

START

WILLARD
(MARSHALL)
DANFORTH
HATHORNE
CHEEVER

WILLARD. (*At bench L.*) Good morning, Majesty.

DANFORTH. Where is Mister Parris?

WILLARD. I'll fetch him.

DANFORTH. Marshal. When did Reverend Hale arrive?

WILLARD. It were toward midnight, I think.

DANFORTH. (*Suspiciously.*) What is he about here?

WILLARD. He goes among them that will hang, sir. And he prays with them. He sits with Goody Nurse now. (*Crossing to R. bench, clears straw from it.*) And Mister Parris with him.

DANFORTH. Indeed. That man have no authority to enter here, Marshal; why have you let him in? (*Hathorne sits bench L.*)

WILLARD. (*Laughing.*) Why, Mister Parris command me, sir. I cannot deny him.

DANFORTH. Are you drunk, Marshal?

WILLARD. No, sir, it is a bitter night, and I have no fire here.

DANFORTH. Fetch Mister Parris.

WILLARD. (*Crossing toward entrance.*) Aye, sir.

DANFORTH. There is a prodigious *stench* in this place.

WILLARD. (*Stopping at door.*) I have only now cleared the people out for you.

DANFORTH. Beware hard drink, Marshal.

WILLARD. Aye, sir. (*Exits.*)

HATHORNE. Let you question Hale, Excellency; I should not be surprised he have been preachin' in Andover lately.

DANFORTH. We'll come to that; speak nothin' of Andover. Parris prays with him. That's strange. (*Blows on his hands.*)

HATHORNE. I think sometimes Parris has a mad look these days.

DANFORTH. Mad?

HATHORNE. I met him yesterday coming out of his house, and I bid him good morning—and he wept, and went his way. I think it is not well the village sees him so unsteady.

DANFORTH. Perhaps he have some sorrow.

CHEEVER. I think it be the *cows*, sir.

DANFORTH. The cows?

CHEEVER. There be so many *cows* wanderin' the highroads, now their masters are in the jails, and much disagreement who they will belong to now. I know Mister Parris be arguin' with farmers all yesterday—there is great contention, sir, about the cows. (*Danforth sits bench R.*) Contention make him weep, sir, it were always a man that weep for contention. (*He turns, as do Hathorne and Danforth,*

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