

I've chosen response #5 "Love in Translation"

A. They demand that the council reconsider the punishment. Her guardian insists that she be escorted.

B. If love be a mistake, let it be forgiven. Be it pride or propriety, their conflict goes on.

C. He claimed it was a fling, and so did she.

D. Arguably, were their family history to be told accurately, such a secret love affair would never occur in that era.

The Balcony, Rewritten

It seems that every culture turns tragedy into something romantic. In my Saint Petersburg version of Romeo and Juliet, the conflict isn't between families but between two rival art collectives: Lineage Revival and Propriety Studio. These groups care too much about showing what they think is real Russian culture, constantly arguing about tradition, authenticity, and modern influence. Juliet is a performance artist who paints icons on metro walls, creating images that mix religion and rebellion. Romeo posts photos of forbidden art online, turning every hidden mural into a small act of protest. They don't meet at a ball but at a small underground gallery that celebrates rule-breaking and creative transgression.

They call what they have a situationship. He insists that she be careful, and she demands that he reconsider the pointless conflict. Even though they try to keep things secret, the city quickly finds out about their clandestine affair. Rumors travel fast in Saint Petersburg, spreading faster than paint drying on a cold wall.

If love be blind, let it not see how everyone judges them. Be it honor or pride that keeps them apart, they stay on opposite sides of the river, texting instead of meeting in person.

Their story questions how outsiders imagine Russian passion — the vodka, the sadness, the lovers in the snow. Their relationship is calmer and more real because they try to find boundaries and consent in a city that wants drama. When the art show finally opens, Juliet is doubtful. Should she write his name or hide it? A missing signature becomes a quiet symbol of love. Their reconciliation is not about art or family but about refusing to let others turn their story into a stereotype.