

### 3. PARIS AND ABIGAIL (pp.7-8)

ABIGAIL. Uncle, the rumor of witchcraft is all about; I think you'd best go down and deny it yourself.  
The parlor's packed with people, sir. — I'll sit with her.

PARRIS. And what shall I say to them? That my daughter and my niece I discovered dancing like  
heathen in the forest?!

ABIGAIL. Uncle, we did dance; let you tell them I confessed it. But they're speakin' of witchcraft;  
Betty's not witched.

PARRIS. Abigail, I cannot go before the congregation when I know you have not opened with me.  
What did you do with her in the forest?

ABIGAIL. We did *dance*, Uncle, and when you leaped out of the bush so suddenly, Betty was frightened  
and then she fainted. And there's the whole of it.

PARRIS. Child. Sit you down.

ABIGAIL. I would never hurt Betty, I love her dearly, I. ..

PARRIS. Now look you, child — I have no desire to punish you; that will come in its time. But if you  
trafficked with spirits in the forest, I must know it, for surely my enemies will, and they'll ruin me  
with it. ..

ABIGAIL. But we never conjured spirits.

PARRIS. Then why can she not move herself since midnight? This child is desperate! It must come out  
— my enemies will bring it out. Let me know what you done there. Abigail, do you understand that  
I have many enemies?

ABIGAIL, I know it. Uncle.

PARRIS. There is a faction that is sworn to drive me from my pulpit. 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! Now tell me true, Abigail. Now my ministry's at stake; my ministry and perhaps your  
cousin's life... Whatever 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.