

Rover and Juliet

By

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INT. LIBRARY

Two large wooden doors open into a BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY. Bound leather books sit in mahogany bookshelves. Vaulted ceilings and ornate furniture suggest this place was made very long ago.

The CAMERA slowly approaches a table where a FINELY CRAFTED BOOK lies open. The page reads "Chapter One," and a colorful illustration shows an Italian town in the hills. Suddenly we HEAR a little voice call us ...

THE VOICE (O.S.)
Psst! Up here!

We look up and see an adorable little bat, hanging upside down in the corner of the library. This is FLYER.

FLYER
It's me, Flyer.

Unable to contain his excitement, Flyer swoops down and lands beside the book. He gestures toward the open page.

FLYER (cont'd)
Here to read the most romantic love story
the world has ever known?
(Hopefully)
Mind if I read with you? I love a love
story.

The CAMERA moves in closer to the page's illustration. In a second or two we are INSIDE THE PICTURE.

EXT. A STARRY NIGHT IN VERONA

We approach A DELIGHTFUL LITTLE TOWN tucked into a small valley between picturesque mountains. A full moon hangs in the cloudless sky.

FLYER (V.O.)
Besides ... this story took place in my
hometown. Verona.

As we swoop down closer, the town's towers and spires rise to meet us. We circle around THE CATHEDRAL and come in for a closer look. The bell in the tower is ringing. Hanging upside down in the window of the BELFRY is a younger version of Flyer.

FLYER (V.O) (cont'd)
I used to hang out in the Belfry.

He drops out of the window and flies with us down a COBBLESTONE LANE lined with homes as pretty as gingerbread houses. Lights flicker in nearly every window.

FLYER (V.O.) (cont'd)
I was just a young whipper-snapper at the
time ...

As we approach THE PIAZZA where townsfolk happily call out farewells to one another, Flyer bumps into a sign hanging in front of The Butcher's Store and knocks himself silly.

FLYER (V.O.) (cont'd)
... working out the kinks in my radar ...

A moment later Flyer has gotten himself going again and approaches A BEAUTIFUL VILLA.

A GROUP OF BIRDS are sitting on the banister of the balcony watching something below. Flyer lands between a couple of PRETTY WHITE DOVES and tries to put his wings around them.

FLYER (V.O.) (cont'd)
... this was back in my unpopular days

...
The Doves look at one another clearly frightened of Flyer.

FLYER (V.O.) (cont'd)
... back when everyone thought we bats
were scary!

IN A FLASH the Doves dart to the other side of the balcony where they clearly feel a lot more comfortable. All the other birds turn their backs on Flyer and look down into the street. Flyer has to flap up onto the roof of the balcony to get a view of ...

A young man looking up to the balcony longingly, where a young woman looks sadly toward the moon. These young lovers are of course ROMEO and JULIET.

ROMEO
But soft! What light through yonder
window breaks? It is the east, and
Juliet is the sun!

FLYER (V.O.)
Wait a second ...

JULIET
Oh Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou
Romeo?

FLYER (V.O.)
Hey!
(Whistling loudly)
Wait a second, I said!

A GIGANTIC IMAGE OF THE OLDER FLYER steps into our view of the lovers and blocks it almost completely.

FLYER (cont'd)
Wrong-o! Cease it! Cut!

The CAMERA moves back to reveal FLYER standing in front of the open book in the library. The picture on the page is now of Romeo and Juliet.

Flyer takes a step or two away from the book much like a trial lawyer about to spring a surprise on a witness. Suddenly he turns back to the page and points to the picture accusingly ...

FLYER (cont'd)
 That is not the most romantic love story
 the world's ever known!
 (Mockingly)
 Oh no no no no no. Far from it!

The picture on the page of the book becomes animated again. Flyer looks at the young lovers almost disdainfully.

FLYER (cont'd)
 I mean, yes, if you're going to be
technical about it. The story you're
 talking about is nice. It has its
 moments ...

On the balcony Juliet looks deeply into Romeo's eyes.

JULIET
 What's in a name! That which we call a
 rose by any other name would smell as
 sweet.

FLYER
 'Course, some of the dialogue's a little
 much, if you ask me. Now, if you want to
 see the most romantic story ... you got
 to look ...
 (Pointing to the corner of the
 picture)
 ... down here ...

The CAMERA now begins to RE-ENTER the illustration where Flyer has gestured to.

FLYER (V.O.) (cont'd)
 ... where only I could see it, sitting
 up there on the roof.

The CAMERA moves slowly down off the balcony, down the side of the building, past the swooning Romeo, across the street, and down an embankment.

FLYER (V.O.) (cont'd)
This story comes from an entirely
 different part of Verona ...

Our view continues moving down to beside the river, where a handsome golden retriever puppy watches Romeo's every gesture with admiration. This is ROVER.

FLYER (V.O.) (cont'd)
And involves different characters
altogether.

Two other puppies hang out nearby. BENNY, a goofy looking basset hound, chases his tail in circles, kicking up mud everywhere. MERCURY, a brown and black bulldog, exercises rigorously, further sculpting his already fine-tuned four-legged physique.

FLYER (V.O) (cont'd)
Though these characters from time to time
may seem a little familiar ...

Rover sighs loudly, completely oblivious to his friends' more canine concerns.

ROVER
Oh, I wish I was in love.

Benny momentarily stops his twirling and looks at Rover.

BENNY
Love? What do you want to be in love
for, Rover? All that sniffing each other
and stuff. Yeech!

ROVER
But Benny, then you have somebody, and
they have you.

MERCURY
You have more than that.

ROVER
What do you mean?

MERCURY
Rover, just think about it, would you?
Oh sure, it's all fun in the beginning.
Candlelight dinners at the cozy trash can
behind the butchers'. Making puppy-dog
eyes at one another. But then things
change. One thing leads to another.
Pretty soon you got a litter full of
problems to worry about.

ROVER
I suppose ... but still, I want to be in
love ...

Benny has resumed his tail-chasing routine. Mercury turns to him clearly annoyed.

MERCURY
Benny, dog gone it! Don't you know
you're never gonna catch your tail?

BENNY
 (Continuing to chase his tail)
 Yes, I am! Yes I am! I almost ... got
 it ...

And he promptly chases his tail ... right into the river! A
 second later he comes up for air, panicking ...

BENNY (cont'd)
 I can't swim! I can't swim! Mercury,
 help me!

MERCURY
 Just don't panic!

BENNY
 What do I do?

MERCURY
 Paddle!

BENNY
 How?

MERCURY
Dog paddle.

Benny seems to get the hang of it.

MERCURY (cont'd)
 That's it.

A moment later Benny pulls himself ashore, completely
 drenched.

MERCURY (cont'd)
 What did I tell you? But would you
 listen? No!

BENNY
 But I almost had it that time, I swear.

Just as Benny shakes himself off we hear a DEEP AUTHORITATIVE
 VOICE ...

VOICE
 And just what are you pups up to?

The three young dogs turn and discover a pack of street-wise
 dogs who peer down at them sternly. One of the older dogs is
 clearly the leader. This is Rover's father, BIG DADDY
 MONGREL.

Big Daddy is dripping wet and clearly unamused. The younger
 dogs leap to attention guiltily.

BENNY
 (Stammering)
 N - nothing, Big Daddy. W - we're j -
 just -

BIG DADDY MONGREL
Doggin' it! You boys are supposed to be
 off collecting scraps.

MERCURY
 I tried to tell them, sir, but they
 wouldn't listen.

Big Daddy Mongrel gives Rover a disapproving look. Rover
 lowers his eyes ashamed.

BIG DADDY MONGREL
 Come here, son.

Big Daddy Mongrel puts a paw on Rover's shoulder and looks
 into his eyes.

BIG DADDY MONGREL (cont'd)
 You're almost a year old now. Don't you
 think it's about time you start acting
 like it?

ROVER
 I know, I know ...

BIG DADDY MONGREL
 Your mother and I got hopes for you. You
 think I got to be the top dog rolling
 around in the daisies? No. You got to
 work for it.

MERCURY
 He says he wants to be in love, Big
 Daddy.

BIG DADDY MONGREL
 What? Is that true, Rover?

ROVER
 Well ... yes.

BIG DADDY MONGREL
 You spend too much time playing fetch
 with Romeo.

ROVER
 There's nothing wrong with Romeo. He's
 nice to me. He brings me biscuits and
 scratches behind my ears -

BIG DADDY MONGREL
 Well! If Romeo is so nice ...

Big Daddy Mongrel stares at his son truly angry now.

BIG DADDY MONGREL
 ... can you tell me why he's falling in
 love ...

Big Daddy Mongrel points dramatically up to Juliet.

BIG DADDY MONGREL
 ... with a CAT OWNER!!

ROVER
 Juliet owns cats?

BIG DADDY MONGREL
 Where do you think the Cat-Pulet's live,
 boy?

Big Daddy Mongrel looks at Romeo disdainfully.

BIG DADDY MONGREL (cont'd)
 That boy's probably got cat hair all over
 him by now.

ROVER
 (Disillusioned)
 No!

BIG DADDY MONGREL
 So let me hear no more of Romeo or love.
 They are dangerous influences.

Rover nods sadly. It is like he has lost a hero.

BIG DADDY MONGREL (cont'd)
 Now get out there and get us some scraps!

ROVER
 Yes, Father.

The three young dogs leave their elders with their tails
 between their legs. After a moment, Rover takes a last look
 up to the balcony.

ROVER (cont'd)
 I didn't know Juliet owns cats.

Our view now begins to focus on Juliet's window.

BENNY
 Are you kidding? She's got more cats
 than I got fleas.

ROVER
 Really?

MERCURY
 Can you believe that? Actually liking
 cats?

INT. JULIET'S BEDROOM

Inside Juliet's window we see that the young lover sits on a chair crying for Romeo. In her sadness, she reaches for a black and white, nearly full-grown kitten.

MERCURY (O.S.)
They say she even pets them ...

Juliet puts the kitten on her lap.

MERCURY (O.S.) (cont'd)
Sometimes they even sit on her lap!

ROVER (O.S.)
It's so ... so ... tragic.

Juliet looks in the kitten's eyes.

JULIET
Oh Juliet, true friend Juliet, what dost thou think I should do?

LADY AND LORD CAT-PULET, two immaculately groomed long-haired cats, sit on Juliet's vanity table. They are the kitten's parents. When Lady Cat-Pulet hears the girl call the kitten "Juliet," she shakes her head.

LADY CAT-PULET
I still can't believe that girl named her pet after herself!

LORD CAT-PULET
You have to remember, the child's only fourteen.

LADY CAT-PULET
I'm fourteen, too! You see me doing anything so foolish?

LORD CAT-PULET
No dear ...

The human Juliet (hereafter referred to as "Juliet the Girl") sets the kitten Juliet (hereafter referred to as "Juliet") on her lap. Then she takes a tissue and looks longingly out the window.

JULIET THE GIRL
(Sniffling)
Dost thou think Romeo will be true?

Below Juliet the Girl's chair sits DOC, a persian cat with furtive eyes and a manner of speaking very akin to Mae West.

When she and the other cats talk near people, they do so under their breaths, and it is very clear that humans are not aware that the animals are talking.

DOC
Oh please ...

Juliet the Girl lets her tissue drop to the ground. Doc picks it up and hands it to Lady and Lord Cat-Pulet on the vanity table. Lord Cat-Pulet is taking the tissues from Doc and writing on them with an eye-liner. Lady Cat-Pulet puts paw-prints on them using ruby-red lipstick.

DOC (cont'd)
... doesn't she know men are dogs?

TYGER, a ferocious striped cat with a menacing smile, sits on Juliet the Girl's bed. He practices hurling his claws into a picture of a dog like humans throw darts at a dart board.

TYGER
You give men a bad name, Doc. Only dogs are dogs.

DOC
Maybe baby, but every male of every species has a bit of canine in him. Even you, Tyger.

Tyger swats a ball of yarn at Doc, but she dodges it easily.

LADY CAT-PULET
Stop it you two. We have work to do.

LADY CAT-PULET (cont'd)
Juliet, come on. These invitations for the animal ball have to go out tomorrow.

Juliet whispers discreetly as Juliet the Girl continues to cry.

JULIET
Mother, what am I supposed to do?

LADY CAT-PULET
Act prissy. It's every cat's prerogative.

JULIET
I can't do that. Juliet needs me.

DOC
(Mocking)
Needs you! Until she's got a date.

JULIET
That's not true! Juliet's different ...

Meanwhile, TYBALT, a dashing young human in his late teens has come into Juliet the Girl's room. He picks Tyger up off the bed and throws him into the air! As Tyger screeches horribly and struggles to land on his feet, Tybalt laughs delightedly.

JULIET THE GIRL
Tybalt!

TYBALT
Oh come now dearest cousin, they're only
cats.

Juliet the Girl sets Juliet down and crosses to Tyger.

JULIET THE GIRL
They're more than that. They're my
friends.

She pats Tyger on the head.

JULIET THE GIRL (cont'd)
You all right, little one?

Tyger purrs happily. Juliet turns proudly back to Doc,
gesturing to Juliet the Girl.

JULIET
You see how Juliet is different?

TYBALT
Well, thoust will never guess what I did
find downstairs after the ball.

JULIET THE GIRL
What?

TYBALT
Evidence that Montagues were there.

JULIET THE GIRL
Montagues!

TYBALT
Yes, come this way and I will show you.

Tybalt and Juliet the Girl leave. Tyger heads over to the
ball of yarn.

TYGER
Come on, help me roll this up.

JULIET
No.

TYGER
Why not?

JULIET
I can't stand yarn.

TYGER
How can you be a cat and not like a ball
of yarn?

JULIET

I don't know.

She leaps to the window sill and looks outside longingly.

JULIET

I like the ball in the sky. What do you call that?

LADY CAT-PULET

It's the moon.

JULIET

The moon. Oh I think it is so beautiful.

TYGER

Beautiful? What's so beautiful about the moon. Next you'll be howling like a dog at it.

JULIET

But I think it's beautiful. I do.

She looks at the globed lamp posts.

JULIET

And the balls of light outside. And the balls that people throw to one another in the park. Sometimes I see balls bouncing down the street so fast. Not like balls of yarn that roll a couple feet and stop. But balls that go faster and faster. Sometimes I want to chase those balls. Right outside, into the big wide world.

Lady and Lord Cat-Pulet look at one another concerned. Lord Cat-Pulet clears his throat and gives Doc a look that means something like, "will you talk some sense into the girl?" Doc sets down her work and goes up to Juliet on the window sill.

DOC

Juliet, you're not feeling ... curious are you?

JULIET

Yes, I am.

DOC

How many times do I have to tell you that curiosity kills -

JULIET

But I don't see why it has to. Don't you ever wonder, Doc, what it must be like to live outside?

MEANWHILE OUTSIDE ...

Rover, Benny and Mercury are looking for scraps. Mercury scans the contents of some trash cans they've just dumped over much as a construction foreman oversees a project.

MERCURY
Nothin' here, come on.

He immediately heads off toward the next alley. As soon as he's out of sight, Benny jumps on top of one of the trash cans like a western log-roller. Rover takes one whiff of the garbage and grimaces. A second later he glances up to a window. It is not Juliet's window.

ROVER
Benny?

BENNY
(Trying to balance himself)
Yeah?

ROVER
Have you ever wondered what it must be like to live ... inside?

The sound of the word "inside" literally sends Benny hurling. He falls face first into a barrel. A moment later he reappears covered in goop.

BENNY
Inside?

ROVER
Yeah.

BENNY
You think you're some kind of poodle, or something?

ROVER
No, no, I just wonder. Don't you ever wonder?

INSIDE ...

Juliet looks out the window.

JULIET
I imagine flowers and sunshine and leaping in the trees. There'd be wide open spaces and rivers and lakes and you could go swimming!

Doc gives Juliet a look like she has gone completely off her rocker.

OUTSIDE ...

Rover continues to peer into windows longingly.

ROVER

I imagine a fireplace and music and
chewing a shoe. There'd be food served
in bowls and I'd wear bells ... and a
ribbon in my hair.

Benny puts a paw on Rover's forehead to make sure he doesn't
have a fever.

INSIDE ...

Juliet leads Doc into the kitchen, where we see pet dishes on
the floor. Tyger tails along behind, looking on
suspiciously.

JULIET

Don't you ever get tired of warm milk and
cold tuna and wearing these tight
collars?

DOC

But they're diamond studded. You know
how I love studs.

JULIET

Call me crazy, but in my dreams I see
myself standing on a tall bridge, taking
off this horrid collar and throwing it
into the river!

OUTSIDE ...

Rover turns a corner and directs Benny's attention to a group
of sad and lonely dogs struggling to survive in the street.
Mercury looks at his two friends with concern.

ROVER

Don't you ever get tired of dog catchers
and cold nights and digging in the trash?

BENNY

I love trash!

ROVER

Call me crazy, but in my dreams I see
myself settling down to sleep on a satin
pillow beside my master's bed.

INSIDE ...

Juliet leaps to the kitchen window and looks out.

JULIET

That's what the outside would be, a place
where I could be me, a place where I
could be ...

DOC

What?

JULIET

Free.

OUTSIDE ...

Rover jumps a short hedge and peers in the front window of a charming little home. Benny is right behind.

ROVER

That's the kind of place that I crave, a place where you don't even have to be brave, a place where for once I would be ...

BENNY

What?

ROVER

Safe.

A dreamy smile spreads across Benny's face as he gets caught up in Rover's fantasy.

INSIDE ...

Doc has nearly the exact same look on her face, but Tyger SCREECHES and brings an end to that.

TYGER

It's not all fun and games out there, you know?

JULIET

It isn't?

TYGER

There's lots of stuff you have to do that isn't fun.

JULIET

Like what?

TYGER

Well ... like scratching yourself for instance.

JULIET

Scratching myself? But whatever for?

TYGER

Because you'll have fleas!

JULIET

Fleas! My goodness!

TYGER

And what's more ...

Tyger whispers something in Juliet's ear that surprises her.

JULIET
Really?

TYGER
Really!

JULIET
But I don't even know what a fire hydrant
is!

OUTSIDE ...

Mercury SNARLS at Rover as well.

MERCURY
Don't kid yourself, home sweet home ain't
all it's cracked up to be.

ROVER
It isn't?

MERCURY
No.

ROVER
Why not?

MERCURY
Well, because you have to keep yourself
clean.

ROVER
Clean? What's that mean?

MERCURY
It means you have to lick yourself all
the time.

ROVER
Really?

MERCURY
And you even have to ...

Mercury whispers in Rover's ear. Rover turns to him
startled.

ROVER
In a box?

MERCURY
In a box!

INSIDE ...

Tyger and Doc lead Juliet back into the bedroom.

TYGER

So don't get yourself all excited. It's a jungle out there, kiddo.

OUTSIDE ...

Mercury and Benny lead Rover back to the trash cans.

MERCURY

So don't go getting a bunch of ideas. It can be war in there, buster.

INSIDE ...

As Doc and Tyger go back to work on the invitations, Juliet looks out the window again.

JULIET

Still, sometimes I can't help wonder ...

OUTSIDE ...

Rover looks up to a window again as Mercury and Benny go back to scrounging.

ROVER

Still, sometimes I can't help wonder ...

SPLIT SCREEN : INSIDE AND OUTSIDE

Both Rover and Juliet look forlornly toward the different worlds they seek.

JULIET

What it would be like ...

ROVER

What it would be like ...

JULIET

... to live outside.

ROVER

... to live inside.

EXT. THE PIAZZA - MORNING

The colorful town square is teeming with SHOPPERS. Italian VENDORS peddle everything from fresh produce to fine clothing. The camera pans down through the crowd until we are almost ground-level in front of a WATCHMAKER'S KIOSK. Passing by are the legs and feet of busy shoppers.

SUDDENLY, Rover's head pops out from under the red curtain that encircles the kiosk. He anxiously looks around, making sure not to be seen.

MERCURY
 (From behind the curtain)
 How's it look, Rover?

Rover looks directly across from the watchmaker's kiosk at THE MEAT STAND.

A FAT BUTCHER is in the process of cutting steaks and chops for his customers. Rover licks his lips ...

ROVER
 Like dinner! And then some!

With that, a GIANT PAW pulls Rover behind the curtain.

INT. UNDER THE KIOSK

Hiding behind the curtain are Benny and Mercury. Big Daddy Mongrel holds Rover by a tuft of hair.

BIG DADDY
 This is a delicate operation,
 boys. One wrong move could
 land you in the pound.

ROVER
 (Cocky)
 Not to worry, Pops ...

Big Daddy looks at him sternly.

ROVER
 (Gulping)
 ... I mean, Big Daddy.

Big Daddy finally puts a relieved Rover down.

BIG DADDY
 Benny, I need you to cause a distraction.
 Something wild.

BENNY
 (Still trying to catch his own
 tail)
 How do I do that, Big Daddy?

BIG DADDY
 Trust me. Just be yourself.
 Mercury, you back up Rover
 while he's nabbing the goods.

MERCURY
 You can count on me, Big Daddy.

BIG DADDY
 Good luck, boys. Make this old Mongrel
 proud.

The three dogs head out. Big Daddy is clearly worried about

his pups.

EXT. PIAZZA

Rover and Mercury make their way towards the meat stand. Benny lags behind.

BENNY
Something wild ... something wild ...

Benny notices a JUGGLER performing for a group of children. The juggler has several red balls in the air. Behind him is a vegetable stand.

Benny spots a pile of ripe tomatoes and suddenly has an idea.

EXT. MEAT STAND

While The Butcher is busy helping his customers, Rover and Mercury sneak up from behind. Benny positions himself in the crowd.

Rover waits, then gives Benny the signal. With that, Benny begins to BARK as loud as he can. The crowd of people turn to look.

Amazingly, Benny climbs up on his hind legs and JUGGLES TWO TOMATOES WITH HIS FRONT PAWS. People ooh and aah. Even The Butcher watches in amazement. Meanwhile, Rover jumps up onto the meat counter and begins pushing steaks and chops down to Mercury.

Benny continues to juggle for the adoring crowd. In no time at all he is up to twelve tomatoes! But when Benny goes for number thirteen, they all come tumbling down on his head. Benny is left covered in tomato juice.

The crowd sighs and returns to shopping. It is then that The Butcher finally notices what Rover is doing.

BUTCHER
Hey, you stinky mongrel! Those are my steaks!

The Butcher picks up his MEAT CLEVER, but just before he can slice Rover in two ...

BUTCHER (cont'd)
Aaaaaah!!!!

Mercury BITES him on the leg, giving Rover the chance to escape.

EXT. PIAZZA

Rover runs through the crowd. When he turns for a split second to see if he's being chased, the terrified pup ...

SLAMS RIGHT INTO A PAIR OF LEGS. A bit dazed, Rover looks up and finds ...

... ROMEO staring right down at him.

ROMEO
Alas, 'tis my favorite stray.

Romeo scoops up Rover, who still has a steak hanging in his mouth.

ROMEO (cont'd)
Thou art a criminal in need of
a place to hide. Come. We shall find
you a fine wine to
go with your meal.

EXT. ANOTHER SECTION OF THE PIAZZA

Mercury and Benny, still covered in tomatoes, make their way home.

MERCURY
You had to be a hot shot, didn't you.
Like a dog juggling twelve tomatoes
wasn't enough of a distraction. You just
had to go for thirteen!

BENNY
I like to challenge myself.

MERCURY
Believe me, Big Daddy is going to do more
than that when he finds out we blew the
caper.

EXT. WINE KIOSK

Romeo, still holding Rover, looks through the many wines.

ROMEO
Wine seller, bring me your most
prized vintage. Tonight is a special
occasion.

The Wine Seller bows and goes in back. Romeo leans down and whispers to Rover, unaware that the dog can understand every word he says.

ROMEO (cont'd)
Can you keep a secret, my friend? I, a
Montague, am to marry Juliet, a Capulet,
in secret tonight at the old church.

As if on cue, AN EXPENSIVE HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE appears in the piazza. Lord and Lady Capulet step out, followed by their evil nephew, Tybalt.

Tybalt spots Romeo and throws him a nasty look.

ROMEO (cont'd)
Perhaps our marriage can finally bring
this feud between our families to an end.

EXT. CAPULET'S CARRIAGE

When The Capulets are well out of sight, the carriage's back compartment pops open and out jumps Tyger. He makes sure that the coast is clear, then calls for his henchcats.

TYGER
Shake! Speare!

SHAKE and SPEARE, two Siamese cats who bear an amazing resemblance to The Bard, slowly climb out of the carriage.

SHAKE
To be ...

SPEARE
Or not to be ...

TYGER
Where are the party invitations?

Shake and Speare look at one another and shrug.

SHAKE
Now that is the question.

Frustrated, Tyger WHOOPS them both on the head. He then jumps back into the carriage, locates the invitations and throws them down.

TYGER
Make sure every animal gets one.

The henchcats scoop up the invitations and head off into the piazza.

SHAKE
Friends...!

SPEARE
Romans...!

SHAKE
Country mice...!

SPEARE
Lend me your ears!

Tyger shakes his head in embarrassment.

TYGER
I gotta get me some new henchcats ...

Just then, Tyger spots Rover in Romeo's arms. The two make eye contact. Tyger hisses and throws the nervous puppy a

look as nasty as Tybalt's. He comes after Rover, ready to attack.

EXT. WINE SELLER'S KIOSK

As Tyger approaches, Rover jumps out of Romeo's arms and makes a run for it.

ROMEO
Hey! Where's thou going?

EXT. ALLEY

Rover runs through the piazza and winds up in a dark and scary alley. He comes to a dead end, and when he tries to turn around, Tyger suddenly JUMPS down right in front of him.

TYGER
Don't you know stray dogs
aren't allowed in the piazza?

ROVER
Well, um ...

TYGER
All I'd have to do is get the dog
catcher's attention.

ROVER
(Trying to be brave)
Why don't you leave me alone.
I wasn't bothering you.

TYGER
You're a dog. Your mere existence
bothers me.

Tyger moves closer, menacingly.

TYGER (cont'd)
It's been a long time since I clawed
anyone. Almost a week.

Tyger raises his razor sharp claws above Rover's head.

MERCURY (O.S.)
Why don't you pick on somebody your own
size.

Tyger turns to find Mercury and Benny.

TYGER
Two against one. Not what you'd call a
fair fight.

Mercury pushes Benny to the side with Rover.

MERCURY
How's that?

TYGER
That's not fair either.
For you, that is ...

Tyger LUNGES at Mercury. The two animals literally fight like cats and dogs, rolling all the way back into the piazza. People run and scream to get out of the way.

EXT. THE PRINCE'S ROYAL BOX

From his seat high above the piazza, THE PRINCE notices the commotion. He signals for his PAGE.

THE PRINCE
What's going on down there?

PAGE
It looks like a cat and dog fighting, my liege.

THE PRINCE
Just what I need. More fighting!

Noticing that The Prince is agitated, a SERVANT races to his side and begins massaging his temples.

THE PRINCE (cont'd)
As if The Capulets and The Montagues weren't enough of a headache. Send for my royal dog catcher to break it up.

PAGE
Yes, my liege.
(Shouting)
SEND FOR THE ROYAL DOG CATCHER!

The command is heard repeated by a series of pages until it reaches ...

INT. THE DOG POUND

The cages are teeming with strays. THE ROYAL DOG CATCHER, a tall and sinister-looking fellow dressed entirely in black, polishes his silver dog catcher's net.

DOG CATCHER
(Smiling)
Party time.

EXT. PIAZZA

Mercury and Tyger are still going at it, knocking over everything in their path. With all of his strength, Mercury pushes Tyger to the ground and raises his paw in the air.

MERCURY
Say nighty-night, Kitty.

A GALLOPING SOUND is suddenly heard. Rover turns and finds the Dog Catcher racing toward him on his black horse.

ROVER
Merc', it's the fuzz!

Mercury looks up and sees the dog catcher's net about to swoop down on Rover! He jumps off of Tyger and pushes his friend out of the way just in the nick of time. The three dogs make a run for it.

EXT. MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE PIAZZA

The puppies race to get out of the piazza. But The Dog Catcher is right on their tails, whipping his horse to run faster.

BENNY
He's almost got us!

MERCURY
This way!

Mercury leads the dogs through a narrow passage between two kiosks. But as Rover tries to escape, THE DOG CATCHER GRABS HIM BY THE TAIL!

DOG CATCHER
(ala The Wicked Witch)
I've got you my pretty...!

But The Dog Catcher's wrong. Mercury and Benny, pulling Rover from the other side, save their friend. Rover's tail slips right through The Dog Catcher's hands.

DOG CATCHER (cont'd)
NO!!!!!!

He watches as the three dogs vanish into the streets.

DOG CATCHER (cont'd)
Next time your tail is mine.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE PIAZZA

The dogs stop to catch their breath.

BENNY
That was too close for comfort.

ROVER
You're telling me! Thanks for saving my tail, guys.

MERCURY
Anytime.

In the gutter, TWO RATS hold one of the Cat-Pulets' party invitations.

FIRST RAT

What are you going as?

SECOND RAT

I don't know. I always wanted to be a hamster.

FIRST RAT

A hamster? That's so obvious.

MERCURY

What are you rats talking about?

FIRST RAT

We just got invited to the social event of the season. Any animal who's anyone will be there.

BENNY

Hey, we're animals.
(Thinking)
Aren't we?

MERCURY

Lemme see that ...

Mercury grabs the invitation. It reads, 'LORD AND LADY CAT-PULET CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO THEIR COSTUME BALL. PLEASE RSVP. P.S. NO DOGS ALLOWED!'

MERCURY (cont'd)

Well if that don't beat all. The furballs are having a ball. And we ain't invited.

ROVER

No big surprise, seeing how much they hate us.

MERCURY

Maybe so. But if this shindig is good enough for a bunch of rats ...

RATS

Hey!

MERCURY

... well then it's good enough for a bunch of dogs. And I think I know just how to get even with Tyger in the process. You boys game?

ROVER

Absolutely!

BENNY

Just as long as I don't have to juggle.

THE NIGHT OF THE CAT-PULET'S PARTY - MONTAGE

Animals throughout Verona don various costumes.

EXT. VERONA'S ZOO - MONTAGE

The monkeys swipe the sleeping zookeeper's keys and let the other exotic animals out of their cages.

EXT. STREETS - MONTAGE

A virtual menagerie makes its way through the city toward the Cat-Pulet's villa. Some of the animals are easy to recognize under their costumes (the elephant dressed as a kangaroo, for example), while others are completely disguised.

EXT. VILLA - MONTAGE

Lord and Lady Cat-Pulet greet their guests as they arrive at the front gates. When the elephant shows up, they have him go around back.

EXT. CHINESE FIREWORKS FACTORY

An oriental-looking building. A statue of a red dragon hangs over its entrance.

INT. FACTORY

Dressed as three skunks, Rover, Mercury, and Benny roll fireworks out of their boxes and into a brown sack. But when Benny goes to scratch himself, one of the unlit fireworks flies into the air. Fortunately, Rover catches it just in time.

ROVER
Careful, Benny!

BENNY
Sorry. But this costume itches.
(Sniffing himself)
And it smells bad too.

MERCURY
You're supposed to smell bad. You're a
SKUNK!

BENNY
Oh yeah ...

ROVER
(Holding up one of the bottle
rockets)
Mercury, are you sure this plan is going
to work?

MERCURY
Trust me. By the time we're through,
those cats won't know what hit 'em.

INT. JULIET'S BEDROOM

Doc, dressed as a sexy cheetah, and Juliet, dressed as a polar bear cub, put some last minute touches on their costumes.

DOC
How do I look?

JULIET
Terrific. You're going to knock 'em dead tonight, Doc.

DOC
Well, the cheetah is the fastest cat on earth ...

JULIET
Zip me up.

Doc helps Juliet into her costume. It is now impossible to tell that she is a cat.

EXT. THE CAT-PULETS' VILLA

The dogs, hidden entirely under their skunk costumes, follow Mercury across the street to the party. The Cat-Pulets, unaware of who they are, greet them at the door.

LADY CAT-PULET
My, what clever costumes.

BENNY
I'm smelly and I'm darn proud of it!

Mercury suddenly notices that Benny's tail is beginning to stick out. He rushes to get Benny passed The Cat-Pulets.

MERCURY
Come on, big mouth.

INT. VILLA

The entire place is wall to wall with animals. An orchestra made up of penguins plays classical music. Flyer, dressed as a peacock, dances in mid-air with an eagle.

When the dogs enter, they make a bee-line for the buffet.

BENNY
Get a load of this spread!

MERCURY
Eat up, boys. In a few minutes, this party's going to be history.

MEANWHILE ...

Doc is surrounded by various animals who want to dance with her.

DOC

Please don't fight. I'm only one kitty!

Juliet smiles at her friend's good fortune. But her smile suddenly turns into a frown when she sees her parents and VIENNA, a snobby Viennese bachelor cat, approaching.

LADY CAT-PULET

Juliet, you remember Vienna, don't you?

JULIET

(Grimacing)

Of course.

Vienna, dressed as a unicorn, smiles lasciviously.

VIENNA

Juliet, how purr-fect you look tonight!

Vienna bends down to kiss Juliet's paw but pokes her with his horn. Juliet screams.

VIENNA

I'm soooo sorry! I'm not used to being mythological.

Vienna laughs at his own lame joke. Juliet's had just about enough of this drip.

JULIET

Will you excuse me? I think I see a monkey I know by the buffet.

ON THE DANCE FLOOR

The orchestra finishes its song. The animals applaud.

PENGUIN ORCHESTRA LEADER

The boys and I are going to take five for a couple of ice cubes.

Flyer's dance partner smiles and gives him a peck on the cheek as she flies off. He sighs and looks at his peacock feathers.

FLYER

This is the one night each year when nobody's afraid of me.

(Looking over at his dance partner)

I sure wouldn't mind another.

AT THE BUFFET TABLE

The dogs are seriously digging in. But as Rover reaches across the table, his black, skunk paw accidentally bumps into a white, furry one. He looks up and finds none other than Juliet herself.

Their eyes meet and it is LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT!

ROVER

Wow ...

JULIET

You have the most amazing eyes.

ROVER

So do you.

JULIET

You can tell a lot about someone from their eyes.

ROVER

Oh yeah? What do mine say?

JULIET

That you're honest ...

ROVER

Uh .. well ... usually.

JULIET

And that you're looking for something.
Or maybe, someone.

Rover and Juliet stare at one another, transfixed. Just then, the orchestra starts up again.

JULIET (cont'd)

Would you like to dance ...?

Rover is tempted, then looks over at Mercury and Benny and remembers why he is here.

ROVER

Oh I don't know ...

JULIET

Come on. It's easy. And besides, when's the next time you're going to see a polar bear and a skunk dancing together?

Rover smiles, then gets pulled onto the dance floor by Juliet. A formal, Renaissance-like dance begins. Rover looks around awkwardly, uncertain what to do. Trying to mimic what the others are doing, Rover steps right on Juliet's foot! It's all Juliet can do to keep from crying out.

ROVER

I'm sorry!

JULIET
It's all right ... Don't worry about the others.

She turns his face to hers.

JULIET (cont'd)
Look at me.

Looking into those eyes, a kind of miracle comes over Rover. He boldly twirls Juliet with precision.

JULIET (cont'd)
That's it!

In no time, Rover and Juliet are dazzling everyone at the party with their dancing prowess. The Cat-Pulets dancing nearby can't even begin to keep up with them.

As the song ends, the spectators applaud for Rover and Juliet. Rover leads her off the dance floor away from the other Cat-Pulets.

JULIET (cont'd)
I'd say you're a natural.

ROVER
I'd say you're a great teacher.

JULIET
Not that good.

ROVER
In your arms, anything seems possible.

Rover looks at Juliet strangely.

ROVER
Or should I say, "in your paws", or "in your wings"?

She looks back at him furtively.

JULIET
Are you trying to figure out what I am?

ROVER
Maybe so.

JULIET
That's strictly against the rules, you know.

ROVER
I like breaking rules.

JULIET
Well, these aren't wings. I'm no chicken, that's for sure.

ROVER
Are you a lamb?

JULIET
No.

ROVER
A rabbit?

JULIET
Sorry.

ROVER
A goat?

JULIET
(Coyly)
Uh-huh.

ROVER
Oh come on! I just have to know.

JULIET
Just have to, huh? What do you say ...
(An idea comes over her)
... I show you instead?

ROVER
Are you just going to take off your mask?

JULIET
I will if you will.

Rover gulps and looks around fearfully.

ROVER
Here?

JULIET
Why not?

ROVER
How about we go to the garden instead?
I'm kinda shy.

JULIET
All right, then. I'll meet you there in
five minutes.

Juliet hurries off. Rover almost swoons.

ROVER
I'm in love!

Mercury appears in a huff.

MERCURY
What gives, Rover? We're here to do some
damage, not win a dance contest.

Rover sees Juliet walk outside.

ROVER
I know, I know ... but I think the polar bear is on to us. I'm just trying to keep her ... distracted.

MERCURY
Well hurry it up. Benny's setting up the pyrotechnics even as we speak.

EXT. GARDEN

Under the starry night, Juliet awaits her true love. Rover sneaks up from behind and places his paws over her eyes.

ROVER
Guess who?

JULIET
The animal of my dreams?

ROVER
Close enough.

Rover walks around in front of Juliet.

JULIET
Ready ... ?

Rover looks around one last time to make sure that the coast is clear.

ROVER
Let's do it.

JULIET
On the count of three.
One ...

ROVER
Two ...

JULIET/ROVER
Three!

Rover and Juliet lift their masks. Both are shocked.

JULIET
YOU'RE A DOG?!

ROVER
YOU'RE A CAT?!

JULIET
What are you doing at my family's party?
You must know we, I mean they, hate dogs.

ROVER
You mean you don't hate dogs too?

JULIET
I can't hate someone I don't even know.
That would be silly.

ROVER
I guess you're right.

JULIET
So what are we going to do? I mean it
seemed like we were sort of becoming, I
don't know ... friends.

ROVER
Yeah, it sure seemed that way. But I just
don't think the world's ready for a cat
and a dog being ... friends.

JULIET
Yeah, I guess not.

Both are terribly saddened by this realization.

ROVER
Well, see ya ...

Rover puts on his mask and starts back inside.

JULIET
Hey ... I don't even know
your name.

ROVER
It's Rover.

JULIET
I'm Juliet.

ROVER
(Gesturing to the balcony)
You mean like the girl ...?

JULIET
That's right.

ROVER
Rover and Juliet. I like that.

JULIET
I like that too.

ROVER
Though it does sound vaguely familiar ...

Juliet smiles, slightly.

ROVER (cont'd)
Well ... 'Night, Juliet.

JULIET
Good night, Rover.

Rover leaves. A single tear drop falls from Juliet's eye.

INT. VILLA

Rover meets up with Mercury and Benny.

MERCURY
Where have you been?! The fireworks are just about to begin.

ROVER
You know, Merc', I don't think this is such a good idea after all. I mean, maybe The Cat-Pulets aren't so bad ...

MERCURY
Are you nuts? We're finally going to give these stuck up house-fluffers what they deserve.

Mercury jumps onto a chair.

MERCURY (cont'd)
Listen up, animals of Verona! It's time for tonight's entertainment, courtesy of the three muske-skunks. Hit it, Benny!

Benny pushes down on a GIANT BOMB PLUNGER, setting off the fireworks and bottle rockets. It is chaos as the animals panic and try to flee. In the confusion, Rover finds Juliet. He pulls off his mask.

ROVER
Juliet, I'm sorry. I tried to stop them. I really did.

JULIET
I believe you, Rover. But you better leave before my family gets their hands on you.

Rover and Juliet desperately want to kiss before parting, but can't.

As Rover flees the mayhem, Tyger spots him.

TYGER
I knew it! The Mongrels!

As Tyger starts to go after Rover, Lord Cat-pulet stops him.

LORD CAT-PULET

Wait. Now's not the time for revenge.
Help calm our guests. You'll get that
little doggie soon enough.

EXT. ABOVE VERONA

Flyer, still in his peacock uniform, is struggling to fly home with all his long tail feathers.

FLYER

Would you look at this? How you supposed
to fly with tail feathers like this?

When one of his elongated wings hits a tree branch, Flyer plummets to the earth.

FLYER (cont'd)

WHOA!

And he falls with a tremendous splash in a bird bath. He ends up completely drenched.

FLYER (cont'd)

It's hard being beautiful.

Dragging himself out of the bird bath, Flyer finds he has peacock feathers sticking out in every direction.

Starting to pluck them out left and right, he notices Rover moping in the shadows by the cathedral.

FLYER (cont'd)

Hey there, Rover. What's the matter?

ROVER

Oh, Flyer, it's terrible!

FLYER

What?

ROVER

I'm in love! At least I think I'm in
love.

FLYER

But Rover that's wonderful! You've
wanted to be in love forever!

ROVER

I know, I know, but ...

FLYER

But what?

ROVER

... it's with a ... Cat-Pulet!

FLYER
You mean Juliet?

ROVER
Yes!

FLYER
(Confused)
And that's a problem?

ROVER
Flyer! She's a cat!

FLYER
So?

ROVER
And I'm a dog!

Flyer gives Rover a perplexed look.

ROVER (cont'd)
Can't you see? I don't think the world
is ready for a dog-cat relationship.

FLYER
The world? Rover, since when have you
ever worried about what the world thinks,
huh?

Flyer looks at Rover, but the dog lowers his eyes.

FLYER (cont'd)
This is more about what you think, isn't
it?

ROVER
I'm just so confused. I don't know if I
should ... I don't even know if I could
... Do you know any dog who would ...?

FLYER
Love a cat?

ROVER
Yeah.

Rover shakes his head and walks away from Flyer dejected.

FLYER
Rover ...

ROVER
What?

Flyer finally has his entire costume off and flies over and
lands in front Rover.

FLYER
Rover!

ROVER
What?

FLYER
Let me ask you something. When you look at me, what do you see?

ROVER
What do you mean, what do I see? I see you. Flyer.

FLYER
And do you see that I'm a bat?

ROVER
Of course, I see that you're a bat.

FLYER
So then why aren't you ...

Flyer bares his pathetically short fangs, not looking even remotely frightening ...

FLYER
... afraid of me, huh?

ROVER
Why would I ever be afraid of you?

FLYER
Because a lot of creatures think I'm scary.

ROVER
They do?

FLYER
Oh yeah, they don't even like me being around.

Flyer takes a hop toward a couple of squirrels, who immediately scam in opposite directions.

FLYER
See what I mean? Without that peacock costume I would never have gotten in to the animal ball tonight.

ROVER
But why are they afraid of you?

FLYER
I don't know. Maybe ...

Flyer flies under a dark awning and hangs upside down.

FLYER
... it's because we like hanging upside
down in the dark.

ROVER
What's scary about that?

FLYER
Beats me.

Flyer comes back down to Rover now.

FLYER
Maybe they think we carry germs or
something, or we're sneaky because we fly
so quiet. Did you know that some
creatures even think we're evil?

ROVER
Evil?

FLYER
Oh yeah. Four hundred years from now
they're going to be making all these
movies about bats who turn into vampires
and bite people's necks and say ...

Flyer does his best Bela Lugosi.

FLYER (cont'd)
"I want to suck your blood."

ROVER
But that's ridiculous! You don't want to
suck anybody's blood. You're not a
vampire! And you don't carry germs
either. You're the cleanest, most honest
creature in Verona. How could anybody
think that you are scary?

FLYER
I don't know, but somehow they do.

ROVER
Well, that's crazy!

Flyer touches Rover's paw with his wing.

FLYER
Rover, it's easy for you to see that it's
crazy when it's between bats and other
animals. But can you see that it's crazy
also when its between cats and dogs?

Rover looks into the sky as if he's been struck by
lightening.

ROVER
My goodness, you're right. It doesn't
matter if we're different. What matters
is ... is ...

FLYER
What's in your hearts.

Rover looks back at Flyer.

ROVER
Well, I know what's in mine.

FLYER
I guess there's only one thing left to
find out then, isn't there?

ROVER
Yes, absolutely! Thank you, Flyer!
Thank you!

Rover sets of down the street at a full sprint. Flyer
watches him go happily.

FLYER
'Atta boy.

INT. JULIET'S BEDROOM

Doc is helping Juliet slip out of her polar bear costume when
she begins to notice that Juliet seems very depressed about
something.

DOC
Are you all right, Juliet? You haven't
said a word since the party.

But it is as if Juliet is in a dream.

JULIET
I'm sorry. What did you say, Rover?

DOC
Rover!

JULIET
I'm sorry, did I say Rover?

DOC
Yes, you did. I've been called a lot of
things in my day, but Rover isn't one of
them. Juliet ...

Doc lifts Juliet's chin.

DOC
Have you been rubbing whiskers with with
one of the canine persuasion?

Juliet hides her eyes from Doc, but she knows there's no use trying to hide the truth from her.

JULIET

Yes, I have. I met him at the party. We talked. We danced. But in the end ...

(starting to cry)

Oh Rover, Rover, wherefore art thou Rover!

Doc takes a tissue from the vanity table and dries Juliet's eyes.

JULIET

Oh Doc, you won't tell anyone, will you?

DOC

Of course not. We love kittens got to stick together. Just don't let Tyger find out.

At that moment A LONELY HOWL is heard outside the house. Juliet crosses to the window and looks down into the street.

JULIET

It's Rover!

DOC

Rover?

JULIET

Oh my goodness!

DOC

Hey, he's kind of cute.

JULIET

You think so?

DOC

Well, for a dog ...

JULIET

Oh, Doc, what am I going to do?

DOC

Go out and talk to him.

JULIET

Talk to him? What do I say?

DOC

Say, "Hey ya big boy, why don't you come up and see me some time?"

JULIET

I can't say that!

DOC

Then just be yourself. You'll be fine.

Juliet opens the window and slips out on the balcony. Rover clears his throat and begins to speak.

ROVER

But soft! What light from over yonder comes and breaks my window.

JULIET

What?

ROVER

That's not right. I mean what yonder broke my light ... I mean my window ...

JULIET

Rover, what are you saying?

ROVER

I'm saying ...

He looks up at her suddenly full of confidence.

ROVER

I'm saying that I love you.

JULIET

What?

ROVER

I love you, Juliet. And I want to know if you love me too. Because if you do, then all the differences between us will mean nothing.

JULIET

Oh Rover, I do love you. Very much.

Rover suddenly flies into a series of back flips. Juliet laughs delightedly.

JULIET

Come to me, Rover.

ROVER

Come to you?

JULIET

Jump up here.

ROVER

I can't jump up there.

JULIET

Why not?

ROVER
Because I can't jump that high. I'm a
dog, remember?

JULIET
Oh. So what do we do?

ROVER
You're going to have to come down here.

JULIET
But I can't do that.

ROVER
Why not?

JULIET
Because I've never been out of the house
before.

ROVER
You've never seen Verona? The most
beautiful town in the world?

JULIET
No.

ROVER
Then come with me Juliet, and I will show
it to you, and you will have the most
wonderful night of your life.

Juliet looks at Doc questioningly.

JULIET
Doc?

DOC
Just don't do anything I wouldn't do.

JULIET
But there isn't anything you wouldn't do.

Doc smiles mischievously.

DOC
Exactly.

Taking one last look into her bedroom, Juliet turns and
dashes off the balcony. She leaps high into the air and
lands right beside Rover. After looking dreamily into his
eyes, Juliet finally shrugs shyly.

JULIET
Verona, remember?

ROVER
Oh yes ... Verona. And what would you
like to see first?

JULIET

All of it. I want to see all of it.

And with that the happy couple darts off into the city, paw in paw. Flyer, who has been observing the young lovers from a tree limb, flaps behind them.

EXT. VERONA STREETS - NIGHT

A moment later, Rover and Juliet are SWINGING AROUND LAMP POSTS and DANCING IN THE STREETS. Juliet is, of course, fascinated by everything she sees, but especially by the orbs of light and the oranges and other round fruits she sees through a market's window.

Overcome with chivalry, Rover sneaks in the back door of the market and returns a minute later with a couple of nectarines that he's pawed.

ROVER

Where to next?

JULIET

(Pointing to the fruit)
Throw it.

ROVER

What?

JULIET

Throw it!

Rover FLINGS the nectarine down the street. Juliet points in the direction it has gone.

JULIET (cont'd)

I want to go there!

EXT. VERONA STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Rover and Juliet have caught up with the rolling fruit. Laughing and giggling, they kick it on further ... straight down the sidewalk and into the opera house.

Outside the front door, Rover and Juliet dodge the legs of people entering the opera house. Slowly a DEVILISH GRIN spreads across Juliet's face and she bolts into the opera house after the nectarine. Rover is right behind her!

INT. OPERA HOUSE

The nectarine is being inadvertently kicked around the front lobby. Before Rover and Juliet can catch up to it though, it is kicked down a back hallway toward a dressing room.

INT. DRESSING ROOM

Rover and Juliet tear after the bouncing nectarine only to become accidentally entangled in TWO ELABORATE COSTUMES.

INT. BACKSTAGE AT THE OPERA

The nectarine continues to roll just out of reach of Rover and Juliet who have now come to be wearing the elaborate costumes!

INT. THE OPERA HOUSE STAGE

Finally the nectarine comes to rest ... downstage center!
A second later Rover and Juliet catch up to it there. Then the lights go down. A HUSH falls over the audience.

The CONDUCTOR taps his baton and clears his throat. All eyes fall on Rover and Juliet, who look at one another.

JULIET

What are we supposed to do now?

ROVER

Sing, I think.

JULIET

Sing what?

CONDUCTOR

(Whispering)

Your first line is "Figaro."

JULIET

Figaro?

Suddenly the orchestra springs to life. Beautiful music fills the chamber. But Rover and Juliet struggle to sing operatically.

ROVER

Figaro! Figaro!

JULIET

Figaro!

Suddenly, two underwear clad opera singers appear onstage and begin chasing Rover and Juliet around.

EXT. BOTANICAL GARDEN - SECONDS LATER

Finally making it back outside the opera house, Rover jumps into a flowerbed and begins picking roses and daisies left and right. Soon he has made a gigantic bouquet, which he presents proudly to Juliet. As Rover and Juliet come out of the garden, a delightful smell wafts by and tempts their noses.

EXT. BAKERY

Following the smell down the street, they come to "Domino's Bakery." Peering in the front window, they see a young APPRENTICE taking loaves of bread from the oven.

INT. BAKERY

Unable to resist the smell of the fresh-baked bread, Rover and Juliet sneak into the bakery and creep nearer and nearer the bread.

But then Rover accidentally swats a pepper shaker with his tail, making the Apprentice sneeze. The just risen loaves of bread fall as flat as pancakes. The baker, SENOR DOMINO, becomes incensed and swats the Apprentice with his hat.

A chase around the bakery begins, where the TOMATO and MOZZARELLA, which the baker was eating for supper, end up being spread on the FLATTENED LOAVES OF BREAD.

Just as Senor Domino has the Apprentice cornered, he smells the PIE SHAPED CREATION on top of the stove.

Suddenly he has an idea and cuts the pie into TRIANGULAR PIECES. After smelling one curiously, he plops it in his mouth.

SENOR DOMINO
Hey, that's pretty good!

As Senor Domino chomps down another bite, the Apprentice flattens out a bread box, making the first pizza box.

APPRENTICE
Wait a second, I got it! We'll deliver!

SENOR DOMINO
We'll call it Domino's!

In their joy of their new discovery, they don't notice how Rover creeps up to the stove ... and swipes the first pizza in the history of the world!

On the way out the door, Juliet snatches the Apprentice's bottle of milk, too!

EXT. RIVER - MOMENTS LATER

Rover and Juliet are riding in a gondola down the river, eating the pizza and drinking the milk and being serenaded by a quartet of string-playing crickets.

ROVER
It would go great with a little pepperoni, wouldn't you say?

JULIET
I think I'd prefer anchovies.

When they come to an arched bridge, Rover takes Juliet's paw and they're off again.

ROVER
Come on!

EXT. VERONA STREETS - LATER

Rover and Juliet continue their happy romp through town. Soon, they come to the Arena. Rover runs right through the front door.

JULIET
What is this?

ROVER
It's the Arena!

EXT. INSIDE THE ARENA

Rover and Juliet scamper up to the emperor's box and look at the Roman ruins around them.

ROVER
Can you imagine what it was like back then?

Suddenly, magically, the Arena is transformed into its classical glory!

TOGA-CLAD SPECTATORS are doing "the wave". GLADIATORS prepare to fight EXOTIC BEASTS. A wreathed sports announcer looking an awful lot like Marv Albert does the play by play. In an instant, a WOOLY MAMMOTH charges at a gladiator in the center of the ring. The gladiator is ROVER!

Rover, however is too enamored of Juliet and doesn't notice the tusked beast bearing down on him. Juliet meows ...!

Just in time! Rover leaps to the side, using a toga as a matador uses a cape. Within seconds, Rover has brought the beast to the ground, and has wrapped its trunk around its feet like a cowboy ropes a calf. Juliet tosses roses to Rover, who picks them up with his teeth.

EXT. HILLS ABOVE VERONA - DAYBREAK

An instant later, Rover and Juliet are dashing for the hills. It's all Flyer can do to keep up with them.

EXT. TOP OF THE HILL - SUNRISE

Rover and Juliet sit side by side with all of Verona below them. The sun is just coming up. They look deep into one another's eyes ...

Just as they begin to move closer to one another, Flyer comes to the top of the hill and is hit by direct sunlight. This knocks his RADAR all out of whack and he promptly crashes into a CHICKEN COOP getting egg all over himself.

Back on the top of the hill, meanwhile, all the other animals (except dogs and cats of course) have gathered around to see Rover and Juliet move CLOSER and CLOSER.

When the young lovers kiss, it is like all of Italy sighs with them.

Just seconds later, Flyer gets to the scene.

FLYER

Darn, I missed the best part.

Rover and Juliet look at him and then back at one another. When they kiss again, Flyer literally shivers with happiness. Then they turn, paw in paw, and watch the sunlight continue to spread over Verona.

EXT. STREET - EARLY MORNING

Verona still sleeps as Rover and Juliet return home from their adventure. When they reach The Cat-Pulets' villa, the two young lovers stop at its gates and look at each other, longingly.

ROVER

Well ... Here we are.

JULIET

(Sighing)

Home.

ROVER

Last night was amazing.

JULIET

I'll never forget it as long as I live.

ROVER

I won't either.

Juliet starts under the gate.

JULIET

I just wish ...

ROVER

Yeah?

JULIET

I just wish we could do this every night.

ROVER

And every day, too.

JULIET

But if our families ever found out ...

ROVER

We'd never get to see each other again.

The lovers tremble merely at the thought.

JULIET
This feud is so dumb! I mean, cats and dogs aren't so different.

ROVER
We both walk on four legs ...

JULIET
We both have tails ...

ROVER
We both fall in love.

JULIET
(Smiling)
Yeah ... We both do, don't we.

ROVER
You know, maybe there is a way we can be together and stop our two families from fighting.

JULIET
But how?

ROVER
Come with me. To the cathedral!

EXT. CATHEDRAL

A glorious renaissance church in the heart of Verona. THE CAMERA TRACKS UP the facade of the cathedral right into its bell tower.

INT. BELFRY

Flyer hangs upside down from the rafters, reading 'How to Win Friends and Influence Animals.' Rover and Juliet stand below.

FLYER
(Throwing down his book)
You want me to WHAT?

ROVER
I want you to marry us.

FLYER
Don't you think you're moving just a little fast?

ROVER
It's the only way, Flyer. Romeo told me that he and the girl Juliet were going to be married in the church ...

FLYER
They were. The Friar performed the ceremony. It was a small but lovely affair.

ROVER

Romeo also said that getting married would help end the feud between their two families.

FLYER

I gotta hand it to the boy, he's sharp.

Rover and Juliet look up at Flyer, knowingly.

FLYER (cont'd)

Oh ... I get it. You think you two could do the same for cats and dogs.

The lovers smile and nod.

FLYER (cont'd)

Maybe, but I'm not a friar. I'm just a bat who lives in the belfry. That's what bats do.

ROVER

Please, Flyer. If it weren't for you, Juliet and I wouldn't even be together. All you have to do is say a few words. Nothing fancy.

FLYER

I don't know ...

Juliet notices the title of Flyer's book and gets an idea.

JULIET

Come on, Rover. Let's go home. He's just an old, scary-looking bat.

FLYER

Now wait a second, young lady.

JULIET

It's not like he wants to help end the feud between cats and dogs. I mean then everybody would like him. Nobody would be afraid of him anymore.

Juliet's reverse-psychology works. Flyer swoops down from the ceiling and stops them.

FLYER

I guess I could say a few words. I have watched enough weddings in my day.

Rover and Juliet smile.

FLYER

Come. Gather close.

Flyer hovers in front of the couple.

FLYER
Do you, Rover, take Juliet to be your wife?

ROVER
You bet I do!

FLYER
And do you, Juliet, take Rover to be your husband?

JULIET
Yes. I do.

FLYER
Then by the power you have vested in me, I now pronounce you ... cat and dog. You may kiss the kitty.

They kiss. As if on cue, the CHURCH BELLS begin to ring!

EXT. CATHEDRAL - MORNING

Rover and Juliet climb out the window and onto the street. Suddenly, RICE begins to fall on their heads. They both look up and find Flyer clutching a bag.

FLYER
What's a wedding without rice?

They smile and wave. Rover notices the people on the street.

ROVER
Wow, I better get you home.

JULIET
No, Rover. We better split up. At least until we tell our families the news.

ROVER
Then we can be together whenever we want.

JULIET
I can't wait!

ROVER
I'll meet you back at your house with the rest of The Mongrels. I think we should tell everyone together.

JULIET
I agree. Farewell, Rover. Parting is such sweet sorrow.

ROVER
Hey, that's kinda nice ...

They sneak a final kiss and Juliet dashes off. Rover is left with a huge smile on his face.

EXT. PIAZZA - MORNING

Once again, the market place is bustling with people.

INT. UNDER THE WATCHMAKER'S KIOSK

Benny, Mercury and Big Daddy wait impatiently. Benny snatches one of the watchmaker's watches and checks the time.

BENNY

Where do you think Rover is?

MERCURY

Don't ask me. But he was acting pretty strange at the party last night.

BIG DADDY

Speaking of The Cat-Pulet's party, I heard what you boys did.

BENNY

You should have seen it, Big Daddy. It was great!

BIG DADDY

No, Benny, it was stupid. Now all of the other animals probably hate us as much as the cats do. You pups need to pick your fights more carefully.

MERCURY

But Big Daddy, those cats -

Big Daddy rises over Mercury.

MERCURY

Sorry, Big Daddy. We'll be more careful. I promise.

Rover finally arrives.

BIG DADDY

And where have you been? You're late.

ROVER

I ... I ... I ...

Big Daddy waits for an explanation.

ROVER

Overslept?

BENNY

(Whispering)
Good answer.

BIG DADDY

Because of your failure to pull off the butcher heist, Rover, The Mongrels went
(MORE)

BIG DADDY (cont'd)
 hungry. That's not going to happen
 again ...
 (Looming over Rover)
Is it?

ROVER
 No, Big Daddy.

BIG DADDY
 Today I'm sending you three on a mission
 even the dumbest dogs could do.

EXT. BALCONY OVERLOOKING THE PIAZZA

Tyger and his henchcats watch as The Mongrels sneak across
 the marketplace. Tyger wears a gold WHISTLE around his neck.

TYGER
 Well if it isn't our little friends the
 skunks ...

SHAKE
 Something is smelly in The State of
 Denmark.

TYGER
 We're in Verona, you idiot!

SPEARE
 Et tu, Ty-gre?

Tyger WHACKS them both across the head.

TYGER
 SHUT UP! I have a plan to insure every
 mongrel in Verona thinks twice before
 messing with The Cat-Pulets again.

EXT. BEHIND THE MEAT STAND

The dogs pick through the scraps. Mercury finds a T-Bone.

MERCURY
 Look at this beauty!

ROVER
 I better find one, too. I need to be on
 Big Daddy's good side today.

BENNY
 What's so special about today?

ROVER
 I have something important to tell the
 family.

MERCURY
 Oh yeah? So tell us.

ROVER

Well ...

Rover decides if he wants to spill the beans.

TYGER (O.S.)

Yes. Tell us, Rover.

The dogs look up and find the cats right behind them.

TYGER

Tell us all what's so important.

MERCURY

So I see you brought your goons this time.

SHAKE

Goons?

SPEARE

He is a dog of most infinite jest.

Tyger hisses at Shake and Speare. Then he approaches Mercury.

TYGER

I have some unfinished business with you Mongrels. A little payback for crashing our party.

Rover gets between Tyger and Mercury.

ROVER

Listen, we're all very sorry about what we did, Tyger.

MERCURY

What are you doing, Rover? These fluffballs don't deserve an apology. They deserve a nice bite on the behind.

ROVER

No, Mercury. Fighting isn't the answer.

MERCURY

Oh yeah? Then what is?

Everyone looks at Rover.

ROVER

Love.

The cats and dogs break out in hysterics.

TYGER

This little doggie's nuts!

Benny steps forward and joins Rover.

BENNY
Maybe Rover's right.

MERCURY
Benny!

BENNY
I don't like fighting, Merc'. It's really stupid. And for me, that's saying a lot.

TYGER
Looks like The Mongrels aren't so tough after all.

Mercury sticks his face up to Tyger's.

MERCURY
Just try me, Pussy.

BENNY
Remember what Big Daddy said, Merc'. We have to choose our fights more carefully.

ROVER
He's right, Merc'. Just take the bone and walk away.

TYGER
What's it going to be? Are you a dog ... or a chicken?

Mercury is ready to attack, but surprisingly, he steps back.

MERCURY
You ain't worth it, Tyger.

Mercury turns around and starts to walk away when suddenly TYGER POUNCES ON HIM, running his razor sharp claws down Mercury's back. He draws blood.

ROVER
Why you ...!

The henchcats grab Rover and Benny. Tyger has Mercury on his back while he continues to claw him.

Rover can't stand to watch his friend being hurt. With all of his might, he shoves the henchcats to the ground and jumps on top of Tyger, pulling him off of Mercury. Rover gets Tyger pinned down. He opens his jaws, ready to bite the vicious cat.

ROVER (cont'd)
I don't want to have to bite you, Tyger!

TYGER
Believe me, you're not going to get the chance!

Tyger BLOWS on his gold whistle. At first, Rover doesn't understand why. Then the sound of a horse approaching fast is heard. Rover looks up and sees ...

... THE DOG CATCHER, his silver net in the air. Before Rover can run away, the net swoops down and scoops him up. The Dog Catcher holds Rover to his face.

DOG CATCHER
Gotcha, Mongrel! I told you I would.
Fortunately, someone left me this
anonymous note ...

Rover sees the note. Written sloppily, it reads, 'IF YOU WANT TO FIND THE MONGRELS IN THE PIAZZA, JUST LISTEN FOR THE WHISTLE.'

Rover looks down at Tyger grinning. He holds up his paws. It is covered in BLACK INK. The gold whistle is still in his mouth. The Dog Catcher gallops off with Rover. Benny and Mercury can only watch helplessly as their friend is taken away.

INT. DOG POUND

The place is jam-packed with stray dogs. When The Dog Catcher attempts to shove Rover into one of the already crowded cages, the frightened pup pops right out. The Dog Catcher grabs Rover by a tuft of fur and holds him up to his face.

DOG CATCHER
Well, it looks like it's your lucky day,
poochy. No room at the pound.

The Dog Catcher brings Rover close.

DOG CATCHER (cont'd)
Now what shall I do with you, hmm? I
hear in some countries, little doggies
are a delicacy.

Rover shivers in terror.

DOG CATCHER (cont'd)
No. You're too small to cook. I have a
better idea.

EXT. ALLEY

The Mongrels gather around Mama Mongrel as she licks Mercury's wounds.

BIG DADDY MONGREL
What the Cat-Pulets did today is an act
of war! From this day forth, let no
feline feel safe in Verona. The Mongrels
are fighting back!

INT. VILLA

The Cat-Pulets gather in the living room. Lady Cat-Pulet licks Tyger's wounds.

LORD CAT-PULET

What the Mongrels did today is an act of war! From this day forth, let no canine feel safe in Verona.

TYGER

Don't worry, father. The Dog Catcher took care of the Mongrel that attacked me.

JULIET

(Concerned)

What was the name of the dog?

TYGER

Rover. How cliché.

Juliet is in shock. She turns to Doc.

JULIET

(Whispering)

I can't believe Rover would do something like that.

LORD CAT-PULET

Our mortal enemy has always been the dog. And now you can see why. It's time The Cat-Pulets fought back!

The Cat-Pulets meow in agreement, then follow Lord Cat-Pulet out of the room. As Juliet is leaving, she overhears Tyger and his henchcats.

TYGER

It was pretty clever how I made it look like Rover attacked me just as the dog catcher came by.

Tyger laughs devilishly. Juliet now knows the truth.

INT. BEDROOM

Juliet runs in and grabs Doc.

JULIET

Doc, Tyger set Rover up! My husband is innocent! Go to the pound and tell Rover I know the truth and that I still love him. I just hope he's all right ...

EXT. GATES OF VERONA - NIGHT

The Dog Catcher rides just outside the city and drops Rover on a dirt road.

DOG CATCHER

Hit the road, mutt. You're banished!
And if I ever see your grubby little face
again, you'll be meat for my meatballs.
NOW BEAT IT!

Rover starts down the road. The Dog Catcher rides back into the city. The gates slam shut behind him. Rover stops and turns around.

ROVER

I'm not going anywhere without seeing
Juliet one last time ...

EXT. JUST INSIDE CITY WALLS - HOURS LATER

A furious scratching is heard beneath the earth. After a moment Rover pokes his head out. He's burrowed his way under the wall and comes out completely covered in mud. He's even got dirt in his mouth.

ROVER

Patooie! Yeeech!

He looks up at the high wall towering above him.

ROVER (cont'd)

Man, I need to learn to jump.

Shaking himself off as best he can, Rover starts off for the Cat-Pulets', but no sooner is he on the road than he sees a BLACK HORSE APPROACHING AT A THUNDERING PACE.

ROVER (cont'd)

Oh no! The Dog-Catcher!

Rover leaps from the road and buries himself in a pile of leaves, only to discover that the horse is being ridden by a cute little boy. Getting up cautiously, Rover slinks from lamp post to lamp post completely covered in leaves. It looks as though he's been tarred and feathered.

EXT. STREETS OF VERONA - LATER

Nearing the piazza, Rover turns a corner and heads down a street leading to the Cat-Pulets'. Again, we hear a horse approaching. This time it is the Dog Catcher, but Rover has hidden himself in the shadows.

The Dog Catcher is more menacing than ever, now wielding a whip and striking at any animal in the street.

DOG-CATCHER

Yee-ah! Yee-ah!

The Rats, who are having supper in the alley, are nearly lashed by the whip. After the Dog Catcher is gone, they return to their meal. Rover listens in.

FIRST RAT
Hey, what's up with Igor?

SECOND RAT
Ah, he's mad about pulling a double shift. Ever since that dumb mutt started the riot in the square.

FIRST RAT
You mean Rover?

SECOND RAT
That's his name. You should have heard the Cat-Pulets cursing him when I was up there stealing this cheese. Every one of them! That mutt better not go anywhere near that place, let me tell you.
(Gesturing to his plate)
Rougefort?

FIRST RAT
Why thank you.

Rover walks away from the rats dejected. Finding a puddle of water, he looks at his reflection.

ROVER
(To himself)
Every one of the Cat-Pulets! Do you think ... Juliet could hate me too?

Rover looks up at the Cat-Pulets' house and ponders for a second. Then he turns and runs down the street in the opposite direction.

EXT. VERONA STREET - LATER

Doc is walking down the street muttering to herself.

DOC
Can you imagine? A cat on the way to the pound? Just think what this will do to my reputation?

When she turns the corner, Doc sees Rover sprinting down the street still partially covered in leaves.

DOC
(To herself)
Rover?! Where you off to in such a hurry?

Doc looks down a hill and can see that Rover is heading straight for the cathedral. Sighing, she sets off after him.

DOC
From the pound to the church. Talk about out of your element!

INT. BELFRY

Flyer stands before a mirror combing his hair with dippity-do hair gel.

FLYER
 Maybe if I part it on the side, nobody
 will think I'm so ...

Suddenly, Rover enters the church window and leaps into the belfry.

ROVER
 (Panting)
 Flyer? Where are you Flyer?

Flyer hides his hair gel and tries to flatten down his hair.

FLYER
 I'm right here. What's wrong?

ROVER
 I've been vanished!

FLYER
 Vanished? What do you mean?

ROVER
 Like from Verona.

FLYER
 Oh you mean "banished".

ROVER
 Exactly.

FLYER
 Why?

ROVER
 Because I got in a fight with Tyger, only
 it wasn't my fault, but then the dog
 catcher came, and he thought it was my
 fault, but it wasn't, I swear. I swear!

FLYER
 Rover, you shouldn't swear in church -

ROVER
 And now all the Cat-pulets hate me, even
 Juliet! What am I going to do, Flyer?
 What am I ever going to do?

Rover collapses in tears on the floor of the belfry. Flyer looks down on him with irritation.

FLYER
 Come on, get up!

ROVER
I can't. Can't you see? My life is
over. Oh, woe is me!

Flyer decides to try a little reverse psychology.

FLYER
Why you're nothing but a hound dog,
crying all the time.

Rover looks up at Flyer, slightly indignant.

ROVER
A hound dog?

FLYER
There's always hope, Rover. No matter
how bleak things look. You just got to
get up and keep trying.

ROVER
But what hope can there be for me now?

At that instant Doc appears at the window above Rover and
Flyer. She postures herself like a nightclub performer from
the 1940's.

DOC
Hey ya big boys. Why you look so glum?

ROVER
Doc!

Rover leaps to his feet and rushes to the stairs below Doc.
As he starts to scramble up, Doc yells sharply.

DOC
Rover, stay where you are!

Rover freezes and looks up at Doc confused.

DOC
You're ruining my big entrance.

And with that, Doc saunters down the steps with her tail
wrapped about her shoulders like a mink stole.

DOC
I bring word from my lady.

ROVER
What oh what, tell me please! Does she
hate me? Does she never want to see me
again? Tell me, please, I have to know.

DOC
Tell me something, do all dogs drool like
that?

It's all Rover can do to keep from ringing Doc's neck.

ROVER
TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT JULIET!

DOC
Ah quit your yelping. She loves you
still.

ROVER
(ecstatic)
She does?

DOC
And she knows Tyger had you set up.

ROVER
She does?

DOC
And she wants to see you as soon she can.

ROVER
She does?

DOC
She does.

Rover scrambles toward the open window.

ROVER
Then I'm going now!

DOC
Just a second!

Rover pauses at the window.

ROVER
What?

DOC
You aren't going to go looking like that
are you? For a golden retriever you're
looking a little tarnished.

ROVER
Don't you worry, Doc. Don't you worry.

Rover heads out of the belfry completely excited.

EXT. BENEATH JULIET THE GIRL'S BALCONY - NIGHT

Rover approaches the balcony thoroughly cleaned. He seems to be on top of the world, until he remembers how high the balcony is.

Seeing no other choice, he takes a few steps back and charges

toward the balcony. A few feet from the wall he makes a tremendous leap ... but only makes it about half way up and crashes back down to the ground.

ROVER

Now what am I going to do?

Truly starting to become dejected, Rover's spirits change when he sees ROMEO APPROACH CARRYING A LADDER.

Romeo places the ladder against the balcony and begins to go up but then thinks of something and goes back down. Then he begins to look for something in the garden.

Rover takes advantage of the opportunity and scampers right up the ladder. He is just about to steal into Juliet's chamber when he turns and discovers Romeo picking flowers for Juliet the Girl in the garden.

Feeling like he needs to do the same for his Juliet, Rover goes back down the ladder. Down in the garden, Romeo sees Rover.

ROMEO

Oh loyal pooch. Have you a fair maiden of your own? Perchance a beagle? A collie? And must you stake your very life just to set eyes upon her? I think not. How much simpler it would be to be a lowly dog!

Romeo scratches Rover behind the ears and heads back to the ladder with his bouquet. Once Romeo has gotten off the top, Rover scrambles up behind him.

Just as both Romeo and Rover are about to enter their respective entrances on the balcony, they are simultaneously overcome with a teenager's sense of insecurity.

Completely unaware that the other is doing the same thing at the same time, both the dog and the boy look at their reflections in the window and fix their hair.

Then they flex their biceps and blow into their hand/paw to check for bad breath. Finally convinced that all is in order, the lovers puff up their chests and make their dashing romantic entrances.

INT. JULIET THE GIRL'S BEDROOM

Both Juliet and Juliet the Girl are primping themselves as the door to the balcony opens. The male lovers swagger in. Juliet sees Rover ... Juliet the Girl sees Romeo ... Both sets of lovers jump into each other's arms!

INT. JULIET THE GIRL'S BEDROOM - DAYBREAK

Romeo and Juliet the Girl lay in one another's arms on the love seat. Meanwhile, underneath the bed, Rover and Juliet do exactly the same thing.

After a moment, we hear A BIRD CALL.

ROVER AND JULIET'S POV

Romeo's legs come off the bed and move to the window. A moment later we hear the CURTAINS TORN OPEN and the room fills with light.

UNDER THE BED

Rover looks at Juliet, panicked at how late it's gotten. Pecking her on the cheek he gets up to go. Juliet grabs him desperately just as ...

JULIET THE GIRL (O.S.)
Wilt thou be gone? It is not yet day.

Juliet squeezes Rover so tightly he begins to turn blue! It's like she's put a VICE around his neck ...

ROMEO (O.S.)
I must be gone and live ...

Finally he breaks through Juliet's clutches and catapults across the room, knocking over an expensive lamp!

ROMEO (O.S.)
... or stay and die.

ABOVE ...

Romeo and Juliet the Girl are so enamored of one another that they haven't noticed the lamp crash to the ground.

BELOW ...

Juliet has pounced on Rover again. He points out the window desperately to the rising sun ...

ROMEO (O.S.)
'Tis the morn. Look love ...

Juliet shakes her head and closes her eyes, childishly refusing to acknowledge the morning.

JULIET THE GIRL (O.S.)
Yond light is not day-light.

Suddenly, Juliet radically shifts tactics, lifting up the blanket and casting a FLIRTATIOUS LOOK Rover's way.

JULIET THE GIRL (O.S.)
Therefore stay yet, - thou need'st not to be gone.

This is too much for Rover to resist and he dives under the covers to be with Juliet.

ROMEO (O.S.)
 Let me be put to death! Juliet wills it
 so. It is not day.

Suddenly Juliet is FRANTIC to get Rover out of the bedroom.
 Only now Rover clings to Juliet!

JULIET THE GIRL (O.S.)
 It is, it is, - hie hence be gone, away!

She pushes Rover toward the window RIPPING up the bedsheets,
 KNOCKING over the vanity table, and SMASHING the chest of
 drawers.

In addition, the canopy from the bed has gotten caught on the
 chandelier ...

Romeo and Juliet The Girl, meanwhile, still have ABSOLUTELY
 NO IDEA the room is being literally DEMOLISHED!

JULIET THE GIRL (O.S.)
 ... O, now be gone; more light and light
 it grows.

The Nurse and Doc enter simultaneously. Doc stares at the
 destruction around her.

NURSE (O.S.)
 Your lady mother is coming to your
 chamber: The day is broke;

DOC
 (to herself)
 So's the lamp ...

NURSE (O.S.)
 Be wary! Look about!

The chandelier crashes to the ground! ... narrowly missing
 all of the lovers, who are STILL oblivious to the room being
 destroyed. They can only look deeply into one another's
 eyes ...

Finally, dramatically, Juliet the Girl opens the window.

JULIET THE GIRL
 Then window, let day in, and let life
 out.

ROMEO
 Farewell, farewell! One kiss and I'll
 descend.

Both pairs of lovers kiss simultaneously. Then Rover and
 Romeo head out the window and disappear into the street.
 Juliet and Juliet the Girl watch them go sadly. Finally,
 Juliet the Girl notices that Juliet is there.

JULIET THE GIRL

Oh Kitty Juliet, alack the day! Have you a dashing prince far hence? Some Siamese cat? Some Noble Persian? It must be so much simpler to be a cat.

Both crying now, Juliet and Juliet the girl comfort one another.

EXT. FARM IN MANTUA - ONE WEEK LATER

Rover has breakfast with the pigs at their trough.

ROVER

I don't know how you fellas eat this slop.

PIG

You get used to it.

ROVER

Those scraps in the piazza are looking pretty good now. Sure wish I was back home ...

(Sighs)
... with Juliet.

The pigs look at Rover sympathetically for a moment, then return to their slop.

INT. BARN

Rover walks inside and finds the barn empty. Confused, he BARKS.

ROVER

Romeo? Where are ya, Romeo?

Rover then finds Romeo's red feathered cap. His human friend is gone.

INT. JULIET'S ROOM

Juliet curls up by the window, looking out at the falling rain. She is still quite sad. Doc saunters in.

DOC

Are you planing on being miserable forever?

JULIET

I miss him, Doc. I miss him more and more each day. And to make matters worse, Juliet's gone too. I haven't seen her for days.

DOC

You know how humans get when they're in love. They can't think about anything else.

JULIET

I'm starting to understand why.

DOC

You gotta snap out of this, kid. Your folks are real worried about you. I heard they're even going to ...

JULIET

They're going to what, Doc?

DOC

They're going to ask ...

Just then, Lord and Lady Cat-Pulet enter, followed by Vienna, the snobby Viennese cat from the party.

DOC

... Vienna to marry you.

Vienna bows before Juliet and kisses her paw.

VIENNA

Juliet, how purr-fect you look!

Alarmed, Juliet looks at Doc.

JULIET

Oh no ...!

EXT. FARM IN MANTUA - NIGHT

Rover lies alone in the fields and HOWLS at the moon.

ROVER

First I lose my girl, then I lose my best friend. Could things get any worse?

As if one cue, it begins to rain. Rover is soaked.

ROVER

They could ...

He bows his head and begins to cry.

FEMALE VOICE

Are you okay?

Rover looks up and finds an adorable FEMALE, GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPY standing by the farmer's house.

ROVER

Well, to be honest ... not really.

FEMALE PUPPY
 Why don't you come inside? The farmer
 just put out some food.

Rover's tempted, but not sure.

FEMALE PUPPY
 (Smiling)
 Come on. I won't bite.

Rover walks out of the fields and follows the cute puppy
 inside.

INT. BELFRY

Flyer is experimenting with different breath sprays when
 Juliet leaps into the the belfry.

JULIET
 Flyer!

FLYER
 What?

JULIET
 You're never going to believe what's
 happened!

FLYER
 What?

JULIET
 My parents want me to get married with
 Vienna.

FLYER
 Well did you try to talk them out of it?

JULIET
 Of course I did. But they wouldn't hear
 it. I can't stand it how they treat me
 like I'm some kind of kitten! Flyer,
 what am I going to do?

FLYER
 I don't know.

Flyer thinks for a moment. Then he shrugs his shoulders.

FLYER
 Well, when in doubt ...

Flyer flies down to the sanctuary below. Juliet leaps down
 after him.

JULIET
 When in doubt what?

Flyer comes across a vial, which contains a potion and sits on the Friar's lectern.

FLYER

When in doubt, do what people do.

JULIET

Do what people do? What did they do?

FLYER

Well, believe it or not, this same situation is happening between Romeo and Juliet.

JULIET

No!

FLYER

Can you imagine? What are the chances? And so when your Juliet came here just a little while ago, Friar Laurence gave her a potion like this which will make it seem like she has died -

JULIET

Died!

FLYER

Don't be afraid. It will only seem that she has died. Really.

Flyer picks up a piece of chalk and begins scrawling on a piece of slate like a coach diagramming a play.

FLYER

She'll just be sleeping. So then she won't have to marry Paris. Because then her parents will think she's dead, see? And who'd want to marry a dead person anyway, right? Is this making any sense?

JULIET

I'm not sure ...

FLYER

Well, let me see if I got this straight. What's really going to be happening is that Juliet's just going to be sleeping

...

The chalk figures that Flyer has drawn come to life and try to act out the elaborate plan. But they become as confused as Juliet is becoming.

FLYER

... and in forty two hours she'll wake up good as new, and then Romeo will be there
...

JULIET

How?

CHALK FIGURES

Yeah, how?

FLYER

I don't know how! Somehow, all right?
And they'll go run off together and make
a new life together ... in Mantua or
somewhere. You got it?

The Chalk Figures shake their heads vehemently. Juliet turns to Flyer tentatively.

JULIET

And you're saying this same plan would
work for me and Rover?

FLYER

That's exactly what I'm saying.

JULIET

I don't know ...

FLYER

What do you mean, you don't know?

JULIET

Well, it's just it sounds so ...
dangerous. And so complicated. It just
seems like there's a lot of things that
could go wrong.

FLYER

Like what?

JULIET

I don't know. It just doesn't sound wise
-

FLYER

But Friar Laurence said -

JULIET

Well who cares what Friar Laurence said -

FLYER

I do.

JULIET

Why?

FLYER

Because he's human, that's why! And
everybody knows that humans are smarter
than animals. And if they've made this
plan ... well, it must be better than any

(MORE)

FLYER (cont'd)
 plan we could come up with. Don't you think?

JULIET
 I guess so.

Neither one of them seem too convinced of the wisdom of their plan, but Flyer puts the potion in front of Juliet anyway.

FLYER
 Now take this vial and get yourself back to your house and do exactly as I have said. You hear?

Flyer opens his wings and starts flying toward the open window.

FLYER (cont'd)
 I will fly now to Mantua to tell Rover of our plan!

Juliet looks at the vial on the lectern. Finally she picks it up and turns to go. The Chalk Figures shake their heads in disapproval.

CHALK FIGURES
 You'll be sorry ...

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

Flyer flaps along panting rapidly. The two Doves fly nearby, almost mocking how slowly the little bat struggles through the air.

FLYER
 I wish I was a bird.
 (Almost completely out of
 breath)
 I wish I was a bird.

Suddenly, Flyer sees something below that literally stops him in mid-air.

FLYER (cont'd)
 Oh no!

As Flyer zooms down to the ground, he becomes even more upset.

FLYER (cont'd)
 No! Say it isn't so!

Flyer lands finally on the steps of a large marble structure called "The Monument of the Lovers". There beside him lay the MOTIONLESS BODIES OF ROMEO AND JULIET THE GIRL. They embrace each other gently and seem almost to be sleeping. But the vial that lies beside Romeo's outstretched hand and the knife beside Juliet the Girl let Flyer know that these lovers will never wake up again.

The Doves look down on the scene from above.

FLYER (cont'd)
 Did Romeo find Juliet sleeping and think
 ...? And so then he took this poison
 ...? And she ... waking up to find him
 dead ... did she ... take the knife and
 ...?

Flyer cries out loud.

FLYER (cont'd)
 Oh how did this happen? How can this be?

Flyer covers his head with his wings and sobs. The Doves look on from above. For the first time they begin to realize that Flyer is more than just a scary little bat. Just as they start to come closer, a terrible realization spreads across Flyer's face.

FLYER (cont'd)
 But wait! If this happened to Romeo and Juliet, then the same thing could happen to ...

He turns and looks back toward Verona.

FLYER (cont'd)
 I've got to get back to Juliet and tell her not to take that potion!

Setting off toward Verona, Flyer comes over a hill and is hit by sunlight. Once again his radar malfunctions and he spins out of control to the ground.

FLYER (cont'd)
 Oh, how can it get any worse than this?

The Doves look at one another, truly worried.

INT. JULIET THE GIRL'S BEDROOM

Juliet sits on Juliet the Girl's bed considering Flyer's POTION. The Chalk Figures hover nearby.

CHALK FIGURES
 Don't do it! You know it doesn't make sense -

But she starts to drink it anyway. As she tips the vial higher, she sees herself in the mirror. Suddenly she stops drinking and looks herself in the eye.

JULIET
 Juliet, what are you doing? Of course this doesn't make sense.

But the potion starts to take effect. Just as she falls unconscious she sets the vials on the floor.

We see now, she has only drank HALF OF THE POTION.

EXT. NEAR THE MONUMENT OF THE LOVERS

Flyer is trying to do anything he can to see in the light so he can fly off to Verona again. He even tries flying with a seeing-eye-stick, only to come crashing down to the earth. He ends up wrapped in thick vines, nearly unable to move at all.

FLYER
Oh, it's no good. I'll never be able to
see in the light!

Flyer's head droops as he realizes there's no hope. But not too far away, the Doves look down, touched by Flyer's determination to help Rover and Juliet. Finally they muster the courage to fly down to him. A moment later they have begun to peel away the vines.

FLYER (cont'd)
Hey! Hey! What are you doing? Get away
from me!

DOVES
Shhh.

Squinting to make out who it is, Flyer begins to understand.

FLYER
What? Are you here ... to help me?

The Doves nod.

FLYER (cont'd)
Me? Scary Flyer?

His answer is to be lifted gently into the air. The Doves, one on each of Flyer's wing, take him higher and higher and head off toward Verona.

INT. JULIET THE GIRL'S BEDROOM

Lady and Lord Cat-pulet and Doc come into the room. Doc is carrying a beautiful white wedding dress. Juliet lies motionless on Juliet The Girl's pillow.

DOC
Juliet? Look, darlin'. Look what I made
of the sheets you tore up.
(Observing her more closely)
Juliet?

LADY CAT-PULET
Juliet, wake up!

LORD CAT-PULET
What's wrong with her?

DOC
I don't know.

LADY CAT-PULET
Is she ...? Is she ...?

As Lady Cat-Pulet looks closer and closer at her daughter, she begins to realize that something is truly wrong.

EXT. JULIET'S BALCONY - LATER

Doc lies on the stone wall, weeping. The rats, on their way out of the sewer, feel her tear drops land on their tiny heads. They look up.

FIRST RAT
What's with the waterworks, Doc?

DOC
(Sobbing)
My best friend is dead.

RATS
Juliet?

Doc sobs and nods 'yes.'

FIRST RAT
That's terrible.

SECOND RAT
She was so young ...

FIRST RAT
So beautiful ...

SECOND RAT
And that's saying a lot
coming from a couple of rats.

FIRST RAT
Is there anything we can do?

DOC
You can tell all the animals. Tell them
Juliet will be buried in the cat-a-combs
at sunset.

RATS
We won't let you down, Doc!

INT. VILLAS - MONTAGE

The rats climb through holes in the walls of villas throughout Verona to tell domestic animals the news.

EXT. PIAZZA - MONTAGE

The rats scurry through the square to tell all of the city's stray animals the news.

EXT. ZOO - MONTAGE

The rats go from cage to cage. The elephant uses his trunk to wipe the tears from his eyes.

EXT. CATHEDRAL - END OF MONTAGE

The rats peer through a window in the bell tower, but Flyer is gone. Instead, the rats tell the pigeons perched atop the cathedral.

The pigeons, saddened, fly off.

FIRST RAT

Now all of Italy will know of Juliet's passing ...

EXT. FARMHOUSE IN MANTUA - MORNING

As Rover tries to leave the farmer's house, he is surrounded by A LARGE FAMILY of golden retrievers.

FEMALE PUPPY

My family really likes you, Rover.

The dogs lick and jump all over him.

ROVER

You think?

The Female Puppy snuggles up to Rover.

FEMALE PUPPY

They think we make a great couple.

ROVER

(Surprised)

A couple? All we did was share a can of Alpo.

Just then, the pigs saunter by on their way to the trough.

FIRST PIG

Such a pretty cat gone before her time.

SECOND PIG

It's rumored she died of a broken heart.

FIRST PIG

Seems to be happening a lot in Verona these days.

Rover's curiosity is piqued.

ROVER
Excuse me, Pigs. Who are you talking
about?

SECOND PIG
Haven't you heard? Juliet Cat-Pulet is
dead.

ROVER
(Shocked)
What?!

FIRST PIG
Did you know her ...?

ROVER
Know her? She was my wife.

PIGS & DOGS
Your WIFE?!

ROVER
Which way back to Verona?

The pigs point.

ROVER
Farewell, farm animals. I must see my
sweet Juliet one last time!

Rover runs down the dirt road. The female puppy turns to her
mother.

FEMALE PUPPY
Why are all the cute dogs married?

EXT. ABOVE FOREST OUTSIDE VERONA - AFTERNOON

As the Doves and Flyer approach the city walls, the Doves see
the Pigeons from the cathedral flying sadly back toward town.
They decide to fly up to them to find out what's wrong.

EXT. CATACOMBS - LATE AFTERNOON

Rover runs up to the entrance to the catacombs, completely
out of breath. Because all his thoughts are on finding
Juliet as quickly as possible, he doesn't notice that Shake
and Speare are keeping watch from across the street.

SHAKE
Zounds! Forsooth, wasn't that the
scoundrel Rover?

SPEARE
Perhaps we should exeunt stage left.

SHAKE
To Lord Tyger's?

SPEARE
Exactamundo!

As Rover enters the catacombs, Shake and Speare laugh menacingly and head out to find Tyger.

INT. CATACOMBS

The catacombs are a dark and somber place. The tunnels go lower and lower, lit by spooky torches. Frightening tombstones and artifacts fill the entire place. Rover looks around, unsure which way to go.

EXT. STREETS OF VERONA

Mercury and Benny are moping beside the river when a huge mass of angry cats, led by Shake and Speare and Tyger run over the bridge near them. Mercury swats Benny with his tail.

MERCURY
Come on!

BENNY
What do you think they're up to?

MERCURY
I don't know. But it can't be anything good.

Mercury and Benny head after the cat, whistling to other strays to come with them.

INT. CATACOMBS

Rover is deeper in the catacombs choosing between two different passageways. It's even spookier down here. It seems like a ghost could pop out at any moment.

ROVER
Juliet? Oh, Juliet, where are you?

EXT. HILLS ABOVE CATACOMBS

Mercury and Benny look down at the entrance to the catacombs amid a crowd of angry dogs. A second later the angry cats storm in the front door. Mercury and Benny look at one another confused.

INT. DEEP IN CATACOMBS

Just as Rover has reached the point of total frustration, he turns a corner and sees a newly decorated tomb with the words "Juliet Cat-Pulet" written above it.

MEANWHILE UPSTAIRS ...

The cats have gathered for a pep-talk.

TYGER

Guys!

The cats stand in line, shoulder to shoulder. Tyger addresses them like an all-star wrestler. He is so angry his veins bulge out of his neck.

TYGER

We're gonna crush him! Then we're gonna mush him! And then we're gonna flush him!

A confused cat turns to another cat.

CONFUSED CAT

Who?

TYGER

The pooch you moron!

SHAKE

The pooch!

SPEARE

The pooch!

TYGER

My kingdom for that pooch!!

Shake turns to Speare.

SHAKE

He's kind of getting the hang of this ...

ALL THE CATS

Charge!

The cats scatter throughout the catacombs in a mad frenzy.

EXT. CATACOMBS - SUNSET

The Doves finally get Flyer to the front door, setting him gently on the front step.

FLYER

So she's in here?

The Doves nod pensively. Flyer opens the front door and looks in to the spooky catacombs.

FLYER

Oooh. Dark. Spooky. Reminds me of home.

(To the Doves)

Care to join me?

The Doves shake their heads and high-tail it.

INT. JULIET'S TOMB

Rover solemnly approaches the tomb and finds Juliet laid out on a golden pedestal. She looks lovely. Big tears come to Rover's eyes.

ROVER
Oh Juliet. Look at you. There isn't anything I wouldn't give just to hear you purr once again.

He kisses Juliet lightly on the cheek. Suddenly, Juliet begins to purr ever so softly. Rover looks at her completely shocked.

ROVER
Juliet? Is that you? Why ... why you're purring! Your whiskers are moving!

Juliet opens her eyes.

ROVER
Juliet, you are alive!

JULIET
Of course I am alive.

They hug each other ecstatically! Then Rover looks at her again, unable to believe that his dream has come true.

ROVER
But ... but ... I don't understand ...

A wave of recognition spreads across Rover's face.

ROVER
Maybe it's true what they say about cats.

JULIET
What?

ROVER
That you have nine lives.

JULIET
I only have one life, Rover. But I want to spend that life with you.

ROVER
Then how did you ...

JULIET
I couldn't do it. I just couldn't drink all of that ...

At that very moment, Tyger's platoon turns the corner and sees Rover. Juliet, still back in her tomb, is not visible to the charging cats.

TYGER
There he is!

As the cats near, Rover turns to Juliet.

ROVER
Come on!

Juliet tries to get up but stumbles. Obviously, the potion has not completely worn off yet.

JULIET
I can't yet. Run!

Rover looks at her longingly again.

JULIET (cont'd)
Rover, GO!

Rover finally turns and sprints further down the passageway. The cats are right behind him. Juliet tries to get their attention ...

JULIET (cont'd)
Tyger, guys! Stop ...

... but Tyger is too focused on the chase, and Juliet is too weak. The pursuit leaves her behind.

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CATACOMBS

Flyer is soliciting help from some of his brethren who hang upside down in a passageway.

FLYER
Hey Lenny. How's it hanging?

LENNY
Not so bad.

FLYER
You know where Juliet's tomb is?

Lenny gestures with his eyes.

LENNY
Thataway.

FLYER
Thanks!

MEANWHILE ...

Rover is losing ground. The snarling pack of cats nip at his heels as he ducks down yet another tunnel.

NEAR THE TOMB

Flyer comes across Juliet who is now able to walk.

FLYER
Juliet!

JULIET
Oh, Flyer, you gotta help me.

FLYER
What?

JULIET
They're trying to kill Rover!

FLYER
Who?

JULIET
My family! They went down there!

FLYER
Come on.

AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Rover comes to a dead end. He's trapped! The cats corner him against the wall. Tyger comes to the front of the pack.

TYGER
Well done, henchcats!

Tyger practices elongating his nails as he did into the dart board before.

TYGER
Now we're going to have a little fun!

Rover looks at Tyger's nails and is terrified.

JUST DOWN THE TUNNEL A LITTLE LATER

Juliet and Flyer have found Rover and the pack. They huddle in the shadows and come up with a plan.

FLYER
You got it?

JULIET
I think so.

FLYER
You're not going to get scared?

JULIET
I'll try.

FLYER

All right then. Let's go.

At the end of the tunnel, the cats have Rover's four limbs pinned to the wall. A bulls-eye has been drawn on Rover's chest. Tyger stands behind a line drawn in the dirt and prepares to throw ... All of a sudden we hear a terrifying screech!

All the cats turn and see Flyer, who has converted himself into a HORRIFYING VAMPIRE BAT! He bares his fangs and dives in on the cats. They scatter in a flash.

FLYER (cont'd)

I want to suck your blood!

Tyger is the only cat who can keep his cool.

TYGER

Guys, don't panic. Bats don't suck blood. They don't!

FLYER

I live with ghosts. I bring the dead back to life!

Flyer now points over to Juliet, who walks into the group of cats like a zombie and moans like a ghost.

JULIET

Tyyyy-gerrrr Tyyyy-gerrrr ...

This is too much for even the toughest cat. Tyger and the whole crew run for their lives.

JULIET

Oh, Flyer, you did it!

Flyer reverts to his adorable self.

FLYER

Aw shucks ...

JULIET

You see how much better plans work out if you make them yourself?

She frees Rover and hugs him.

ROVER

I thought you said all that vampire stuff was untrue.

FLYER

Well ... so I fibbed a little. Come on, lets get out of here.

AT JULIET'S TOMB

Tyger discovers that Juliet is not there. A suspicious look comes over his face. He heads upstairs at a quicker pace.

EXT. OUTSIDE CATACOMBS - NIGHT

Rover opens a manhole and lets Juliet out. Just when the lovers think they're home free ... now the dogs are after them. Mercury and Benny and their hoodlums surround Juliet.

MERCURY

Hey, we got ourselves a Cat-Pulet!

(To Juliet)

Don't you know it's not safe to be out alone?

But Rover comes out of the manhole now and steps between his friends and Juliet.

ROVER

Mercury, don't hurt her!

MERCURY

But she's a cat!

ROVER

It doesn't matter if she's a cat. This fight between our species has gone on long enough!

MERCURY

Why, you sound like ... like a cat lover!

Rover looks at Juliet.

ROVER

Perhaps I am.

MERCURY

Then in my book, you're as good as a cat.

ROVER

(Hurt)

Mercury ...

BENNY

(Turning to Mercury)

Good as a cat? What are you saying?

MERCURY

I'm saying ... get them!

All the dogs but Benny pounce after Rover and Juliet, but the young lovers make a few elusive maneuvers and dash down the street. Benny trails behind the pack, almost hoping for Rover and Juliet.

A moment later, Flyer comes out of the manhole only to discover that another chase is happening.

FLYER

Oh now come on! Isn't this getting just
a little bit ridiculous?

But he flaps his way down the street to do what he can.

EXT. A FEW BLOCKS AWAY

Rover and Juliet are running down a narrow street, which
turns into a dead end. Juliet, of course, leaps to a balcony
and then to a roof top. Rover is left below in the street.
And the dogs are closing in ...

JULIET

Come on Rover! Jump!

ROVER

I can't! It's too high!

JULIET

No it's not. Just ... just ... believe
you are a cat.

ROVER

Believe I am a cat?

JULIET

That's all you'll need. Trust me.

Rover backs away from the wall to take a running start.
Mercury and his thugs are closing in.

ROVER

Believe I am a cat. Believe I am a cat.

Rover starts running toward the wall.

JULIET

Hurry, Rover!

ROVER

Meow, meow, meow ...

Taking off just a few feet from the wall, Rover jumps high
into the air just as the dogs swipe at him and miss.

ROVER

MEEEEEEEEEOWWWWWWW!

And he soars almost magically through the air, landing on the
rooftop next to Juliet.

JULIET

You did it!

ROVER

I did?

JULIET

You did!

The dogs bark below. In an instant Flyer has caught up to them.

FLYER

Come on you guys! We're not out of the woods yet.

In fact, the woods have gotten even thicker! Rover's heroic leap to the rooftop has caught the eye of TYGER AND HIS GOONS who were heading back to the Cat-Pulet house.

EXT. STREETS OF VERONA

Now all the cats and all the dogs are chasing Rover and Juliet through town. As the commotion passes the Cat-Pulet's house and the Mongrel's alley, Rover and Juliet's parents join the chase.

Pretty soon it seems like every animal in town is running after Rover and Juliet. They storm through markets, houses, gardens, restaurants, churches ... You name it! All of Verona is being turned upside down.

EXT. ARCHED BRIDGE

Finally, as Rover and Juliet run out onto the bridge, the CATS come up from one side and the DOGS from the other. Rover and Juliet are trapped!

Flyer tries to get to them, but a dog swishes his tail, knocking Flyer headfirst into the muddy riverbank.

A complete circle has been made around the lovers now. They know they have nowhere to go. After a moment, Lady and Lord Cat-Pulet and Big Daddy and Mama Mongrel come to the front. They all stare at their children with disapproval.

ROVER

(To his parents)
Don't hurt her!

JULIET

(To her parents)
Don't hurt him!

LORD CAT-PULET

What's going on here?

BIG DADDY MONGREL

Yeah. What is going on here?

ROVER

Well, the truth is ...

Rover turns to Lady Cat-Pulet.

ROVER
Mom ...

LADY CAT-PULET
Mom?

ROVER
(To Lord Cat-Pulet)
Dad ...

LORD CAT-PULET
Dad?!
(To Juliet)
Juliet, what is the meaning of this?

BIG DADDY MONGREL
(Folding his paws)
I'd really like to know myself.

JULIET
The truth is ...
(Gulping)
... we're married.

ALL THE PARENTS
WHAT!!!!

The TWO MOTHERS instantly faint to the ground! All the dogs and cats square off with one another. A fight could break out at any second.

The TWO FATHERS look at one another accusingly.

LORD CAT-PULET
This is all your fault, Mongrel!

BIG DADDY MONGREL
Well maybe if you knew how to lock up your daughter!

Rover and Juliet restrain their fathers.

JULIET
Stop! Please!

ROVER
Can't you see that this fighting between us dogs and cats is ridiculous?

JULIET
All you have to do is just ...open your eyes ...

Lady Cat-Pulet and Mama Mongrel, who have fallen side by side, regain consciousness and look one another in the eye

JULIET (cont'd)
... and look at each other ...

Lord Cat-Pulet and Big Daddy Mongrel turn and look at one another too. In fact, every dog on the bridge turns and looks at the cat he or she was about to fight with.

JULIET (cont'd)
... you would see ...

The tension on the bridge begins to ease. All the dogs and cats reach out to one another, much like a person looking at himself in the mirror.

JULIET (cont'd)
We're really very much alike.

Doc and Benny gaze at one another. So do the mothers ...

JULIET (cont'd)
Much more alike than we are different ...

Unfortunately, Tyger and Mercury aren't so enchanted by the sudden inter-species love-fest. They look at one another distrustfully. As their paws come out to touch ... Tyger elongates his nails right into Mercury's eyes!

TYGER
Bulls-eye!

Mercury reels back in pain. A dark look of fury spreads across his face ...

TYGER (cont'd)
Or should I say, "Dogs-eye"?

Benny sees that Mercury's getting COMPLETELY STEAMED.

BENNY
Mercury, no!

But it's too late. Mercury jumps on Tyger, starting a full out brawl! Dogs and cats are jumping in from everywhere now. Rover and Juliet try to get things calmed down again ...

JULIET
Guys, stop!

ROVER
Don't, please!

But it's no use. SCREECHES and GROWLS are heard coming from every direction. Dog and cat limbs emerge from a growing puff of smoke.

Juliet ends up getting knocked down and nearly trampled. Rover runs to her.

ROVER (cont'd)
Juliet!

JULIET

Oh, Rover.

They look around themselves. Their worst nightmare has come to pass. They hold each other, on the verge of tears. Flyer meanwhile, has finally extracted himself from the mud. He flies up to the bridge a completely unrecognizable blob. Looking down on the battle below, Flyer summons an almost supernatural strength, and bellows out an enormous yell.

FLYER

STOP!!

All the animals turn and look. When Flyer finally shakes the mud off himself and the animals see that he is a bat, they recoil in shocked fear.

FLYER (cont'd)

No! Don't be afraid of me. Listen to me.

But they don't seem to want to listen. A few animals bolt into the woods.

FLYER (cont'd)

I'm not scary. I'm not ...

Suddenly from above, we hear a loud whistle. A second later the two Doves flutter down and put their wings around Flyer, just as he had tried to put his wings around them earlier. The other animals of Verona take this as a sign and begin to grow less frightened of Flyer.

FLYER (cont'd)

We shouldn't be so distrustful of each other. We shouldn't be afraid of each other for no reason. Dogs ... cats ... any of us. You see what can happen?

Flyer turns and points toward town.

Romeo and Juliet's funeral procession is making its way through the streets of Verona.

All the Montagues and Capulets march behind a veiled hearse. As the procession makes its way across the bridge, the animals part somberly and let it pass.

FLYER (cont'd)

Is that what we want to happen to us, too?

Lord Cat-pulet and Big Daddy Mongrel look at one another for a moment. Then they turn and begin following the procession. All the other animals of Verona trail behind them as well.

EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING VERONA

The funeral procession comes to a halt at the top of the hill. The entire city of Verona can be seen below.

As the cats and dogs follow Flyer, the procession of mourners begins to part to each side, allowing Rover and Juliet to see for the first time THE GRAVES OF ROMEO AND JULIET. Two tombstones bear the lovers' names.

ROVER

Romeo ...

JULIET

Juliet ...

The Capulets and The Montagues lay red roses on each grave. The families turn and look at one another.

LORD CAPULET

O brother Montague, give me thy hand ...

Lord Montague and Lord Capulet take each other's hand, while their wives weep in each other's arms. The Prince addresses both families.

PRINCE

Never was a story of more woe, than that of Juliet and her Romeo ...

The Prince and The Friar lead the two families back down the hill. Once enemies, The Capulets and The Montagues are now joined in their sorrow.

When the humans are gone, the dogs and cats approach the graves, encircling Rover and Juliet. Flyer hovers above the couple.

FLYER

Cat-Pulets, Mongrels. Don't make the same mistakes that the families of Romeo and Juliet made.

Flyer hovers between the cats and dogs.

FLYER

This war between cats and dogs, what good is it? Can anyone even remember how it began?

The cats and dogs scratch their heads.

FLYER

The time for peace has come. You're one family now. Brought together by the love of Rover for Juliet, and Juliet for Rover. What possibly could be a better reason to forget your differences than that?

Flyer nudges Rover with his wing.

FLYER

Rover ...

(Whispering)

Go make nice with your in-laws.

Rover walks over to Lord Cat-Pulet.

ROVER

Lord Cat-Pulet, I love your daughter very much and promise to always be good to her.

Lord Cat-Pulet looks at his wife, then back at Rover.

LORD CAT-PULET

I never thought I'd be saying this to a mongrel, but ... Welcome to the family, son!

Lord Cat-Pulet and Rover embrace. The cats meow and the dogs bark with joy.

BIG DADDY

(To Juliet)

Come give your big daddy a hug!

Juliet gets a giant hug from Big Daddy. Everyone is happy, except for Tyger and Mercury. Flyer notices this and nudges them together.

FLYER

Boys, don't you have something you can say to each other? I mean you are brothers now.

Tyger and Mercury try to think of something.

TYGER

Like milk?

MERCURY

Gives me gas. Bones?

TYGER

Not a chance.

FLYER

Well, this may take a while ...

Big Daddy and Lord Cat-Pulet have their paws around each other's shoulders.

BIG DADDY

Come. Let's return to Verona. Together.

The cats and dogs begin to walk down the hill. Then Big Daddy turns around and looks up at Flyer.

BIG DADDY

Aren't you coming, Flyer? If it weren't
for you, none of this would be possible
...

ROVER

Hey, that's true!

Everyone looks up and agrees.

JULIET

Three cheers for Flyer!

Everyone CHEERS. Flyer turns bright red.

FLYER

Come on now ... you're making
me blush!

EXT. VERONA

People are shocked as they watch the dogs and cats walk side
by side through the city together. Rover and Juliet turn to
one another and smile. Flyer is above them, filled with joy.

FLYER (V.O.)

Well I guess we're one up on ol' William
S. At least our story has a happy
ending. And not just for the Cat-Pulets
and The Mongrels ...

INT. VILLA - MONTAGE

The Capulets are playing with their cats. Lady Capulet
brings Juliet up to her face and smiles. Tyblat is petting
Doc.

FLYER (V.O.)

The Capulets finally noticed their cats
and found comfort in their company. It
helped to make the loss of their daughter
a little less painful.

EXT. PIAZZA - MONTAGE

Lord Montague sees the Butcher yelling at Rover. He walks
over, pays the Butcher for his steaks, and takes Rover in his
arms.

FLYER (V.O.)

The same can be said of the Montagues.
They hadn't forgotten that Rover was
their son's favorite stray.

INT. MONTAGUES' VILLA - MONTAGE

Rover lives in the lap of luxury. A SERVANT feeds him steaks
and a gold water bowl with his name on it.

FLYER (V.O.)

As a way of remembering Romeo, the family took Rover in and showered him with affection. They made a little puppy's dream of living inside come true.

Rover waits until the servant has gone, then lets the rest of his family in through the doggy door.

FLYER (V.O.) (cont'd)

So you see? Sometimes things turn out better than anyone could have ever expected. Oops, I just remembered. There's one more page to this story ...

EXT. CAT-PULETS GARDEN - NIGHT

The Cat-pulets and The Mongrels throw a huge bash. Outside the gate, Juliet waits. A few seconds later, Rover shows up.

ROVER

Sorry I'm late. It was filet mignon tonight.

JULIET

That's all right. I've got some great news. The Capulets are taking me on a trip with them to Rome.

ROVER

Wow. That's great. Just be careful around the Coliseum. I hear its crawling with bachelor cats.

JULIET

Ooh ... jealous?

ROVER

A little.

Juliet snuggles close to Rover.

JULIET

Ready?

ROVER

Ready.

They kiss and walk into the party. Just then ...

EVERYONE

SURPRISE!!!

A banner rolls down. It reads, 'CONGRATULATIONS ROVER AND JULIET!'

JULIET

It's a wedding reception!

ROVER
For us!

JULIET
Would you care to dance?

ROVER
Absolutely ...

The Penguin orchestra plays their song. Juliet and Rover are joined by other cats and dogs dancing together.

Flyer hovers above and watches the joyous celebration. A moment later, he hears somebody cooing for him. Flyer turns and finds a PRETTY FEMALE DOVE smiling and giving him the eye.

FLYER
Ah, Verona! What a town!

And they sail off into the starry night.

THE END