

## Papers On The Scarlet Letter

A collection of critical and expository essays on The scarlet letter.

Gathers historical documents that illustrate Puritan and nineteenth-century attitudes, and shares contemporaneous reviews and current relevant news articles

1652...Found guilty of adultery, Hester Prynne is punished by being forced to publicly wear the scarlet letter 'A' as a mark of her shame.Despite being imprisoned, Hester refuses to name her lover and father of her daughter. Her position is made even more desperate when a man calling himself Roger Chillingworth arrives in her cell...A story of guilt and revenge, Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel is rightly acclaimed as a literary classic, and its themes remain as challenging today as they were when the book was written.

In seventeenth-century Boston, Hester Prynne shoulders the scorn of her fellow Puritan townsfolk for bearing a child out of wedlock. For her refusal to name the father of her daughter Pearl, Hester is made to wear a scarlet A stitched conspicuously upon her dress. But though she bears the stigma of the shame her peers would confer upon her, others feel the guilt for her transgression more acutely, notably the pious Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale, the confessor with whom Hester and Pearl's destinies are intimately bound up. First published in 1850, Nathaniel Hawthorne's historical study of guilt and sin has since been lauded as the most important work of fiction by its distinguished author and a landmark of American literature. This exquisite collectible edition features an elegant bonded-leather binding, a satin-ribbon bookmark, distinctive stained edging, and decorative marbled endpapers. It's the perfect gift for book-lovers and an artful addition to any home library.

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This newly revised Squid Ink Classic edition of *The Scarlet Letter* includes the full text of the work plus MLA style citations for scholarly secondary sources, peer-reviewed journal articles and critical essays for when your teacher requires extra resources in MLA format for your research paper.

A young woman, publicly scorned for bearing an illegitimate child, refuses to be vanquished by the seventeenth-century Boston community.

Contains a collection of reviews and critical essays on *The scarlet letter*.

Die schöne Hester Prynne kommt Mitte des 17. Jahrhunderts nach Neuengland, wo sie dem strengen amerikanischen Puritanismus ausgesetzt ist. Sie verliebt sich in den Pastor der Gemeinde, von dem sie ein uneheliches Kind bekommt, während ihr Ehemann als verschollen auf See gilt. Zur Strafe für den Ehebruch muss sie ein scharlachrotes ‚A‘ auf der Brust tragen. Sie sieht sich fortan den Anfeindungen der Dorfgemeinde ausgesetzt, während ihr heimgekehrter Gatte dem Pfarrer heftig zusetzt, bis dieser sich schließlich öffentlich zu seiner Liebe zu Hester bekennt.

In 18th century Boston, a Puritan girl is condemned to wear the letter "A" for bearing an illegitimate daughter.

Hester Prynne, a young woman in seventeenth century Massachusetts, is condemned by Puritan law to wear a scarlet "A" as the symbol of the sin she committed. Includes biographical and historical context, contextual documents and illustrations, literary criticisms, and glossary. Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864) was an American novelist and short story writer best known for *The Scarlet Letter*, set in 17th-century Puritan Boston, which tells the story of Hester Prynne, who conceives through an adulterous affair and struggles to create a new life of

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repentance and dignity.

Hawthorne's story of the disgraced Hester Prynne (who must wear a scarlet "A" as the mark of her adultery), of her illegitimate child, Pearl, and of the righteous minister Arthur Dimmesdale continues to resonate with modern readers. Set in mid-seventeenth-century Boston, this powerful tale of passion, Puritanism, and revenge is one of the foremost classics of American literature. This Broadview edition contains a selection of historical documents that include Hawthorne's writings on Puritanism, the historical sources of the story, and contemporary reviews of the novel. New to the second edition are an updated critical introduction and bibliography and, in the appendices, additional writings by Margaret Fuller, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Henry James, and William Dean Howells.

Seminar paper from the year 2017 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,7, University of Potsdam, language: English, abstract: Nathaniel Hawthorne is considered as one of the most significant American novelist of romanticism of the early 19th century. The interplay between contrasting and ambiguous literary motifs can be taken as typical for the era of romanticism as well as for Hawthorne's personal style of writing. In his novels he devoted himself in exploring moral and the social issues of the American society and its roots in the Puritan heritage. Thereby, he often thematised his own deep bonds with his Puritan ancestors and created story plots that both highlighted their weaknesses and their strengths. Whereas Hawthorne himself openly showed admiration for the strengths and determination of his Puritan ancestors, he also addresses his own negative concerns for their rigid and oppressive rules of living. "The Scarlet Letter" from 1850, as a text book example of his great literary works, shows Hawthorne's attitude towards Puritans from the Massachusetts

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Bay Colonies in his portrayal of characters, his plot, and the themes of his story. This ten-page thesis paper attempts to probe into Hawthorne's contradictory religious thoughts reflected in "The Scarlet Letter". In course of this, I vindicate the point of view that Hawthorne illustrates Puritanism as contradictory. Furthermore I claim that his critique on Puritanism is partly contradictory as well. This contradictoriness of his critique is also often accompanied by an ambiguity of his literary illustrations. The 2nd and 3rd chapter of this paper will shortly expose the major characteristics of Puritanism and Hawthorne's personal relation to it. The major focus is put on elaborating the contradictions of the depicted Puritanism and Hawthorne's attitude to it in the 4th chapter.

Seminar paper from the year 2017 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1,0, University of Rostock (Anglistik/ Amerikanistik), course: Early American Literature, US History and Its Aftermath, language: English, abstract: Breaking with the tradition of examining "The Scarlet Letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne for traces of (proto-)feminism, the paper approaches the idea of gender in analyzing the interplay of the time periods underlying the literary work - the 19th century as the time of writing and Puritan times as the setting of the plot. In the 200 years between the two moments, ideas of gender have changed with commencing ideas of female empowerment in Hawthorne's time. Looking at the shifting understanding of gender, the construction of femininity and masculinity is analyzed with a focus on the two protagonists - Hester Prynne and Arthur Dimmesdale. Overall, the gender relations between the two main characters change into opposite directions. Thus, Hawthorne's writing destabilizes conventional Puritan ideas of pre-ascribed spheres and gender roles. It has become an academic tradition over the past decades to scrutinize historical literary pieces for traces of

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feminism. Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter" has been a prime object of interest for several scholars in this pursuit. The story of Hester Prynne who is outlawed by Puritan society after having committed adultery represents an early work to have a protagonist who breaks with the law of her time. This might be the reason why in an earlier tradition the novel has been read with Arthur Dimmesdale, the young reverend and Hester's lover, as the central figure. Approaches involving feminism and gender studies challenged this reading. Their focus however primarily seems to be the tracing of feminist attitudes in Hawthorne's writing. In this approach the historical perspective of the literary work is often read from a contemporary angle creating a hybrid reading that involves three time frames, namely the Puritan time of the plot, the 19th century setting of the novel's writing and the contemporary moment of the novel's reading.

Classic tale about Hester, her lover, their child, and Hester's husband, and the effect of sin on the mind and spirit of these characters.

A textbook reader for young adults features Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter," plus short stories, poems, and essays designed to build reading comprehension.

“Unless people are more than commonly disagreeable, it is my foolish habit to contract a kindness for them. The better part of my companion's character, if it have a better part, is that which usually comes uppermost in my regard, and forms the type whereby I recognise the man. As most of these old Custom-House officers had good traits, and as my position in reference to them, being paternal and protective, was favourable to the growth of friendly sentiments, I soon grew

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to like them all. It was pleasant in the summer forenoons—when the fervent heat, that almost liquefied the rest of the human family, merely communicated a genial warmth to their half torpid systems—it was pleasant to hear them chatting in the back entry, a row of them all tipped against the wall, as usual; while the frozen witticisms of past generations were thawed out, and came bubbling with laughter from their lips.” “The Scarlet Letter” tells the story of Hester Prynne, who conceives a daughter through an affair and struggles to create a new life of repentance and dignity in a puritan environment. It is Nathaniel Hawthorne’s most successful novel. “The Scarlet Letter” was first published in 1850. Roger Chillingworth, an aging scholar, returns to Puritan Boston and finds a crowd gathered to witness an official punishment. He spots a young woman holding a baby, whom he recognises as his wife, Hester Prynne, standing on the platform. Hester has been found guilty of “the most sinful act”. She refuses to reveal the father of her child and so, is ordered to wear the scarlet letter ‘A’ for the rest of her life as a mark of shame. Hester accepts her punishment and struggles to create a new life for her daughter Pearl. For the next seven years, she endures the accusing stares of the society, but holds her head high through the trials and tribulations. Reverend Dimmesdale, Hester’s pastor is the only person, who empathises with her. Meanwhile, Roger Chillingworth is full of

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vengeance and determined to exact revenge from Hester's lover. The Scarlet Letter tells the tale of Roger Chillingworth, Hester Prynne and Arthur Dimmesdale as they struggle with their internal conflicts in the morally rigid 17th century society.

The collection of documents in this volume silhouettes the ebbs and crests of Hawthorne's literary reputation and the elevation of his first and best-known romance to the rank of masterpiece and classic. Among the early documents reprinted are contemporary news accounts of Hawthorne's dismissal from the Salem Custom House in June 1849, the publisher James T. Fields's anecdotal version of the book's composition history, and a generous sheaf of notices from both American and British newspapers upon its publication in March 1850. Prominent among modern critics whose essays appear are Neal Frank Doubleday, Darrel Abel, and Nina Baym. Also included is a selected bibliography of modern scholarship.

This perennially popular Norton Critical Edition has been revised to reflect the most current scholarly approaches to The Scarlet Letter—Hawthorne's most widely read novel—as well as to the five short prose works—"Mrs. Hutchinson," "Endicott and the Red Cross," "Young Goodman Brown," "The Minister's Black Veil," and "The Birth-mark"—that closely relate to the 1850 novel. This Second

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Norton Critical Edition also includes: - Revised and expanded explanatory footnotes, a new preface, and a note on the text by Leland S. Person. - Key passages from Hawthorne's notebooks and letters that suggest the close relationship between his private and public writings - Seven new critical essays by Brook Thomas, Michael Ryan, Thomas R. Mitchell, Jay Grossman, Jamie Barlowe, John Ronan, and John F. Birk. - A Chronology and revised and expanded Selected Bibliography.

Seminar paper from the year 2009 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 2,0, University of Frankfurt (Main) (Amerikanistik), course: Life and Letters in the 19th Century, language: English, abstract: "The Scarlet Letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne was his first novel published under his own name. Also it is considered to be his best and/or most famous piece of work. It was written in the 19th century and until today still knows how to capture the readers attention. But why does this book still appeal to many readers and is now being published in its 66th edition, although one might think that it's topics might be a little outdated by now and modern readers would lack the possibility to relate? To answer this question we will have to take a closer look Hawthorne, his book and the themes therein. One might say that the letter did not have the effect on her as it was intended and as the novel progresses the letter 'A' seems of alter his meaning to

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certain people Hester interacts with. That is why I want to have a closer look at this famous scarlet letter, his different and how this is able to change throughout the novel. Especially the context of a puritan society has to be taken into account, or as Richard H. Millington noted: "Culture is a structure of meaning that is not 'natural' or automatic but locally variable, historically changing and thus both inescapable and humanly revisable - as the changing meaning of Hester's letter within the Puritan community makes clear." It might be that people living in our world today could not be able to relate to the problematic for Hester Prynne. Day in, day out there are people committing adultery and give birth to illegitimate children. But there is no real consequences for the adulterer or women living alone with child. We have to consider the context of the story to be able to understand the conflicts and sheer catastrophic events which build the start for Hawthorne's novel. Hester Prynne's story is a story of

Seminar paper from the year 1999 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1- (A-), University of Freiburg (English Seminar), course: Proseminar Romanticism, 9 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: "The young woman was tall, with a figure of perfect elegance, on a large scale. She had dark and abundant hair, so glossy that it threw off the sunshine with a gleam, and a face which, besides being beautiful

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from regularity of feature and richness of complexion, had the impressiveness belonging to a marked brow and deep black eyes. She was lady-like, too, after the manner of the feminine gentility of those days; characterized by a certain state and dignity." Hester Prynne, the woman described above and one of the main characters of Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel "The Scarlet Letter" is the typical romantic individualist. Individualism is a major topic in romanticism. In the eras before, the individual was always inferior to and less important than society and the heroes tried to save society. But in romanticism the individual is equal to or even more important than society. The heroes are also rebellious, they defy society instead of saving it. So the typical romantic individualist rejects the authority of God and of the state and affirms the sole authority of nature. Hester fits into that category, because by committing adultery she broke the laws of God and man and sought natural passions and true love. This paper, which is to show the quality of Hester's individualism is divided into three parts, each dealing with one aspect of her life. The first part concerns her relationship with other people in the community, her "outer life". Her relationship to Pearl is the theme of the second part and the third one deals with Hester's "inner life", her life with regard to the spiritual world and her own imagination.

This eBook features the unabridged text of 'The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel

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Hawthorne - Delphi Classics (Illustrated)' from the bestselling edition of 'The Complete Works of Nathaniel Hawthorne'. Having established their name as the leading publisher of classic literature and art, Delphi Classics produce publications that are individually crafted with superior formatting, while introducing many rare texts for the first time in digital print. The Delphi Classics edition of Hawthorne includes original annotations and illustrations relating to the life and works of the author, as well as individual tables of contents, allowing you to navigate eBooks quickly and easily. eBook features: \* The complete unabridged text of 'The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne - Delphi Classics (Illustrated)' \* Beautifully illustrated with images related to Hawthorne's works \* Individual contents table, allowing easy navigation around the eBook \* Excellent formatting of the text Please visit [www.delphiclassics.com](http://www.delphiclassics.com) to learn more about our wide range of titles

Presents essays that examine women's issues in "The Scarlet Letter," discussing such topics as feminism in the nineteenth century, forced marriage, and the subservience of women.

Set in 17th-century Puritan Boston during the years 1642 to 1649, The Scarlet Letter tells the story of Hester Prynne, who conceives through an adulterous affair and struggles to create a new life of repentance and dignity. The story begins during the summer of 1642, near Boston,

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Massachusetts, in a Puritan village. A young woman, Hester Prynne, has been led from the town prison with her infant daughter in her arms. On the breast of her gown is "a rag of scarlet The Scarlet Letter cloth" that "assumed the shape of a letter." It is the uppercase letter "A." The Scarlet Letter "A" represents the act of adultery that she has committed, and it is to be a symbol of her sin—a badge of shame—for all to see. The Scarlet Letter was published as a novel in the spring of 1850 by Ticknor & Fields, beginning Hawthorne's most lucrative period as a writer. When he delivered the final pages to Fields in February 1850, Hawthorne said that "some portions of the book are powerfully written" but doubted it would be popular. In fact, the book was an instant best-seller though, over fourteen years, it brought its author only \$1,500. Its initial publication brought wide protest from natives of Salem, who did not approve of how Hawthorne had depicted them in his introduction "The Custom-House." A 2,500-copy second edition of The Scarlet Letter included a preface by Hawthorne dated March 30, 1850, that stated he had decided to reprint his introduction "without the change of a word... The only remarkable features of the sketch are its frank and genuine good-humor... As to enmity, or ill-feeling of any kind, personal or political, he utterly disclaims such motives." The Scarlet Letter was one of the first mass-produced books in America. Into the mid-nineteenth century, bookbinders of home-grown literature typically hand-made their books and sold them in small quantities. The first mechanized printing of The Scarlet Letter, 2,500 volumes, sold out within ten days, and was widely read and discussed to an extent not much experienced in the young country up until that time.

Hawthorne's story of the disgraced Hester Prynne (who must wear a scarlet "A" as the mark of her adultery), of her illegitimate child, Pearl, and of the righteous minister Arthur Dimmesdale

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continues to resonate with modern readers. Set in mid-seventeenth-century Boston, this powerful tale of passion, Puritanism, and revenge is one of the foremost classics of American literature. This Broadview edition contains a selection of historical documents that include Hawthorne's writings on Puritanism, the historical sources of the story, and contemporary reviews of the novel. New to the second edition are an updated critical introduction and bibliography and, in the appendices, additional writings by Margaret Fuller, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Henry James, and William Dean Howells.

The introduction to this volume outlines the critical history of the novel. Each of the interpretative essays that follow places *The Scarlet Letter* in a specific historical and cultural context. The first shows that an awareness of the convention of romance is essential to an understanding of the novel. A second investigates the tension between Hawthorne's Puritan setting and his Romantic language, suggesting a complex relationship among author, narrator, characters, and story. A third considers the novel's pervasive metaphor of sexuality. The final essay locates the work in the genre of 'the novel of adultery'.

Includes the unabridged text of Hawthorne's classic novel plus a complete study guide that features chapter-by-chapter summaries, explanations and discussions of the plot, question-and-answer sections, author biography, historical background, and more.

When an essay is due and dreaded exams loom, this book offers students what they need to succeed. It provides chapter-by-chapter analysis, explanations of key themes, motifs and symbols, a review quiz, and essay topics. It is suitable for late-night studying and paper writing. REA's MAXnotes for Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* The MAXnotes provides a comprehensive summary and analysis of *The Scarlet Letter* and a biography of Nathaniel

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Hawthorne. Places the events of the novel in historical context and discusses each chapter in detail. Includes study questions and answers along with topics for papers and sample outlines. Hawthorne's novel of adultery in Puritan Boston. Five short works related to The Scarlet Letter, sharing its themes of sin, morality, guilt, and shame. Expanded explanatory annotations and a new preface by Leland S. Person. Key passages from Hawthorne's letters and notebooks. New critical essays by Brook Thomas, Michael Ryan, Thomas R. Mitchell, Jay Grossman, Jamie Barlowe, John Ronan, and John F. Birk. A chronology and an updated Select Bibliography. -- from back cover.

"The Scarlet Letter has proved our most enduring classic," writes Sacvan Bercovitch, "because it is the liberal example par excellence of art as ideological mimesis. To understand the office of the A is to see how culture empowers symbolic form, including forms of dissent, and how symbols participate in the dynamics of culture, including the dynamics of constraint." With an approach that both reflects and contests developments in literary studies, Bercovitch explores these connections from two perspectives: first, he examines a historical reading of the novel's unities; and then, a rhetorical analysis of key mid-nineteenth-century issues, at home and abroad. In order to highlight the relation between rhetoric and history, he focuses on the point at which the scarlet letter does its office at last, the moment when Hester decides to come home to America. In *The Office of "The Scarlet Letter,"* Bercovitch argues that the process by which the United States usurped "America" for itself, symbolically, is also the process by which liberalism established political and economic dominance. In the course of his study, he offers sustained discussions of Hawthorne's irony and ambiguity, of aesthetic and social strategies of cohesion, and of the conundrums of liberal dissent. Winner of the Modern Language

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Association's James Russell Lowe prize, The Office of "The Scarlet Letter" provides a theoretical redefinition of the function of symbolism in culture and an exemplary literary-ideological reading of a major text.

The Scarlet Letter opens with a long preamble about how the book came to be written. The nameless narrator was the surveyor of the customhouse in Salem, Massachusetts. In the customhouse's attic, he discovered a number of documents, among them a manuscript that was bundled with a scarlet, gold-embroidered patch of cloth in the shape of an "A." The manuscript, the work of a past surveyor, detailed events that occurred some two hundred years before the narrator's time. When the narrator lost his customs post, he decided to write a fictional account of the events recorded in the manuscript. The Scarlet Letter is the final product. The story begins in seventeenth-century Boston, then a Puritan settlement. A young woman, Hester Prynne, is led from the town prison with her infant daughter, Pearl, in her arms and the scarlet letter "A" on her breast. A man in the crowd tells an elderly onlooker that Hester is being punished for adultery. Hester's husband, a scholar much older than she is, sent her ahead to America, but he never arrived in Boston. The consensus is that he has been lost at sea. While waiting for her husband, Hester has apparently had an affair, as she has given birth to a child. She will not reveal her lover's identity, however, and the scarlet letter, along with her public shaming, is her punishment for her sin and her secrecy. On this day Hester is led to the town scaffold and harangued by the town fathers, but she again refuses to identify her child's father. The elderly onlooker is Hester's missing husband, who is now practicing medicine and calling himself Roger Chillingworth. He settles in Boston, intent on revenge. He reveals his true identity to no one but Hester, whom he has sworn to secrecy. Several years pass. Hester

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supports herself by working as a seamstress, and Pearl grows into a willful, impish child. Shunned by the community, they live in a small cottage on the outskirts of Boston. Community officials attempt to take Pearl away from Hester, but, with the help of Arthur Dimmesdale, a young and eloquent minister, the mother and daughter manage to stay together. Dimmesdale, however, appears to be wasting away and suffers from mysterious heart trouble, seemingly caused by psychological distress. Chillingworth attaches himself to the ailing minister and eventually moves in with him so that he can provide his patient with round-the-clock care. Chillingworth also suspects that there may be a connection between the minister's torments and Hester's secret, and he begins to test Dimmesdale to see what he can learn. One afternoon, while the minister sleeps, Chillingworth discovers a mark on the man's breast (the details of which are kept from the reader), which convinces him that his suspicions are correct. Dimmesdale's psychological anguish deepens, and he invents new tortures for himself. In the meantime, Hester's charitable deeds and quiet humility have earned her a reprieve from the scorn of the community. One night, when Pearl is about seven years old, she and her mother are returning home from a visit to a deathbed when they encounter Dimmesdale atop the town scaffold, trying to punish himself for his sins. Hester and Pearl join him, and the three link hands. Dimmesdale refuses Pearl's request that he acknowledge her publicly the next day, and a meteor marks a dull red "A" in the night sky. Hester can see that the minister's condition is worsening, and she resolves to intervene. She goes to Chillingworth and asks him to stop adding to Dimmesdale's self-torment. Chillingworth refuses.

A tale of Hester Prynne, imprisoned, publicly shamed, and forced to wear a scarlet 'A' for committing adultery and bearing an illegitimate child, Pearl. In their small, Puritan village,

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Hester and her daughter struggle to survive, but in this searing study of the tension between private and public existence.

'Thou and thine, Hester Prynne, belong to me.' With these chilling words a husband claims his wife after a two-year absence. But the child she clutches is not his, and Hester must wear a scarlet 'A' upon her breast, the sin of adultery visible to all. Under an assumed name her husband begins his search for her lover, determined to expose what Hester is equally determined to protect. Defiant and proud, Hester witnesses the degradation of two very different men, as moral codes and legal imperatives painfully collide. Set in the Puritan community of seventeenth-century Boston, *The Scarlet Letter* also sheds light on the nineteenth-century in which it was written, as Hawthorne explores his ambivalent relations with his Puritan forebears. The text of this edition is taken from the Centenary Edition of Hawthorne's works, the most authoritative critical edition. ABOUT THE SERIES: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the widest range of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, helpful notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

After the birth of her child in a harsh Puritan 17th century community Hester Prynne is forced to wear a symbol of her disgrace.

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