

Romeo and Juliet  
Hitching Post Theater Presents  
November 14, 2010  
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Set – Bench or two chairs set up as a bus stop. If there is a light pole use that to designate the corner.

Props – brief case, parasol, coin purse/bag, penny, panhandler sign, silver bracelet (referenced as Medic Alert bracelet), Blackberry phone.

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FADE IN

EXT. BUS STOP – DAY

JULIET is a scruffy gal sitting in the middle of the bus stop bench. She's asleep, head nodded down. On her lap she has leaned up on her chest a cardboard sign that says "a penny for your thotz".

A blue parasol leans up against the bench.

SARAH ROMEO dressed in a professional business suit, heels, brief case, purse, trots in front of Juliet waving at a bus that whizzes away.

SARAH  
(hollering toward the bus pulling away)  
Hey, I don't have time to wait for  
the next bus!

Juliet is startled by the commotion and wakes up. An impatient and upset Sarah pulls out her Blackberry and starts to madly text message.

JULIET  
(to Sarah)  
A glooming peace this morning with  
it brings; The sun, for sorrow, will  
not show his head.

Sarah stops texting, but continues to stare at the Blackberry screen.

JULIET  
Next bus isn't for a few more minutes.

Juliet looks up toward the sky, holds out her hand feeling for drops.

JULIET  
Looks like rain...

SARAH  
(screaming at the Blackberry)  
Aren't there cabs in this town?!!

Sarah paces and turns and finally catches a glimpse of Juliet sitting on the bench.

Juliet scoots over on the bench and pats the empty seat, gesturing for Sarah to sit down.

Sarah searches her purse for something to wipe off the bench. She pulls out a variety of items and stuffs them back.

JULIET  
No bed bugs here.

Juliet hands the flustered Sarah a napkin. Sarah accepts it by the corner with two fingers and dusts off the bench.

Juliet grabs it back and wipes down the bench.

Sarah uncomfortably sits down and keeps looking at her Blackberry, then starts pounding the little keys.

Juliet pulls out a coin purse, pulls out a penny, and puts it in front of Sarah as she texts.

Sarah looks up at Juliet

SARAH  
So isn't it supposed to be the other way around?

Juliet insistently gestures that Sarah accept the penny.

JULIET  
Penny for your thoughts? I'm Juliet,  
just in from Verona.  
(beat)  
California, that is.

SARAH  
(polite, but firm)  
Sarah Romeo, it's nice to make your  
acquaintance.

Sarah reaches out to shake her hand, but has second  
thoughts.

SARAH  
Your penny won't go very  
far because I have no thoughts.

Sarah takes the penny and puts it in her pocket and goes  
back to her texting.

SARAH  
If you don't mind – I am now late.  
It's my first job interview in three months.

JULIET  
Hey, did you say your name is Romeo?  
(gestures towards Sarah)  
... and Juliet.  
(gestures towards herself)  
Get it? I'm the Capulets  
and you're the Montagues!

SARAH  
(rolls her eyes)  
Yes, exactly. We don't get along.

Sarah dials up, puts the Blackberry to her ear – no answer.

SARAH  
She's not picking up, she's not online  
GRRRR! If I don't get this job, I swear  
I'll will kill myself!

JULIET  
Hey, Sarah Romeo that's my line!

Sarah gets up and looks up the street for the bus.

JULIET  
Take a load off and relax. You got  
a lot on your mind.

Sarah takes her seat. Agitated, Sarah retrieves the penny and returns it to Juliet.

SARAH

I don't owe anyone anything and keep your thoughts to yourself.

Sarah returns to surfing on her Blackberry.

JULIET

(accepts the penny)

I once thought like you. Needed a job, nice car, lots of stuff, big IRA. Then one day I had a fight with my boss and that was it, my 'aha' moment.

SARAH

Quitters are losers.

Juliet grabs the parasol and uses it as a cane to steady herself and stands up.

JULIET

(to the audience)

I had my doubts, but I was done. Hopped in a boxcar at Union Station and headed on the southern line to Yuma, Arizona. Didn't know a soul.

SARAH

(to Juliet)

But what about all your stuff? Your bills? Your jewelry?

JULIET

You call me a quitter. It was refreshing. You know, I was dead and then I was so alive. No worries. I live in the moment and good things just happen.

(beat)

I meet you! Which is grand.

Juliet sits down and leans the parasol on the bench between the two of them. Sarah has her arms crossed and not buying it.

SARAH  
Remember? You're the Capulates and  
I'm the Montagues.

JULIET  
My jewelry?

Juliet points out the silver bracelet on her wrist. Sarah  
inspects it.

SARAH  
Medic Alert?

JULIET  
Yeah, the last Doctor said I shouldn't be  
missing my heart medicine – but, oh well...

SARAH  
I know, 'living in the moment.'

Sarah's phone rings. She looks at the screen, she beams,  
then answers.

SARAH  
Hello?  
(beat)  
Yes, this is Sarah Romeo.  
Uh huh? Yes – can I still make the interview?  
(pleading)  
My car is in the shop!  
(beat)  
I can be there in...

Sarah looks at Juliet who holds up her hands twice  
signaling 20 minutes. Juliet picks up her cardboard sign  
and rests it on edge on her lap.

SARAH  
20 minutes. Uh huh.  
(beat)  
It's your loss.

Sarah hangs up the phone and sits on the bench in  
disbelief.

JULIET  
You'll get 'em next time.

SARAH

There's not going to be a next time.

JULIET

What? You want to end up like me?

SARAH

I think I've always been like you.  
Juliet, you reminded me about  
what I'd forgotten.

(musing to the audience)

About living in the moment.

Juliet slumps forward – having peacefully died.

SARAH

Juliet – here take this and see  
what you can get for it.

Sarah hands off her blackberry and discovers Juliet is  
lifeless. She shakes Juliet trying to arouse her.

SARAH

Wake up, Juliet!  
(escalating)  
Wake up, Juliet!

Sarah takes a breath, looks up toward the sky, puts out her  
hand and feels rain drops. She opens the parasol and puts  
her arm around Juliet.

SARAH

Go hence, to have more talk of these sad things;  
Some shall be pardon'd, and some punished:  
For never was a story of more woe  
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END