


The crucible act 3 script

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In Act 3 of *The Crucible*, we meet with the judges who have tried witches. John Proctor and Mary Warren finally confront the court with the truth, but as you will see, the truth has a limited currency when it is not consistent with what people have already decided to believe. I'll include a short and long summary of Act 3, a list of the most important quotes and thematic analysis covering the events of this part of the play.

Crucible Act 3 Summary - A brief version of Judge Hathorne casts doubt on Martha Corey backstage. Giles Corey interrupts the trial to protect his wife, and he drags Marshal Herrick into the courtroom (on stage). They are accompanied by Judge Hathorn, Governor Danforth, Reverend Parris and Reverend Hale, Frances Nurse and Ezekiel Cheever. After a short discussion where the truth of the accusers claims challenged Frances Nurse and Giles Corey, Mary Warren and John Proctor enter the room. Mary admits to Danforth that she and the other girls were faking it all the time. Danforth is not convinced that this is true, based on the evidence of witchcraft, which he saw in court (people were strangled with familiar spirits and cut with daggers). Proctor is presenting a petition signed by 91 people who are willing to vouch for the good character of Elizabeth Proctor, Rebecca Nurse, and Martha Corey. Danforth warrants are drawn up for all the people who signed the petition. Proctor then submits a statement from Giles Corey, where Corey testifies that Thomas Putnam called his daughter, Ruth Putnam, to make charges against George Jacobs so That Putnam could snatch Jacobs' ground. However, Giles refuses to reveal who gave him this information, so he is arrested for contempt of court and his charges are dropped. Finally, Proctor gives a statement to Danforth's Mary Warren, where she admits in writing that she and the other girls were pretending. The girls are brought from the courtroom for questioning in Danforth. Abigail denies Mary's accusations. Judges doubt Mary even more when she fails to pretend to faint as she says she did in the courtroom. Abigail says she feels the spirit in the room that infuriates Proctor. He calls her a whore and admits that they had an affair to discredit her. Danforth brings Elizabeth Proctor to the interrogation on this issue, but she covers the case to protect John's reputation. She doesn't know he's already confessed. John's accusations were later rejected. Abigail claims to see the bird on the rafters, which she insists is the spirit of Mary Warren, ready to attack her. Other girls follow the example of Abigail and the gang on Mary. Terrified Mary breaks down under the pressure of these accusations and admits that John made her work for the Devil. Proctor and Corey are arrested, and Hale leaves court in disgust with this blatant display of irrationality. You've probably seen it coming. John Proctor is not going to get away with time Devilishly beautiful much longer (sorry). Crucible Act 3 Summary - A long version of this act takes place in the Salem boardroom, which is located right outside the courtroom. Onlookers hear Judge Hawthorne questioning Martha Corey from the stage (in court). He asks her a number of leading questions in an attempt to get her to confess to witchcraft. Giles Corey tries to abort, arguing that the charges are merely the product of Thomas Putnam's greed for the ground. Giles is dragged out of the courtroom and into the living room (on stage) by Marshal Herrick. They are followed by Frances Nurse, Reverend Hale, Judge Hathorn, Deputy Governor Danforth, Ezekiel Cheever and Reverend Parris. Danforth admonishes Giles to interrupt the trial. He insists that if Giles wants to provide evidence in his wife's defense, he must follow the procedure and testify under oath. Frances Nurse says he has evidence that the girls are scammers. This allegation alarms Danforth because he has already condemned many people on the basis of their testimony. At this time, John Proctor leads Mary Warren to the living room. Mary doesn't speak at first, but Proctor tells Danforth that she signed a statement saying she had never seen the spirits. Mary hesitantly tells Danforth that the girls were faking it all the time. Danforth warns Proctor that he better be sure that this new evidence is true and questions his intentions. Proctor says he has no desire to undermine the court, and his only goal is to save his wife. Cheever reveals that Proctor broke the arrest warrant when he came to pick up his wife, and Danforth becomes suspicious again. He asks Proctor a couple of questions about his religious devotion and his lapses in church attendance, and Proctor repeats that he hasn't been to church lately because he hates Parris. Danforth still feels that the girls must be telling the truth because he saw them being stabbed with pins and smothered with perfume in court. Proctor counters, pointing out how strange it is that all these people who have always had a great reputation are now suddenly accused of witchcraft. Danforth and Hawthorne then tell John that Elizabeth is pregnant, meaning they will spare her at least until the baby is born. Proctor refuses to drop the perjury charges against the girls, even though his wife is safe. His friends' wives are still in danger, and he is determined to expose Abigail as a liar. Danforth agrees to look at Proctor's evidence, which is a petition signed by 91 respectable people, a testament to the kind characters of Rebecca Nurse, Martha Corey and Elizabeth Proctor. Parris insists that those who signed the petition be summoned for questioning. Danforth orders warrants issued for their arrest to the horror of Francis Nurse, who promised the people who signed the petition that there would be no consequences for them. Danforth says they have nothing to fear if they're really good. Proctor testifies with Danforth Giles Corey. Corey says Putnam told his daughter Ruth to accuse George Jacobs of witchcraft so Putnam could take Jacobs' land. However, Corey refuses to give Danforth the name of the person who gave him this information, and when Putnam is asked directly, he denies it. Hale says Giles can't be accused of keeping his informant anonymous because everyone in town is afraid of a trial. Danforth insists that innocent people have no reason to be afraid. Giles was arrested for contempt of court. Proctor tries to calm everyone down and gives evidence to Mary Warren Danforth. It says she has never seen the devil or other spirits, and other girls lie. Before Danforth takes the testimony, Hale tries to persuade him to let his lawyer back up Proctor's evidence in court, instead of asking Proctor to defend them alone. Danforth says witchcraft is an invisible crime, so the witch and the victim are the only real witnesses. This means that only the victim remains for reliable testimony in court (since obviously the witch can not be trusted), so lawyers are not needed. After reading the testimony, Danforth asks Mary if Proctor threatened her to change her testimony. Mary says no, she's telling the truth now. Danforth orders other girls who entered the room. Danforth informs them of the charges against them, and Abigail categorically denies Mary's accusations. Proctor notes that Mary has no reason to make these statements if she doesn't tell the truth. He encourages Mary to tell Danforth about the girls dancing in the woods. Parris is forced to admit that he has discovered that they are dancing, and Hale confirms. Danforth is alarmed by this information and becomes less trusting of Abigail. Hawthorne then questions Mary about her past conduct in court in light of her new evidence. Mary says she pretended when she fainted in court earlier. Hawthorne and Parris tell Mary to pretend again that she fainted right now if she's such a good actress. Mary cannot pretend to faint outside the environment courtroom. Danforth asks Abigail if it's possible that the perfume could have been all in her head. Abigail is offended by these accusations, pointing out how badly she suffered at the hands of witches. She suddenly stops talking and claims to feel the spirit in the room. Other girls imitate her. Danforth buys in the act and immediately suspects Mary witchcraft, which is Abigail's intention. Mary tries to escape, fearing for her life if other girls accuse her. Proctor stops Mary from leaving and grabs Abigail by the hair in a rage, calling her a whore. He confesses to their affair and explains that Abigail accused his wife of witchcraft because she wants to be with him. Danforth is horrified, and Abigail refuses to answer the charges, which further worries Danforth. Danforth orders Elizabeth Proctor brought for questioning by question issue after John insists that Elizabeth is unable to lie. John and Abigail are both forced to turn their backs on her as she is being questioned, so she doesn't know that John has already confessed to the case. Elizabeth says she fired Abigail because she was suspicious of Abigail's close relationship with her husband. When asked further, she lies and says her suspicions were unfounded to protect John's reputation. Danforth takes this as proof that Proctor is lying about an affair, and fires Elizabeth. Hale notes that it is understandable that Elizabeth lied to protect her husband's reputation. He thinks Proctor is telling the truth. Abigail prevents further rational conversation by pretending to see and talk to the bird, which she claims is the spirit of Mary Warren. All the girls start repeating everything Mary says. Danforth is once again convinced of this charade. He's pressuring Mary to admit she's in league with the Devil. Mary fears for her life, so she washes away that Proctor is the devil's man and forced her into witchcraft (to be fair, he made her change her testimony). Danforth asks Proctor a couple of accusatory questions. Proctor condemns Danforth for promoting fear and ignorance without exposing girls as crooks. He also accuses himself of not daring to come forward. He sees that the dark tendencies within himself and others have led to this disaster, and they will all eventually go to hell. Danforth orders Proctor and Corey to arrest and send him to prison. Hale is outraged by the way Danforth conducted the investigation and refuses to be part of the proceedings. That's how I imagined a fake Mary Warren bird-spirit. She's like a chicken. Crucible Act 3 quotes here is a list of key quotes that are most relevant to the thematic events that unfold in Act 3. I will briefly explain the meaning of each of them in context. For a more expansive take, check out our full list of key quotes from all four acts. But you must understand, sir, that a man either with this court, or he should be counted against him, had no road between them. Now is a poignant time - we are no longer living in a dark day, when evil has mixed with good and set the world. Danforth, pg. 87 Here Danforth confirms the black and white nature of the court's point of view. Anyone who does not fully support the court's actions is considered suspicious. Judges cannot afford to have any ambiguity or doubt infecting their decision because their power will suffer in general. To maintain control, they seek to create the illusion of accuracy in the sentencing process. It is an illusion created for both itself and the rest of Salem. They want to feel safe knowing that they are doing the right thing and they can only do it by completely crushing all their uncertainties. In a common crime, how can you protect one calls witnesses to prove his innocence. But the sorcery of ipso facts, on its face and by nature, is an invisible crime, isn't it? So who can witness this? The witch and the victim. No one else. Now we cannot hope that the witch will blame herself. Granted? So we have to rely on her victims - and they give evidence, the children are certainly giving evidence. As for witches, no one will deny that we are most eager for all their confessions. So, what's left for the lawyer to withdraw? Danforth, pg. 93 This quote shows Danforth's rationale for how these tests were conducted. This gives us an idea of the perverse logic that judicial officials have adopted in the face of hysteria. Since the crime is invisible, there are no objective witnesses; the only people who can most testify to what really happened is the witch and her victim. This means that each case is inevitably a situation where the accused is immediately trusted and forcing to confess without being able to defend himself. The terror around witchcraft and the devil is so great that officials ignore the fact that prosecutors may have reason to lie about their experiences. I heard other girls screaming, and you, your honor, you seemed to believe them, and I - It was only a sport in the beginning, sir, but then the whole world cried spirits, spirits, and I - I promise you, Mr. Danforth, I only thought I saw them, but I didn't. Mary Warren, pg. 100 Mary Warren tries to explain her actions at the beginning of the game with limited success. She faces scepticism from the judges after such a dramatic change in her testimony. There's no consideration of the psychological elements in the game in all of girls' testimonies and how peer pressure and endorsement of powerful adults can encourage their behavior. Mary tries to describe getting swept up in the experience of being in the courtroom. All her friends were screaming about witches, Danforth believed them, and then the city believed them. Fire, fire is on fire! I hear Lucifer's boot, I see his dirty face! And that's my face, and yours, Danforth! For them that quail to bring people out of ignorance as I quail, and as you quail now, when you know in all your black hearts, that it is a scam - God curses our species especially, and we will burn, we will burn together! Proctor, pg. 111 John Proctor is at the end of his wit by the time this act is over because he is so disappointed with the way judicial officials have decided to turn a blind eye to the lies being told right in front of them. It became a source of pride for them. They have no real desire for justice; they just want to be proven right. John describes a vision of hell in which the face of the devil is merely a reflection of the person and faces of all those who have allowed this tragedy. He delayed the court's disclosure of Abigail's lies, and officials continued to trust prosecutors. All of them actively decided to encourage ignorance and paranoia out of vested interests, rather than to introduce critical thinking and logic into proceedings. Now there's no turning back. Crucible Act 3 Thematic Analysis In this section, I will provide a brief analysis of each of the main themes that appear in Act 3 of *Crucible*. I'm working on a full thematic analysis that should come out soon, so stay tuned! Irony When Hathorne questions Martha Corey, she says she can't be a witch because I don't know what a witch is (pg. 77). Hathorn counters by saying that if she doesn't know what a witch is, she can't know for sure that she's not alone. While officials are claiming a mission to find out the truth, they are really just weaving narratives out of lies that match their biases by ignoring everything the defendant says. There is also an example of the tragic irony at the end of this act, when Elizabeth is brought in for questioning after John confesses to the affair with Abigail. Not knowing that he had already confessed, she was lying to protect him. She portrays herself as an irrationally jealous wife: I came to the idea that he thought. And then one night I lost my wit. I think, and put it on the highway (p. 105). One time when the eternally honest Elizabeth decided to lie also turned out to be the time when she was most important to her to tell the truth. Both she and John take steps to protect each other in different ways, but ultimately they make things worse because their priorities are not aligned. Hysteria Hysteria on display in Crucible reaches its peak during Act 3. Throughout, there are examples of judicial officials ignoring logic and evidence in favor of ignorance and paranoia. It is becoming clear that the court has decided to believe the accusers, and any evidence presented indicating that they are fraudsters is discounted. When the petition shows the good character of the accused women presented, the reaction of Danforth, Hathorn and Parris is to arrest the people who signed it, not that it may indicate the innocence of women. Danforth is convinced that there is a moving conspiracy to overthrow Christ in the country! (pg. 91), and anyone who doubts the court's decisions is potentially involved. The power of mass hysteria is once again revealed when Maria cannot pretend to faint outside the emotionally charged courtroom setting. She believed she had seen spirits before because she was caught in the misconceptions of the people around her. Abigail also distracts the judges from any rational investigation into this act by playing into mass hysteria. Danforth, who has the most authority, is also the most sold on her act, and it only takes a few cries to convince him that he's in Witchcraft. This leads to Mary Proctor's hysterical accusation after she realizes that she will be consumed by a hysterical monster if she does not contribute to this. John Proctor's reputation sabotages his reputation because he understands that this is the only way he can reliably discredit Abigail. This is not a decision that is taken lightly in a city where reputation is so important. John admits that he officially called the death of a good name (pg. 103). Elizabeth, however, does not realize that he cares enough about her to sabotage his reputation to save her life. It acts on the assumption that his reputation is still paramount and does not disclose the case. Reputational concern is also expressed in this act by Danforth and Hale, who both cite decisions they have already made, dooming people to death or imprisonment. Danforth doesn't want to take Maria's testimony, because if it's true, it's going to mean he's made a lot of mistakes that could destroy his credibility. Hale more willingly believes he made a mistake (I ask you to stop now before the other is convicted! (p. 105), but he is very interested in changing his decisions to bring them into line with the truth. He doesn't want his name to end up on the ignorant side of history. The government and the government want to preserve power and power play a prominent role in the actions of the characters in this act, especially the judges. Danforth and Hawthorne refuse to hear Giles Corey's testimony because he doesn't present them through proper channels. Violations in court are treated with great suspicion. John Proctor is immediately asked if he intends to overthrow the court when he tries to give contradictory testimony. People in leadership positions are unable to see things from a different perspective because their focus is on maintaining their power. As the evidence emerges, it becomes clear that the court is more concerned with the persistence of an air of infallibility than simply making decisions. Deception John Proctor admonishes Mary Warren to tell the truth about the fraudulent nature of accusations of witchcraft, citing examples from the scriptures to encourage her to work properly. At the same time, he has not yet made the truth about his case, which will give Maria's charges against Abigail more credibility. While he does eventually do so, it is interesting to think about how the course of events might have differed if it had not taken so long to uncover the truth in court. It is clear that in Salem sweeping things under the carpet or camouflaging them behind the facades of decency is a way of life. When the truth finally comes to be revealed, it is alien to the judges. How can Mary pretend to faint in the courtroom, but not now? How can Abigail Williams, an innocent victim of teenagers, deal with John Proctor, an outspoken farmer and family man? And how could she be cunning enough to pull off such a dramatic false These kinds of layers in the psychology and behavior of people are confusing because they usually remain hidden. No one who is able to change the course of events will find out the truth about what is hidden under the metaphorical floorboards in Salem before it is too late. Crucible Act 3 Summary Now for a quick review of what happened in Act 3. Cue bullet points! Martha Corey is being questioned by Danforth. Giles Corey objects to this and argues with the judges, insisting that the charges against her are false. Mary and John arrive, and Mary shows that she has not actually seen the spirits. John presents the petition as evidence of the good character of Elizabeth Proctor, Rebecca Nurse, and Martha Corey, but this has the opposite effect; Danforth has warrants for the signatories. Giles informs Danforth that Thomas Putnam told Ruth Putnam to blame George Jacobs so Putnam could get Jacobs land. However, Giles does not disclose who told him this, so he is arrested for contempt of court. Danforth examines Mary's testimony, where she testifies that the girls were faking it. The girls are brought in and interrogated, and Abigail denies the charges. Mary can't pretend to faint on command, which makes Danforth, Parris and Hawthorne question her revised testimony. John admits his affair with Abigail in despair, but usually the truthful Elizabeth does not confirm his claims because she does not know that he has already confessed. Abigail and the other girls act as if they are fascinated by Mary, who accuses John of working for the Devil for fear that she will be convicted by the court. John Proctor and Giles Corey are arrested, and Hale leaves court. Act 3 makes it clear that judicial officials do not want to see the cause. However, there is still the question of who ultimately faces the death penalty for these false charges and what the consequences of the trials will be in Salem. All this and more will be revealed in Act 4, the final chapter. What's next? Check out our Law 4 summary or, if you want a summary of the entire story, our summary of the full *Crucible* storyline, complete with character descriptions and a list of topics. Events in Act 3 include some key character events. For more information, read these in-depth analysis of the character of Abigail Williams, Rebecca Nurse, John Proctor, Mary Warren, and Giles Corey. We have also written short articles on confusing questions that often arise when students study *Crucible*. These articles should help you understand why Elizabeth asks John to go to Salem in Act 2 and why Reverend Hale eventually returns to Salem in Act 4. Want to improve your SAT score by 160 points or your ACT score by 4 points? We have written a guide for each test with the 5 best strategies you should use to have a chance at improving your score. Download it for free now: [the crucible act 2 scene 3 script](#)

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