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Tragic Conclusion: Act 5 of 'Romeo and Juliet'

In Act 5 of William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," the tragic conclusion of the play unfolds, with a series of events leading to the untimely deaths of the two young lovers, Romeo and Juliet. Act 5 is marked by misunderstandings, impulsive actions, and the devastating consequences of the ongoing feud between the Montagues and the Capulets.

Scene 1: Romeo's Banishment

Act 5 begins with Romeo in exile from Verona, following his banishment. He and Juliet have spent the night together, but Romeo must leave before the morning. Juliet is devastated by his departure.

Scene 2: Juliet's Desperation

Juliet is torn between her love for Romeo and her loyalty to her family. She seeks Friar Laurence's help once more. The friar devises a plan for Juliet to take a potion that will make her appear dead for 42 hours, allowing her to escape her family and reunite with Romeo.

Scene 3: The Miscommunication

Friar Laurence sends Friar John to deliver a letter to Romeo in Mantua, explaining the plan. However, a quarantine prevents Friar John from reaching Romeo. Romeo's servant, Balthasar, brings him news of Juliet's apparent death, unaware of the friar's plan.

Scene 4: Paris' Intentions

Paris, unaware of Juliet's love for Romeo, visits her tomb to mourn her. He encounters Romeo, who has come to Juliet's tomb to die alongside her. They engage in a deadly duel, resulting in Paris' death.

Scene 5: The Tragic Ending

Romeo enters Juliet's tomb, believing she is truly dead. He drinks poison and dies by her side. Juliet awakens to find Romeo dead and stabs herself with his dagger. The Capulets and Montagues discover the tragic scene and reconcile, ending their feud, but it's too late for Romeo and Juliet.