



## Still Star-Crossed

By Melinda Taub

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Romeo and Juliet are gone. Will love live on? Despite the glooming peace that's settled on Verona after the recent tragedy, Montagues and Capulets are brawling in the streets. Faced with more bloody battles, Prince Escalus concludes that the only way to truly marry the fortunes of these two families is to literally marry them together. Everyone is skeptical, but none more so than the pair selected, for the most eligible Montague bachelor is Benvolio, Romeo's best friend, still anguished by the loss of his companions, and the chosen Capulet maid is Juliet's older cousin Rosaline, the girl Romeo first loved and whose refusal of Romeo's affection paved the way for bloodshed. Contrary to their late cousins, there's no love lost between Benvolio and Rosaline, yet they forge a bond to end the renewed feud not only to escape their forced betrothal, but to save their lives and the city of Verona itself.

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### Editorial Review

#### From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—This fast-paced, captivating sequel to Romeo and Juliet is a fascinating homage to one of the Bard's best-loved plays. Mercutio, Tybalt, Paris, Romeo, and Juliet have all perished by the sword or by poison, and yet the houses of Capulet and Montague still rage against each other. Prince Escalus, desperate for peace in his city, determines that the only way to end the bloodshed is for a marriage to take place between the households. Rosaline, niece to Capulet, who once rejected her erstwhile suitor, Romeo, and Benvolio, nephew to Lord Montague, are the chosen, but they have no interest in marrying each other and resolve to end the violence without approaching the altar. Meanwhile, Rosaline's sister Livia discovers that Paris is still alive and falls in love with him while secretly nursing him back to health. However, Paris, guided by the treachery of Lady Capulet, decides to amass an army to dethrone the prince. Full of secrets, duels, and duplicity, this novel brings a joyous ending to a once-tragic tale. Although Paris and Lady Capulet are evil personified, Rosaline, Benvolio, and Livia are well-developed characters, and Escalus and Friar Lawrence, though less important, are believably complex. The period details of costume and custom greatly enhance the story's realism, and the quick-moving action will keep readers both alert and entranced. This well-written novel, whether standing alone or serving as a back-door introduction to the original, should be a first purchase for school and public libraries.—Nancy Menaldi-Scanlan, formerly at LaSalle Academy, Providence, RI  
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#### From [Booklist](#)

When Verona's violence can't be quelled, Prince Escalus orders the "dark, devilish" Montague Benvolio to wed Rosaline, of the Capulets. Benvolio sees Rosaline as the cause of the strife that ensues, while Rosaline struggles to reconcile childhood feelings toward Escalus. Together, Benvolio and Rosaline banter their way to a compromise, unmask the mystery person who is on the blood feud, reunite the families, and avoid their undesirable trip to the priest! This dark drama, set in the world of Romeo and Juliet, is tempered with wit and humor as Taub blends Shakespearean-style dialogue with a less opulent prose narrative that artfully decodes the vocabulary for readers new to the Bard. Readers will enjoy following the heroes as they encounter romance, intrigue, and characters reminiscent of Hamlet and the cast of Much Ado about Nothing, among others. Pair this highly enjoyable story with Sharon Draper's Romiette and Julio (1999) or Suzanne Selfor's Saving Juliet (2008). Grades 9-12. --Erin Downey Howerton

#### Review

**Starred Review, [Kirkus Reviews](#), May 15, 2013:** "A perfect blend of the intimate and the epic, the story both honors its origin and works in its own right."

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##### Andria Miguel:

The book Still Star-Crossed give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You need to use to make your capable a lot more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting strain or having big problem with the subject. If you can make examining a book Still Star-Crossed being your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about some or all subjects.

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**Chris Boos:**

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