

## **Romeo, Juliet and Me**

This morning, as usual, Kim's big sister was using the bathroom. The bathroom's busy, so... no shower today, thought Kim. Barely awake, grumbling to himself, with his hair in a mess and his eyes full of sticky bits of sleep, he went to his wardrobe to pick something to wear. He shut the bedroom door, because he can't stand people looking at him while he's getting dressed, Blue, brown, green... T-shirt, trousers, sweater...

"Aaarrgh!" thought Kim. It's such a pain in the neck, choosing what to wear every single day.

Pants and socks, T-shirt and trousers. Trainers or shoes? And all the while he had no idea that that day was going to be the best day of his life. Because, you see, mornings can be misleading, and the day can surprise us with an unexpected gift.

Today, Kim's class is going to the theatre. Kim has never been to the theatre, and if it was up to him... he'd stay in bed and sleep!

"Theatre! Bleuch!" said Kim, pulling faces in the mirror and imitating his teacher.

"Tomorrow I want to see you all looking smart and presentable... that means you too, Kim!"

"Presentable!" thought Kim. "I know. I'll go for the ultimate fashion statement: I'll wear mum's fake camelhair coat!" And he started to strike poses in front of the mirror.

"I'm Kim Marro, the greatest actor in the world and overseas.

"Kim! You sister and I are leaving! Remember to lock the door behind you, and have fun at the theatre!"

Now that his mum's left, Kim thinks:

“Brilliant, I can take the coat without mum finding out. What was the play called anyway? Ummm - oh yeah, ‘Romeo... Romeo and... and Juliet’ I think.

### **Romeo, Juliet ... and me!**

Kim doesn't see what's so exciting about theatre. Someone stands up on the stage, pretending it's a place that it isn't, and pretending to be a person who they're not. Films and TV are different, what you see is actually really there, plus you can eat popcorn or have a pizza.

Being an actor or an actress must be horrible. Standing up in front of people, with everyone staring at you - especially if you mess it up – that must be the pits! You'd want to die.

Just thinking about it make him want to get up and run away. Deep down, Kim is very shy.

The theatre is like something out of an old film, with carpets, mirrors, plastic flowers and plants and a really musty smell. / Plus which you spend your whole time queuing. / They had to queue up while a man checked their tickets. / Then they had to queue up again because the teacher made them go to the loo, even if they didn't want to, “just in case,” and finally they had to queue up again so they could get to the right seats.

They're sitting close to the stage but a bit to one side. Kim gets nice and comfy wrapped up in his coat, and prepares to have a snooze...

A spotlight shines down on the stage.

Kim looks up, his eyelids drooping with tiredness and boredom. But suddenly... he sits up in his seat. In the middle of the stage stands the most beautiful girl in the world. She's wearing a dress covered in ridiculous little flowers and her hairdo is like an old lady's, but her eyes and her skin shine like the stars in the sky.

Now Kim doesn't know if he's asleep or awake. Suddenly he's not the slightest bit tired, and his stomach feels like it's full of butterflies.

All kinds of actors with swords and actresses in super old-fashioned dresses start arguing and waving their arms about and talking at the same time. / There are these two families who can't stand each other. "I'll never forgive you for what you did!" ... "Well when your granddad was alive this other thing happened" ... "Well the other day your sister's cousin said..." In other words, they all talking a load of rubbish,

But for Kim there's only one person up there on the stage, one girl, who's stolen his heart. She has tons of problems, but so what - he, Kim, is going to put everything right. Because love makes anything possible. And while he stares and stares at her, he can feel all the butterflies in his stomach turning somersaults. He's also got dribble coming out of his mouth... but he doesn't even notice.

All of sudden, Kim sees there's another actor next to his beloved Juliet. She calls him Romeo, and he keeps coming out with all this stuff about getting married, running away with each other, being together forever.

"He can't do that!" thinks Kim. "I'm the one and only person who loves her in the world! There's no way she can prefer this ridiculous Romeo flouncing about in his tights!"

But Juliet doesn't seem to have noticed the tights. And Kim really starts to feel bad when the two of them, Romeo and Juliet promise they'll love each other forever.

Kim watches in horror as his beloved gets herself deeper and deeper into this messy and dangerous situation. Romeo, the one in tights, dies in Juliet's arms. He's lying on the floor, dead as a doornail. That wouldn't be a problem, if it wasn't for the fact that... she seems to have gone completely mad with grief, and she gets the worst idea ever: she pulls out a dagger, and holds it towards her heart... pressing against it! ...and she stabs herself and dies.

Kim can't take any more! It was bad enough when Juliet was in love with someone else, but now he's seen her die, right in front of him, right there, on the stage! Without being able to do a thing! It's too much!

No! He's not going to let this happen! This isn't a play - it's murder! And unable to contain himself a second longer, his shyness forgotten, he shouts at the top of his voice:

"Noooooooooooo! Juliet, no! It can't end like this! I love you, Juliet! No, no, no!! I love you, Juliet! Stop this! Who wrote this play?"

Kim created such a commotion, the place was in uproar! At the end of the show, the teacher, who was fuming, made Kim wait at the door of the theatre to apologise to everyone - actors, actresses, technicians, stage hands, even the prompt.

Totally embarrassed, Kim waited and waited, until suddenly... the star of the show, his beloved, appeared, and said to him:

“Oh hi! Hello! I’m Julia! Wow, that’s a nice coat you’re wearing!”

Kim was on cloud nine.

There are days when it really is worth getting up, getting dressed, making yourself look smart, leaving the house and going to the theatre.

Script: Carme Aymerich