

The Crucible

Audition

Reverend Parris

PARRIS.. Do you understand that?

ABIGAIL. I think so, sir.

PARRIS. Now then-in the midst of such disruption, my own household is discovered to be the very center of some obscene practice. Abominations are done in the forest. . . .

ABIGAIL. It were only sport, Uncle'

PARRIS. I saw Tituba waving her arms over the fire when I came on you; why were she doing that? And I heard a screeching and gibberish comin' from her mouth. .

ABIGAIL. She always sings her Barbados songs, and we dance.

PARRIS. I cannot blink what I saw, Abigail-for my enemies will not blink it. I saw a dress lying in the grass.

ABIGAIL. A dress?

PARRIS. Aye, a dress. And I thought I saw a ...someone naked running through the trees !

ABIGAIL. No one was naked! You mistake yourself, Uncle!

PARRIS. I saw it I Now tell me true, Abigail. Now my ministry's at stake; my ministry and perhaps your cousin's life. .. What. ever abomination you have done, give me :all of it now, for I dare not be taken unaware when I go before them down there

ABIGAIL. There is nothin' more. I swear it. Uncle

PARRIS. Abigail, I have fought here three long years; to bend these stiff necked people to me, and now , just now when there must be some good respect for me in the parish, you compromise my very character. I have given you a home, child, I have put clothes upon your back-.now give me upright answer :-your name in the town-it is entirely white, is it not?

ABIGAIL. Why, I am sure it is, sir, there be no blush about my name.

PARRIS. Abigail, is there any other cause than you have told me, for Goody Proctor dischargin' you? It has troubled me that you are now seven months out of their house, and in all this time no other family has ever called for your service.

ABIGAIL. They want slaves, not such as I. Let them send to Barbados for that,