

The Romancers

The Romancers is one of the famous romantic comedies written by French writer **Edmond Rostand**. In his play "The Romancers" Edmond Rostand satirizes the sentimentalism and escapism of Romantic literature of his times. There are mainly five characters in this play: **Sylvette** and her father **Pasquinot**, **Percinet** and his father **Bergamin**, and **Straforel**, a hired killer.

This play presents the romantic affair of young lovers named **Percinet** and **Sylvette**. Both of them are school going teenagers. They do have many traits of young romancers which are as follows:

- They are romantic, emotional, passionate as well as sentimental.
- Both of them like love poetry and brave deeds.
- They compare themselves with romantic lovers of drama, poetry etc.
- They imagine and dream many things related to love.
- They madly love each other.
- Both of them appreciate each other. Percinet appreciates her impressive laughter whereas Sylvette appreciates his melodious voice.
- Percinet recites the verse which Sylvette willingly listens.
- They passed hours walking along in the garden. They love the beautiful environment and nature.
- They have a love for each and everything. They try to meet many times secretly in the garden.
- They ask about each other's health and hug.
- They are ready to sacrifice anything for their true love.

Thus, their love is all in all true and they don't want to lose each other.

MAIN OBSTACLE IN THE LOVE AFFAIR OF PERCINET AND SYLVETTA

Both Percinet and Sylvette love each other so deeply but there is an obstacle in their affair. The main obstacle for both of them is their fathers Bergamin and Pasquinot. Bergamin is the father of Percinet whereas Pasquinot is the father of Sylvette. Both of them are neighbours and enemies of each other. They hate each other severely. The enmity between their fathers has separated Percinet and Sylvette. Their fathers don't allow them to meet. They fight with each other when they see their children are together. They have warned their children not to meet each other. Pasquinot has even warned his daughter to leave her if she moves closer to Percinet or his father. Bergamin has also warned his son the same thing. Percinet passes his most of his time in the wall. He is in his daydreaming due to his love. When his father sees his activities, he puts pieces of broken glasses on the top of the wall so that he can't touch it. Pasquinot also puts spikes on his wall to make his daughter limit within the boundary. Fathers' act against their love brings anxiety among lovers. Fathers' hatred becomes the main cause of their separation. Despite such threats, both lovers meet separately in the garden. They kiss and hug there. Their love grows stronger day by day.

THE REAL FACT

Both fathers Bergamin and Pasquinot are so intimate friends of each other. They pretend to be enemies of each other to make their children's love deeper. When their children appear in front of them, they start quarrelling with each other. Both fathers don't want to unite them completely. They plan to intensify their children's love. They restrict both lovers from doing love. They realize that the more you kept someone away from their love, the more they love. They do their best to control their children. Finally, when they find their children love each other deeply as true love, they plan to reunite them without letting them know anything. Both lovers are ready to bear any sacrifice to get true love. Both fathers plan to hire a professional killer. They hire Staforel to play the role of a kidnapper. Staforel plays a very good role. He acts as a real villain. When Staforel comes along with his partners with swords and kidnaps Sylvette, Percinet jumps over the wall and fights bravely with villains. All the companions of Staforel run away whereas Staforel lies on the ground. Percinet saves Sylvette's life. This kidnapping scene brings happiness to the young romancers. Staforel gets paid a fine payment for his acting. The father of the girl praises Percinet as a hero and rescuer. Sylvette's father shakes his hand with Percinet. Finally, he allows Percinet to marry his daughter.

Synopsis of the play

A wall has divided the park. Percinet is sitting on the wall reading Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet to Sylvette, who is standing on the other side leaning against the wall. Sylvette does not want him to read about Romeo's death. Their fathers hate each other and this hatred has divided them. Last month when Sylvette came home from her school, her father told her not to go near Percinet and his father. He added that if she does not think them her enemy, he will abandon her. But Percinet loves her, and says that the more you are kept from loving someone, the more you want to love.

Percinet knows that she loves him because she compared them to Romeo and Juliet. She does not know how quickly they began to love each other. He says that everything has worked together to unite the two hearts. After this they get engaged. He thinks that they are the tender-hearted children of two callous fathers. Sylvette hopes that God will use them to wipe out their family quarrel. She sees in advance some possible solutions. They make a plan that an old duke loves her and sends his man with a marriage proposal. When she refuses it, he asks his men to kidnap her. But luckily, Percinet comes and fights bravely and saves her. Her father comes and gives her daughter to him and his father also accepts her.

When Bergamin comes, Sylvette hides behind the wall and Percinet jumps down from the wall. He is caught daydreaming again by his father. He tells his father that he loves the wall and other lovely things there. He plans to re-plaster the wall and put the sharp broken glass on the top. Bergamin now wants to talk seriously to his son. He wants his son to see if someone is listening

to them. Percinet climbs on the bench and leans over the wall. Then he and Silvette secretly promise to see each other the following evening. When Percinet says that nobody is there, Bergamin states that he wants him to get married and that he has chosen a young and rich wife for him. He forces his son to marry her. Then Silvette understands that her father hates him for his money-minded nature. He runs after his son for indecent behavior with a cane in his hand.

Sylvette's father finds her walking there alone and asks her never to go near the wall of his enemy. He plans to put a row of spikes on the wall for protection. He sends her back into the house. Then he sends a letter to Straforel. Both Pasquinot and Bergamin climb up the wall and inquire of each other's health. Bergamin says that the marriage is settled because their children are madly in love. Their plan has been to tear down the wall and live together. By getting their children married, they want to achieve their aim. They have kept their plan secret. They think that a prearranged marriage is not exciting for their children. They have just pretended that they hate each other. Now their children have come home after completing their studies and they can't keep them away from each other for a long time. Their extraordinary plan is at the point of succeeding, but they can't say 'yes' without rousing their children's suspicions. When Pasquinot wants an excuse, Bergamin tells him the solution presented by her own daughter. For a make-believe kidnapping and sword fight, Straforel has been called. He explains to them different kinds of kidnapping and he goes out. Now both fathers are waiting for the day when they have only one home. They wish to pass the rest of their lives together. But Sylvette and Percinet suddenly enter on their respective sides. They notice their children and they turn their embrace into a fight. They start abusing each other. The children manage to separate them. All go out.

It is evening. Straforel and his swordsmen, musicians enter the park. He places his men in their positions. He orders everyone to do the assigned task. Percinet comes in reciting a few lines. The musicians play softly. Percinet is excited to see Sylvette for the first time in the evening. A bell rings in the distance. Sylvette appears. Then the hired killers seize her and put her into the sedan chair. She cries for help because she is being kidnapped. Percinet jumps over the wall, draws his sword and fights with a few killers. The music becomes loud. The boy fights bravely with Straforel, who falls holding his chest. Percinet runs over to Sylvette. She is in the sedan chair and he is kneeling beside her. Pasquinot appears saying that Bergamin's son is a hero and shakes hand. Both Sylvette and Percinet are very happy. Bergamin comes with his torchbearers. Pasquinot suggests that they should put an end to their feud and make their children happy. Bergamin's hatred has lessened and says that hatred always ends in a wedding. The children do not believe that their fathers have changed like this. Silvette innocently expresses her hope that it will end happily. When the lovers go back with Pasquinot, Straforel rises and hands Bergamin a slip of paper. It is a bill with his signature on it. Then Straforel drops back to the ground.