



# Romeo, Juliet, and Jim

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**Romeo, Juliet, and Jim** Larry Schwarz , Iva-Marie Palmer

Shakespeare meets Gossip Girl in this modern-day tale of two star-crossed lovers that soon becomes a love triangle in the first book of a trilogy.

Romeo and Juliet seem to have it all. They are heirs to the two greatest and oldest fashion houses Paris has ever seen, the House of Montague and the rival House of Capulet. They live in stunning penthouses, attend glamorous parties, count celebrities and supermodels among their closest friends. Yet the one thing they want most they can't have—each other. Juliet is tired of a clandestine relationship. She wants to run off together and escape. Enter Jim, a mysterious rugged American who swoops in and befriends the young lovers. They don't have to hide their romance from him—they can be themselves. But just who is Jim, really? Once Romeo and Juliet find out that their new friend has his own troubling connections within their world, all three of them have a lot to figure out. Because there's a lot at stake. And on top of it all, Juliet and Jim are falling in love. Can Romeo win back his lover's heart? Or will Juliet and Jim rewrite the ending of the world's most famous love story?

## Romeo, Juliet, and Jim Details

Date : Published June 6th 2017 by Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt

ISBN :

Author : Larry Schwarz , Iva-Marie Palmer

Format : 278 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Romance, Retellings, Contemporary

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# From Reader Review *Romeo, Juliet, and Jim* for online ebook

## Emilee says

Larry Schwarz & Iva-Marie Palmer

The classic Shakespearean tragedy is set in modern-day Paris between two rival fashion families. Romeo and Juliet are just as young, just as rich, just as beautiful, and just as star-crossed as in ancient Vienna. Secret email accounts, Metros, hostels, and flea markets set the scene for an artsy love story, plagued by old money and paparazzi. The tale takes a turn with the arrival of the cocky American Jim, son of business tycoon 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 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 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.

This book explicitly celebrates and elaborates on teen sex, teen drinking, teen tobacco use, and teen drug use. There is also explicit, vulgar language in this book.

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## Abbie Lemieux says

*Romeo, Juliet, and Jim* is a modern retake on the classic Shakespearean tragedy. This book is great for young adults that may not be too fond of reading. The text is somewhat large, the book is pretty short, and the story is very intriguing. I'm very impressed by how the author was able to keep the messages and emotions of important plot points, but was still able to transform it into a modern story that people can relate to today. It was also very impressive how the author was able to weave the new character, Jim, into the story without losing its important developments or sacrificing the other characters' moments and traits. The character of Jim didn't get in the way of the plot or the characters. Overall, I would recommend this to any young adults who like classic stories with a modern twist but may not want to read a long book.

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## Cindy Mitchell *\*Kiss the Book\** says

Schwarz, Larry and Palmer, Iva-Marie *Romeo, Juliet and Jim* 278 pgs. Henry Holt, 2017. \$17.99 Content: Language: PG (20 swears: 10A, 10F) Mature Content: PG13 (Sex w/o details, teen drinking); Violence: G

Romeo and Juliet are already secretly dating in this modern day re-telling. They live in Paris and are the scion of competing enemy fashion houses. They are both wealthy, popular and good looking. They wish they could share their romance with the world, but must keep things secret, sleeping together in seedy motels and using a secret email account. Then just when they are about to be caught, they are saved by a new student to their school, Jim. But it was not accident that Jim was there, and now he questions his loyalties as he starts to

fall for Juliet and she for him.

This was hands down one of the worst books I have read for this blog. It was trite, cheesy, shallow, and overly long. Honestly I was to the point where it would have only been more amusing if Jim and Romeo had also fallen in love. Where was the true beautiful longing, the angst, the unfulfilled desire? It was not here. Lots of references to consummated sex (no details), swearing in French, and teenage drinking. Not for a school library, despite the draw of the re-telling.

HS –NO Reviewer: Stephanie Elementary School Librarian & Author.

<https://kissthebook.blogspot.com/2017...>

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### **Andria Henry says**

This novel was surprisingly better than I thought it was going to be, it wasn't the same retelling we hear over and over again. Especially since we get a new person in the story named Jim. I think I enjoyed reading from Jim's view more than Juliet's and Romeo's, his was more interesting. I never knew what was going to happen with Jim. Romeo and Juliet's love story was cute, but I could tell when reading the book that they lack some trust in their relationship. The friendship that formed between the three was my favorite part. Many predictions are going through my head after reading the cliffhanger and they all turn out bad. It's crazy this is going to be a trilogy, how much tragedy do you want in this series?

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### **Barbara says**

Although I doubt the two star-crossed lovers who were so desperate to hide their love would have ever trusted Jim with their secret, I enjoyed this modern day version of William Shakespeare's classic story. Appropriately set in Paris, both Romeo and Juliet are attractive, smart, and seem to have everything their hearts could ever desire, mostly due to the wealth and influence of their two families, rivals in the fashion industry. Until he was charmed by Juliet, Romeo has cut quite a swathe among the various women in the city, but now he only has eyes for her and lives for their secret meetings. While she longs to bring their romance into the public eye, he fears losing everything else and cautions her to wait. When Jim arrives on the scene after being kicked out of a boarding school in the United States, Romeo sees him as a confidant and someone with whom he can spend time while Juliet feels a strange attraction to him. Just as in the original version, readers will find betrayal, loss, misunderstandings, confusion, romance, and tragedy. The pace picks up quickly during the last third of the book, and teen readers will be desperate to stop the lovers from making the wrong decisions. The last five or so pages seemed rushed to me, intended to keep readers dangling in anticipation of the next book, but perhaps things will get sorted out once it arrives. Readers are advised to listen to Halsey's "Now or Never" while reading this book since both provide similar feelings echoing the desperation of young love.

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### **Rachel (APCB Reviews) says**

This book instantly intrigued me because it's basically a modern retelling of Romeo and Juliet with a Gossip Girl twist to it.

In this reimagining of Romeo and Juliet, the Houses of Capulet and Montague are fashion companies. I loved that this story is centered around the fashion world of Paris! I love following the lives of the uber wealthy in novels and their rich people problems, and this book definitely captivated me. The setting of this novel is Paris, France, and I love the inclusion of French fashion, culture, and the language in the book. I hope the subsequent book expands on the setting and utilizes it to its full potential. And yes, this is apparently the first book in a trilogy!

This book lacks the carefree nature of Gossip Girl and the plot was definitely heavy at times. It definitely plays off of the drama of Romeo and Juliet. The authors did a great job modernizing the tale, and I really appreciated the nods to the play and the parts where the authors took liberties to make the story different. Adding a third wheel to this tale, Jim, is what really drew me to this book. I wanted to see how the star-crossed lovers would respond with a confidant in the middle of their mess.

The romance in this book felt as dramatic, helpless, and doomed as the romance in the play. I just felt so bad for these characters! They love each other, and they can't be together because of their families. This book did so much more "tell" than "show" but the little romance and affection shown on the pages was pretty cute.

The writing in this book is simple and addictive. Some of the plot was really predictable while a few scenes were a shock to me. I wish I had more to say about this book, but overall I just wasn't really impressed. I was entertained enough to keep reading though, and I will definitely read the next book!

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### **Kelly says**

Picture it, Paris. Romeo & Juliet are still in love except in this version their families are THE prominent fashion houses in all the land. Love or at least lust is in the air, but so is despair, distrust, and jealousy. Romeo & Juliet meet Jim, who unbeknownst to them is the son of the American tycoon that wants to buy their family's fashion empires, dismantle, and then combine them. In a world of secret texts and email accounts and he/she is taking too long to respond, he must not love me after all! Drama is the forefront of almost every page. The book ends on a cliffhanger, clearly wanting to be a series.

I must admit I did read the book rather quickly, but it was rather like nails on a chalkboard. The setting of Paris and not Italy. The Fashion House angle. The vapid conversations and texts. I think the nail in the coffin was the unsatisfying ending. Possibly I am just showing my age. Perhaps it will appeal to the intended high school audience. The book blurb makes comparisons to Gossip Girl. Not my cup of tea, but I can see teens enjoying it. I however will pass on the sequel.

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### **Stacee says**

Anything R+J is an auto buy and I loved this premise...sadly it was severely disappointing.

This Romeo and Juliet are so dramatic it's ridiculous. The story pretty much went from "omg we're so in love, let's run away together" to "omg why didn't he/she email more than one sentence" to "he/she clearly loves someone else even though they're doing the exact same things they always have." It was a lot of interpreting glances and photos. There are entire chapters without dialogue. Needless to say, it got really old really fast.

I did like the addition of Jim, but he quickly added to the drama. It felt like he stirred things up whenever he had the chance. It was interesting to see how a modern day R+J made it: the shared email account was pretty clever. But why not get some burner phones or something?

The last few chapters were absolutely infuriating and it literally ends with the narrator of sorts asking various questions. Is this going to be a series or are we supposed to be satisfied with the disjointed epilogue?

Regardless, I was disappointed in how R+J were portrayed and the entire book felt like a clever idea with a horrible execution.

**\*\*Huge thanks to Henry Holt for providing the arc free of charge\*\***

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## **Teresa says**

Alright, this book was difficult for me to like but there were some great aspects of this story so I am going to start with what I liked and go from there.

Things I liked:

1. The setting, Paris...one of my favorite cities in the world. When reading the parts where the characters are roaming the streets, seeing the sights...it made me what to be walking right there with them.
2. I have to say that I really did like the way the characters were introduced. Romeo and Juliet as heirs to the uber famous, wealthy houses of fashion that rule the scene, not only in Paris but around the world as well...IMO I felt that was a pretty great setup for a retelling of a classic.

Now for some of the things I didn't care for:

1. The characters...mainly because I felt like I couldn't relate to any of them, I am sure that it is a personal thing.
2. I don't know anything about fashion, seriously...I am completely lost when it comes to anything trendy, hip, famous..you name it. I just felt that I couldn't connect with the fashion aspect of the story because I couldn't connect, and the story didn't focus on that part very much. (Maybe that will grow in the following books.)

Overall, I just felt meh...I really wanted to like this book and I believe that maybe as the series progresses that I will be able to like the story. Maybe I was just at a point in my life where this just wasn't a book for me, who knows.

Thanks to MacMillan and Edelweiss for the ARC!

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## **Sydney says**

*I won an ARC copy of **Romeo, Juliet, and Jim** from a giveaway, hosted by Fierce Reads.*

***Romeo, Juliet, and Jim*** is a retelling of the classic story of the world's most famous star-crossed lovers. In this novel by *Larry Schwarz and Iva-Marie Palmer*, fate introduces a third party to the doomed star-crossed duo.

The synopsis of ***Romeo, Juliet, and Jim*** captured my interest when it was first introduced. I was curious on

reading about a new twist of fate for Romeo and Juliet. Sadly, I was disappointed with this book. The characters of the novel were hard to connect with and appealed to me as whiny children. I felt like this version of Romeo and Juliet were only in love and pining for each other because they couldn't be together. They would constantly doubt the other's love for the other, and whine about it for chapters before going to confront the other and sort things out.

*Romeo, Juliet, and Jim* did have it's good qualities too. I liked that the cover connects with a scene right at the beginning of the book where Juliet is on Love-Lock Bridge. I did also enjoy the aspect of the third party, Jim, the daring, mysterious American.

Overall, I wouldn't necessarily recommend this to anyone because of the whiny characters, but I think anyone who is interested in Romeo and Juliet taking on a new twist of fate they may like the plot line.

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### **Danni says**

Light and easy to get through, but predictable.

In modern-day Paris, Romeo and Juliet are 16-year-old star-crossed lovers, kept apart because of their families' competing fashion companies. They befriend Jim, a mysterious American — but what they don't know that Jim's father is trying to buy and merge the Houses of Montague and Capulet. (This is meant to be a travesty, but it's hard to feel compelled.)

When I first read the title, I hoped the "+Jim" would be a bisexual storyline (in love with both Romeo & Juliet?) but instead he was just part of an uninteresting love triangle — meant to make Romeo jealous and confuse Juliet. I wanted this book to deliver a cool and fun twist on the Shakespeare tale, but it mostly fell flat.

I was ready to give this book 3 or maybe 3.5 stars for being entertaining, if forgettable — but then the ending was TERRIBLE and completely UNSATISFYING so I could not recommend this book to anyone.

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### **Take Me Away To A Great Read says**

DNF at pg. 68

I found no connection to the world, characters or plot. I really was excited for this modern retake on Romeo and Juliet but it just went so wrong. The relationships felt wrong and forced and they stereotypes rubbed me the wrong way. I am sad to say I just could not get into the book, it sounded so promising but just was not for me.

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### **Bookevin says**

**DNF: 19th June**

I think I'll set this aside for the time being. I *might* pick this up again in the future, but right now, I am not in the mood for this.

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## Brenna Clark says

I won this book in a Goodreads giveaway and was enthralled by the imaginative retelling of one of the world's best and most well-known love stories. It was updated quite a bit, and felt exactly what I think that story would be like if it happened now. We grow more insecure and more desperate for love and a meaning in life with each generation. Those in power think themselves better than anyone else, and hate anyone that questions their authority. Romeo, Juliet, and Jim all lived in and were molded by this world. For them, love isn't something that is patient or kind. It creates an insatiable need, and one will go through any lengths to fill that need. Secret romances tug hard on one's sanity, and so they need an escape. Jim offers that escape to Juliet. I'm ready for the next installment!

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## Jennifer says

For the record, I am 100% on board with wacky-ridiculous YA retellings of Shakespeare. Lesbian *Macbeth* in a gothic Southern boarding school? Sign me up. *The Winter's Tale* at cheer camp? Give me a Y-E-S. *Much Ado About Nothing* in a 1920s speakeasy? JUST TAKE MY MONEY, FOR THE LOVE OF GOD.

What I'm *not* onboard for is authors inserting unnecessary original characters into adaptations of Shakespeare like bad Gary Stu fanfic. *Romeo, Juliet & Jim* is just such a creature, which is unfortunate because the concept of the star-crossed lovers as the heirs to dueling houses of fashion is actually kind of a brilliant way to modernize and explain the conflict of two households, both alike in dignity, etcetera, etcetera. Here - and here is Paris, not Verona, despite the fact I'm pretty sure Italians do fashion, too - Romeo and Juliet are two ultra-famous teen fashion symbols sneaking visits to hotel rooms behind their parents' backs while pretending not to know each other at school. When the press almost catches them out, they're rescued by Jim, an American transfer student, who quickly becomes Romeo's confidante and Juliet's...something else.

Let's set aside the toxic nature of R&J's romance here, which you could argue is actually canon, and take a moment to consider that Jim's role in this narrative could have easily been played by Paris - the Count, not the city. There's no need to create someone from scratch to be the third point in your love triangle, since Shakespeare provides you one ready-made, unless it's because you came up with the title *Romeo, Juliet & Jim* before you really had a plot in mind and you just needed to do some retconning.

Schwarz and Palmer write well together, and their characters feel like real teenagers - yes, even the insane, obnoxious doubts that Romeo and Juliet have about each other's constancy; we all remember that couple from high school - living in the vibrantly alive world of Parisian fashion. Unfortunately, I can't get past the cardinal sin of an OC in Shakespeare. If you can, then attend this two hours' traffic upon the page.

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