And we are not ungrateful: we admit our words reach loving ears.” And having talked in vain, the lovers still remained apart. Just so, one night, they wished each other well, and each delivered kisses to the wall—although those kisses could not reach their goal. But on the morning after, whenfirstlight had banished night’s bright star-fires from the sky and sun had left the brine-soaked meadows dry, again they took their places at the cleft. Then, in low whispers—after their laments—those two devised this plan: they’d circumvent their guardians’ watchful eyes and, cloaked by night, in silence, slip out from their homes and reach a site outside the city. Lest each lose the other as they wandered separately across the open fields, they were to meet at Ninus’ tomb and hide beneath a tree in darkness; for beside that tomb there stood a tall mulberry close to a cool spring, a tree well weighted down with snow-white berries. Delighted with their plan—impatiently—they waited for the close of day. At last the sun plunged down into the waves, and night emerged from those same waves.

Now Thisbe takes great care, that none detect her as she makes her way out from the house amid the dark; her face is veiled; she finds the tomb; she sits beneath the tree they’d chosen for their tryst. Love made her bold. But now a lioness just done with killing oxen—blood dripped down her jaws, her mouth was frothing—comes to slake her thirst at a cool spring close to the tree. By moonlight, Thisbe sees the savage beast; with trembling feet, the girl is quick to seek a shadowed cave; but even as she flees, her shawl slips from her shoulders. Thirst appeased, the lioness is heading for the woods when she, by chance, spies the abandoned shawl

5. *they’d circumvent ... eyes*: They would sneak past their parents.
6. **Ninus’ tomb**: According to Greek legend, King Ninus was Semiramis’ husband. When he died, she marked his burial place with a tall monument outside the walls of Babylon.
7. **mulberry**: a type of tree that produces small, sweet berries, which are usually deep red or purple in color.