friend. Markus is fist pumping and being goofy at his table across the club. Jane and Nancy are dancing together on the dance floor in a crowd of people.

INT. JCU VIP TABLE - NIGHT

Robert is sitting laughing at Markus. He looks around.

ROBERT

I'm gonna go take a lap around the club. Maybe hit up the dance floor.

MARKUS

(drunkenly)

This is my song man!

Robert taps him on the shoulder and walks away from the table.

INT. DANCE FLOOR IN GILDA - NIGHT

Jane and Nancy are dancing and singing. She catches the eye of Robert who is awkwardly standing outside the crowd of people dancing. He sips his drink and watches her. She smiles at him and continues dancing with Nancy.

INT. DANCE FLOOR IN GILDA - NIGHT

Nancy hands Jane another drink and the dance floor is crowded. Robert makes his way through the crowd to Jane. She does not break eye contact with him and he becomes closer to her. She continues dancing.

NANCY

I'm going to the ladies room! Be right back girl!

Jane nods to Nancy. Nancy walks through the crowd as Robert finally reaches Jane. They dance.

INT. GILDA BATHROOM - NIGHT

Nancy is walking out of the ladies room. Markus is standing by the bathroom entrance. He looks at Nancy.

(CONTINUED)

MARKUS  
Hello, Sexy!

NANCY  
Ew, a JCU.

MARKUS  
Oh, I didn't know the AUR came out  
at this hour.

Nancy rolls her eyes and walks towards the dance floor.

INT. DANCE FLOOR IN GILDA - NIGHT

Jane and Robert are passionately dancing together in the middle of the crowd. Nancy comes in between a couple dancing next to them.

NANCY  
Jane! It's so hot in here, let's  
get a drink!

Nancy pulls Jane's arm and tugs her back through the crowd. Jane looks back at Robert and blows him a kiss with a smile.

INT. CLUB BAR - NIGHT

Nancy and Jane stand by the bar and Jane is looking around the club for Robert.

NANCY  
You look distracted. What's up?

JANE  
No... uh... nothing. I just am  
looking for this guy.

NANCY  
Who!?

Jane looks towards the row of VIP tables and sees Robert walk up to the JCU table. Markus gives Robert a big drunken hug.

JANE  
(whispers)  
A... JCU? No way.

NANCY  
Oh I know, they are everywhere! I  
got hit on by one in the bathroom.  
Totally JCU status. Gross.

(CONTINUED)

JANE  
No, no, Nancy, he is a JCU guy.

NANCY  
Oh my God, Who?

JANE  
Him!

Jane points to Robert at the JCU table, where he is singing with Markus and other JCU boys dressed in blue.

NANCY  
(laughing)  
Your brother is going to kill you!

Jane throws back her drink and slams the empty glass on the bar counter. She pulls Nancy's arm and tugs her through the crowd to the AUR VIP table.

INT. AUR VIP TABLE - NIGHT

Jane and Nancy give the boys a double cheek kiss greeting as they come up on the table.

INT. JCU VIP TABLE - NIGHT

Robert looks across the club at the AUR VIP table and sees Jane and Nancy sitting around it. He does not tell his best friend Markus. He stands alone observing.

ROBERT  
(under his breath)  
She's from AUR? How can that be? Is she the sister of the biggest rival to me.

INT. AUR VIP TABLE - NIGHT

Jane taps on her older brother Timothy's shoulder. He turns around and gives her a hug.

TIMOTHY  
Hey little sister! How's your first clubbing night out?

JANE  
Nancy's tired. I think we're going to take off now.

(CONTINUED)

TIMOTHY

Okay, well see you at home.

Jane waves goodbye and walks off from the table. Jane pulls Nancy with her.

NANCY

Why are we leaving? I'm having so much fun!

The girls leave the club.

INT. JCU VIP TABLE - NIGHT

Markus tackles Robert in a drunken way. They fall. Robert stands back up and looks over at the AUR VIP table and cannot find Jane anymore. He looks around and then walks away.

MARKUS

Dude, where are you going?

Robert leaves without saying a word.

EXT. GILDA CLUB ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Robert runs out the entrance of the club. He looks down the street and sees Jane and Nancy walking away with their arms linked.

EXT. STREETS OF ROME - NIGHT

Robert runs up to the girls. Jane and Nancy turn around and Nancy gives Jane a look. Jane motions for her to keep walking and hail a taxi.

ROBERT

I'm sorry for being so forward, but I had an amazing time with you tonight.

JANE

You're a JCU, and if my brother found out, he'd kill you. You know that.

ROBERT

I don't care, because all I want is to be with you. Please let me be that guy for you.

(CONTINUED)

JANE

I would love that, but your timing is terrible. We have our rival soccer game tomorrow night.

ROBERT

That's fine baby, we'll just pretend we don't know each other for the hour.

JANE

I'll have Nancy give you a note during the game to tell you where we can meet afterward.

ROBERT

Sure, I'll take you somewhere amazing. No one will have to know.

JANE

(smiling)

Okay, I can't wait. I had so much fun tonight with you.

ROBERT

And many more amazing night to come.

JANE

I'll see you tomorrow my love.

ROBERT

Good night and sweet dreams.

JANE

And to you Robert.

ROBERT

Ciao amore.

They kiss in the street before parting ways, Jane runs to catch up with Nancy. Robert stands in the street alone watching her walk away.

EXT. AUR SOCCER FIELD - AFTERNOON

The rival soccer match between AUR and JCU begins. The tension is high on the field and in the stands. Timothy, AUR's soccer captain slide tackles Markus, the JCU soccer captain.

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MARKUS  
Watch it punk!

TIMOTHY  
Or, what?

They move towards each other, fists clenched and foreheads touching.

REFEREE  
Alright, knock it off you two! Or  
you're off the field!

Markus turns and walks away. Timothy SPITS at Markus's back. Markus turns around and begins to charge Timothy. Robert runs over.

ROBERT  
Let it go Markus.

MARKUS  
Why are you so nice to that AUR  
creep all of a sudden? You are  
usually the first to get a swing at  
him.

ROBERT  
No particular reason... Besides the  
way to stick it to him now is to  
win the game. You with me?

MARKUS  
Yeah alright, let's do this!

The soccer match continues. Markus gives Robert a clean pass and he scores. The score is 2-1 for JCU. Markus gives Timothy a smirk as he runs past him.

MARKUS  
How does that feel, Timmy my boy?  
Oeee must feel good, because it  
feels pretty good to me!

Markus walks away laughing. He high fives his team mates and waves to the JCU fans in the stands.

TIMOTHY  
I'll get you Markus, mark my  
words...

EXT. AUR SOCCER FIELD - AFTERNOON

The first half of the soccer match ends. The Referee BLOWS the whistle. The players from both teams exit the field to their respected locker rooms. Romeo sneaks off the field alone and walks up a path to the park behind the field. He sees Jane walking ahead of him.

EXT. AUR LOCKER ROOM - AFTERNOON

Timothy stands outside the locker room door smoking a cigarette. Nancy runs up to him.

NANCY

Tim! Have you seen your sister?

TIMOTHY

No. Isn't she supposed to be with you?

NANCY

Well yes, but I went to get us some beers and when I got back to the bleachers, she was gone.

TIMOTHY

Did you check the bathrooms?

NANCY

Duh! That was my first thought, I'm not some dumb bimbo!

TIMOTHY

Alright, Alright! Take it easy. Where do you think she may be?

NANCY

Well, I didn't want to say anything but she has been acting very strangely ever since we went out last night. Even during the game, she kept eyeing one of the JCU players, Robert... I think his name is. She was handing me a peice of paper when I made a comment about it and then she put it back in her pocket. I knew something was up, when that JCU scored that first goal he pointed directly at her!

(CONTINUED)

TIMOTHY

Robert! No way in hell!

Timothy put his cigarette out on his arm and ran towards the bleachers.

EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON

Jane and Robert are sitting beneath a tree.

ROBERT

Did you see how I scored that goal for you?

JANE

Yes, I did.

ROBERT

I wish we could just run away from this rivalry. I hate it... that I can't be with you.

JANE

I know what you mean. I wish we could just kiss, at anytime and anywhere.

Timothy walks briskly across the park to Robert and Jane. Jane and Robert are kissing. He tears Robert away from Jane and throws him against a tree.

TIMOTHY

You shit! Kiss my sister will you?! Get up and fight me, you worthless worm.

Timothy slams him again against the tree and lets him go. Romeo staggers forward holding his side.

ROBERT

I don't want to fight you Timothy. You're Jane's brother and I love her.

TIMOTHY

Fight me!

Markus enters the park and walks over to everyone.

MARKUS

I'll gladly oblige you, Timmy my boy!

(CONTINUED)

TIMOTHY

My fight is not with you Markus.  
It's with that spineless creep.

MARKUS

That Spineless creep happens to be  
my best friend!

Markus charges Timothy. Timothy dodges Markus and throws a punch into Markus's face. His nose bleeds down his soccer uniform.

JANE

Tim! Stop it!

TIMOTHY

Shut it sis! I'll deal with you  
later!

Markus wipes the blood from his nose. He charges Timothy to the ground and kicks him in the stomach. Romeo intervenes and Markus shoves him away.

EXT. ENTRANCE OF PARK - LATE AFTERNOON

Fans from the game stand by the entrance of the park and watch the fight unravel. The Referee brushes through the growing crowd. He marches across the park.

REFEREE

What's this? A fight during my  
match? That's it! Both teams  
disqualified!

Everyone leaves the park. The crowd of bystanders walk to their cars in the parking lot. Markus stands with Romeo under the tree in the park.

MARKUS

I curse you Robert! You just had to  
go for an AUR girl! And not just  
any AUR girl but Timothy's sister!

ROBERT

It's not like that Markus! I love  
Jane.

MARKUS

Like the way you loved Rose?  
Whatever dude.

Markus turns and walks out of the park briskly. Robert stands alone.

INT. JANE'S BEDROOM - DAY

The two lovers, Robert and Jane lay in bed looking at each other. Robert lights a cigarette.

ROBERT

Our schools are going to find out.  
Trouble like yesterday will be ten  
times worse.

JANE

I know, but...

ROBERT

-- We should leave. Just you and I  
together, we will see the world.

JANE

Robert!

ROBERT

I know, I love you.

JANE

I always thought that love could  
overcome such hatred.

ROBERT

It can and it will. We need our  
schools to have more time. Change  
will take place.

Robert's phone rings. Robert answers the call. Markus begins to speak.

MARKUS

Robert, it is on.

ROBERT

What is on?

MARKUS

We're fighting AUR today.

ROBERT

Did we not get that out of our  
systems yesterday at the game?

MARKUS

We got disqualified from the game  
because of AUR, this means blood.

(CONTINUED)

ROBERT

I'm not going. I am leaving Rome. I am on my way to the Metro now.

MARKUS

Leaving? What Mentro?

ROBERT

Piramide the B line. Ciao Markus.

Robert hangs up the phone and turns to Jane. He kisses her on the lips and jumps from the bed.

ROBERT

Get dressed!

JANE

Now?

ROBERT

Yes.

EXT. ROME - DAY

Markus is standing in Piazza Trilussa. He calls Timothy with his cell phone.

MARKUS

Hey fuck head. Piramide B line now.

Markus hangs up and proceeds to call the rest of the team.

EXT. TIMOTHY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Timothy calls his team mates.

TIMOTHY

Piramide, B line, now!

Timothy hangs up his phone and walks to the window. He pulls out a gun and speaks to it.

TIMOTHY

Robert, I'm coming for you. Today this ends with JCU. My sister may never forgive me but at least you will not be with her.

INT. PIRAMIDE B LINE PLATFORM - DAY

Jane and Robert stand waiting for the Metro to arrive. Robert looks up at the electronic sign. Arrival time is in ten minutes. Robert hears the chants of their team coming down the stairwell.

JANE  
I hear my brother.

ROBERT  
Markus... how could he do this.  
Where is this Metro already?

JANE  
What now Robert?

Timothy and Markus come down the stairs with both teams. Timothy and Markus stop as they see Rombert and Jane standing together.

TIMOTHY  
Robert get away from my sister.

ROBERT  
Timothy, I am not going to fight  
you. I am inlove with Jane and that  
is that.

Markus and JCU's team seperates from the AUR team. Markus pulls out a knife and walks up to Robert.

MARKUS  
We must fight in honor of our team.  
Forget the girl, the most important  
thing here is our team. Our family.

ROBERT  
Leave me be, I will not fight.

TIMOTHY  
Pussy!

Markus darts towards Timothy but Robert stops him.

ROBERT  
Leave this rivarly be. I no longer  
want to be a part of this  
meaningless rivarly. None of you  
can come between Jane and I.

(CONTINUED)

TIMOTHY

You're a pussy! What's wrong? You can't fight for the one you love so much?

Both teams start approaching Jane and Robert. They back up to the edge of the tracks.

JANE

Brother please leave us be, we are not a part of this.

Timothy pulls out his gun and points it at Robert.

TIMOTHY

This love ends now.

He fires the gun. Robert drops to the ground holding his chest. Markus tackles Timothy and wrestles the gun out of his hand. Jane drops to the ground and holds Robert.

JANE

Robert, speak to me.

ROBERT

Do not fear my love. I feel like the bullet had tried to pierce my heart but our love is too strong.

Jane takes Robert's hand in hers. Dark red blood comes pouring out of his chest. Robert chokes and gasps for air. Jane kisses Robert on the lips as Robert closes his eyes and dies. Jane stands up and looks at the two teams.

JANE

Your hatred had led to the death of an innocent man. The one that I loved. What we had was so beautiful and the hate you have dicusts me. I pity all of you here today.

Timothy looks at Robert lying on the ground. He looks up at his sister and sees tears rolling down her face. He breaks into tears himself. Jane glances down the tracks and sees the training coming.

TIMOTHY

What have I done. Jane... I'm so sorry.

JANE

I will never forgive you!

(CONTINUED)



Jane looks down at Robert and blows him a kiss. Jane throws herself backwards onto the tracks as the train arrives. The train hits her. Timothy SCREAMS and walks over to Robert's lifeless body. He holds the gun to his head.

TIMOTHY

I am sorry for coming here today.

Timothy pulls the trigger and kills himself. He falls down next to Robert. Both teams stand still and silent. Markus walks towards the dead bodies and turns towards both teams with tears in his eyes.

MARKUS

Shame on both rivals here. Was the rivalry between our schools worth the death of the these three kids? How did we let emotions get in the way of our judgement? Selfish, selfish, selfish! Yes, we are all selfish because we could not let these two lovers be together. Shame on us all! Why? Why do our schools have this rivalry? Has anyone asked themselves this? Today is a cursed day where two lovers died and love was lost to the hatred of a pointless rivalry.