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Romeo, Juliet & Jim

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Book Review
Romeo, Juliet & Jim

The classic Shakespearean tragedy is set in modern-day Paris between two rival fashion families. Romeo and Juliet are young, rich, beautiful, and star-crossed. The tale takes a turn with the arrival of the cocky American Jim, son of business tycoon and determined to ruin the reigns of both houses. Friendships entangle, love gets confusing, and betrayal runs rampant. The end of the book doesn’t finish the story. We’re left with a dead Henri, a drunk Romeo climbing a tree to Juliet’s empty bedroom, and Juliet and Jim rolling around in the muddy graveyard in a fit of passion. No resolution in sight.

The setting of the story is great. Paris is the only setting that might be able to rival Vienna, Italy as a romantic destination. The characters, while not as developed as those of Les Miserable or Harry Potter, are definitely more accessible and expressive than the Romeo and Juliet of Shakespeare’s originals. However, the plot is underdeveloped. The “villain” barely appears, simply threatens, and doesn’t follow up. There’s a sequel, which is good, because without a sequel, the reader is definitely left hanging.

*Contains moderate sexual content and mild language.