

HATHORNE You say you never saw no spirits, Mary, were *never* threatened or afflicted by any manifest of the Devil or the Devil's agents?

MARY (*Very faintly.*) No, sir.

HATHORNE And yet, when people accused of witchery confronted you in court, you would faint, saying their spirits came out of their bodies and choked you . . .

MARY That were pretense, sir.

DANFORTH I cannot hear you.

MARY Pretense, sir.

PARRIS But you did turn cold, did you not? I myself picked you up many times, and your skin were icy. Mister Danforth, you . . .

DANFORTH I saw that many times.

PROCTOR She only pretended to faint, your Excellency. — They're all marvelous pretenders.

HATHORNE Then can she pretend to faint now?

PROCTOR Now?

PARRIS Why not? Now there are no spirits attacking her, for none in this room is accused of witchcraft. So let her turn herself cold now, let her pretend she is attacked now, let her faint. Faint! (*Turns to MARY.*)

MARY Faint?

PARRIS Aye, faint! Prove to us how you pretended in the court so many times.

MARY (*Looks to PROCTOR.*) I . . . cannot faint now, sir.

PROCTOR (*Alarmed. Quietly.*) Can you not pretend it?

MARY I . . . I have no *sense* of it now, I . . .

DANFORTH Why? What is lacking now?

MARY I . . . cannot tell, sir, I . . .

DANFORTH Might it be that here we have no afflicting spirit loose, but in the court there were some?

MARY (*Desperately.*) I never saw no spirits.

PARRIS Then see no spirits *now*, and prove to us that you can faint by your own will, as you claim.

MARY (*Takes deep breath, stares searching for the emotion of it, and then shakes head.*) I . . . cannot do it.

PARRIS Then you will confess, will you not? Attacking spirits *made* you to faint!

MARY No, sir, I . . .

PARRIS Your Excellency, this is a trick to blind the court.

MARY It's not a trick! I . . . I used to faint because . . . I . . . I *thought* I saw spirits.

DANFORTH *Thought* you saw them!

MARY But I did not, your Honor.

HATHORNE How could you *think* you saw them *unless* you saw them?

MARY I . . . I cannot tell how, but I did. I . . . I heard the other girls screaming, and *you*, your Honor, you seemed to *believe* them and I . . . It were only *sport* in the beginning, sir, but then the whole world cried spirits, spirits, and I . . . I promise you, Mister Danforth, I only thought I saw them but I did not.