

ELIZABETH (To HALE. *Angrily.*) I cannot think the Devil may own a woman's soul, Mister Hale, when she keeps an upright way, as I have. I am a good woman, I know it; and if you believe I may do only good work in the world, and yet be secretly bound to Satan, then I must tell you, sir, I do not believe it.

HALE But, woman, you do believe there are witches in . . . ?

ELIZABETH If you think that I am one, then I say there are none.

HALE You surely do not fly against the Gospel, the Gospel . . .

PROCTOR She believe in the Gospel, every word!

ELIZABETH Question Abigail Williams about the Gospel, not myself!

PROCTOR She do not mean to doubt the Gospel, sir, you cannot think it. This be a Christian house, sir, a Christian house.

HALE (*Sighing.*) God keep you both; let the third child be quickly baptized and go you without fail each Sunday into Sabbath prayer; and keep a solemn, quiet way among you. I think . . . (*Enter COREY, R.*)

COREY John!

PROCTOR Giles! What's the matter?

COREY They take my wife. And Rebecca Nurse! (*NURSE enters, R.*)

PROCTOR (*To NURSE.*) Rebecca's in the jail!

NURSE John, Cheever come and take her in his wagon. We've only now come from the jail and they'll not even let us in to see them.

ELIZABETH They've surely gone wild now, Mister Hale!

NURSE Reverend Hale. Can you not speak to the Deputy Governor? – I'm sure he mistakes these people . . .

HALE Pray calm yourself, Mister Nurse . . .

NURSE My wife is the very brick and mortar of the church, Mister Hale – and Martha Corey, there cannot be a woman closer yet to God than Martha.

HALE (*Incredulously.*) How is Rebecca charged, Mr. Nurse?

NURSE For *murder*, she's charged! "For the marvelous and supernatural murder of Goody Putnam's babies." What am I to do, Mr. Hale?

HALE Believe me, sir, if Rebecca Nurse be tainted, then nothing's left to stop the whole green world from burning. Let you rest upon the justice of the court; the court will send her home, I know it . . .

NURSE You cannot mean she will be tried in court!

PROCTOR How may such a woman murder children?

HALE Man, remember, until an hour before the Devil fell, God thought him beautiful in Heaven.

COREY I never said my wife were a witch, Mister Hale, I only said she were reading books!

HALE Mister Corey, exactly what complaint were made on *your* wife?

COREY That bloody mongrel Wallcott charge her. Y' see, he buy a pig of my wife four or five year ago, and the pig died soon after. So he come dancin' in for his money back. So my Martha she says to him, "Wallcott, if you haven't the wit to