

# WHEREFORE ART THOU...TODD?

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A ten-minute comedy by  
Steven Stack

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

TODD, teenager who secretly likes Madison, his best friend.  
Cast as Romeo in the school play.

MADISON, teenager and Todd's best friend. Will be playing the role of Juliet and is unsure of how she feels about Todd playing Romeo.

TY, one of Todd and Madison's friends, who will play the role of Tybalt in the school play.

JANIE, the teenager who hits Todd with a ball.

## SETTING

A park.

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*(MADISON and TODD enter wearing jackets. Madison is also wearing gloves. They enter already in conversation.)*

**MADISON:** I'm just saying it's a little weird. I mean, it was okay when you were the rabbit and I was Alice.

**TODD:** Why is this any different, Madison?

*(Madison stops and stands in front of him.)*

**MADISON:** Wait. You don't get how it's different?

*(Todd shakes his head no.)*

Todd, Alice and The White Rabbit weren't a couple. But Romeo and Juliet...

**TODD:** I think it's kind of cool.

**MADISON:** I don't know. I mean, we're acting and all, but...we're best friends. You're like a brother to me.

**TODD:** Oh. *(Silence.)* I don't really see you like a sister, though.

*(Madison looks at him.)*

**MADISON:** Wait, are you saying you...like me...that way?

**TODD:** What? No! I mean...unless you like me that way. *(Hopefully:)* Do you? *(Silence.)* Of course not—you clearly don't because you said I'm like a brother and that means... *(He stops talking after he sees the look on Madison's face. He quickly changes the subject:)* So, rehearsal was fun right?

*(Madison stares at Todd for a moment.)*

**MADISON:** This has gotten really weird and I think...

*(A ball flies in and hits Todd in the head, knocking him down.)*

Todd! *(She rushes over to him:)* Todd, are you okay?

*(No answer as JANIE enters.)*

**JANIE:** Hey, can you give my ball back?

*(Madison looks up at her.)*

**MADISON:** You could say you're sorry, Janie!

**JANIE:** Uh, sorry. Now give me my ball back.

**MADISON:** Get it yourself.

**JANIE:** You're being very rude.

**MADISON:** You hit Todd with a ball.

**JANIE:** It was an accident and I said I was sorry.

**MADISON:** But you didn't mean it.

*(Janie stares at Madison.)*

**JANIE:** That hurts my feelings. I don't want to be around you anymore, so I'll get my ball and leave.

**MADISON:** Good.

*(Janie takes a moment and then goes and gets her ball. She leaves in a huff. Madison turns back to Todd and shakes him.)*

Todd, Todd, wake up.

*(Todd opens his eyes and gazes at Madison. Silence.)*

Todd?

**TODD:** Shall I hear more or should I speak at this?

**MADISON:** *(Madison stands up:)* Thank god. You're all right.

**TODD:** She speaks! *(Todd jumps up and moves close to Madison:)*  
O, speak again bright angel.

*(Madison is confused.)*

**MADISON:** What?

**TODD:** *(Takes Madison's hands:)* Thou are as glorious to this...  
*(Looks around:)* day being o'er my head.

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**MADISON:** Stop messing around, Todd.

*(Todd crosses away and looks off.)*

**TODD:** Todd? Tis not to me she speaks. Todd? A villain perchance?

**MADISON:** I am speaking to you. You're Todd.

*(Todd looks at her and then turns away again dramatically.)*

**TODD:** Perchance my name causeth her pain.

*(Madison looks on confused.)*

**MADISON:** Seriously, stop.

**TODD:** My name's a blight upon my character. What ill have I done in this name?

**MADISON:** Okay, fine. If you're not Todd, who are you?

*(Todd crosses to Madison.)*

**TODD:** By a name, I know not how to tell thee who I am.

**MADISON:** *(Beginning to understand:)* Oh, you think you're Romeo.

*(Todd stays close to her but looks away.)*

**TODD:** *(Hopeful:)* You call me that which I am.

**MADISON:** But you're not.

*(Todd grows sad and then crosses away.)*

**TODD:** Tis true. My name draws her scorn.

**MADISON:** Okay...fine. You're Romeo. I mean, what's in a name after all, right?

*(Todd mood brightens and he crosses to Madison and takes her by the shoulders gently.)*

**TODD:** But if it were an enemy to thee, had I it written before me I would tear the word.

**MADISON:** That probably wouldn't be necessary. Maybe you should sit down or something.

**TODD:** As long as the act of sitting taketh not thy lovely visage from mine eyes...I shall do whatever thou wishes.

*(He sits and watches her.)*

**MADISON:** Maybe not speaketh right now.

*(Todd looks out.)*

**TODD:** She wishes for silence. *(Todd turns back to Madison:)* Perhaps I have angered thee. What a cruel world. To be so close to the one thou lovest but not allowed to speak.

**MADISON:** I mean it, stop speaking. You're creeping me out.

*(Silence. Madison rubs her gloves together and touches her face. Todd notices this.)*

**TODD:** Oh.

*(Madison turns to him.)*

**MADISON:** Oh, what?

**TODD:** Oh, that I were a glove upon that hand. That I might touch that cheek.

*(Madison walks over to Todd and sits beside him.)*

**MADISON:** Okay, listen to me, Todd. I know you're in there somewhere. You took a bump and you might have a concussion or something. Your name is Todd, not Romeo.

**TODD:** I shall be neither, fair saint, if either thee dislike.

**MADISON:** No, you're Todd.

**TODD:** If I were Todd, would thee love me more?



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**MADISON:** No, Todd and I are friends. Best friends but nothing...

*(Todd stands up and crosses away.)*

else.

**TODD:** Alack, there lies more peril in thine eye than thine words. My life were better ended by hate, then living without thy love.

*(Madison crosses to Todd.)*

**MADISON:** Don't say that. I mean, I know you're Romeo but somehow this feels like I'm talking to—

*(Todd turns to Madison and takes her by the hand.)*

**TODD:** The mask that I weareth has been removed—

*(A moment passes between them.)*

**MADISON:** Crap. I wish Ty would hurry up. He would know what to do.

*(Todd pulls away and looks at her.)*

**TODD:** Tybalt?

**MADISON:** Ty.

**TODD:** Tybalt?

**MADISON:** Ty!

*(Todd crosses away.)*

**TODD:** She calls him Ty, he who slay Mercutio.

**MADISON:** Ty didn't slay anyone. He's only playing a part...

**TODD:** Not a mere part but a starring role in the death of Mercutio. *(Turns away:)* Poor loyal Mercutio, slain defending a name. *(Turns back to Madison:)* And yet he comes to this place?

**MADISON:** Yeah. He should be here...

*(TY enters holding a dagger.)*

Now.

**TY:** Hey guys, what's going on?

*(Todd turns to Ty.)*

**TODD:** Alive, in triumph! And Mercutio slain! Away to heaven, respective lenity, and fire-eyed fury be my conduct now!

*(Ty stares at him for a moment.)*

**TY:** What?

**MADISON:** He got hit in the head by a ball and now he thinks he's Romeo and he thinks you're—

**TY:** Tybalt! Awesome.

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