**Act 2 Notes**:

*(\*John and Proctor are used interchangeably)*

-8 days later

-Proctor returns home – seasons the meat that is cooking and tells his wife, “It’s well-seasoned” (He’s being polite to his wife).

-John: “I mean to please you, Elizabeth.” 🡪 Their relationship is strained

**-the tension between them is palpable (you can feel it)**

“It’s winter in here yet.” 🡪 it’s cold and awkward

-She asks if he’s been to Salem because he’s so late – he may have gone to Salem to see Abigail

-she is upset, but ignores her feelings to preserve order

-**Mary Warren** enters – empowered now because she’s an “official of the court”

-4 judges from Boston – 14 in jail to be tried and possibly hanged.

-Will hang if they don’t confess

-Crowds part for Abigail and the girls 🡪if they scream and fall to the floor, the person’s thrown in jail for bewitching them.

***To Tell About Abigail’s Admission or Not –* Tension Grows Between John & Elizabeth**

-Elizabeth tells John to tell the officials that, a week ago, she said it wasn’t witchcraft

-he fears it’s his word vs. hers and her is regarded now 🡪 it comes out that Proctor and Abigail were along together during this conversation (this puts off Elizabeth who is still suspicious of their relationship) 🡪 she distrusts him and thinks he’s trying to protect Abigail

John angers “You forget nothing; and forgive nothing;. Learn charity, woman.” –he’s tried to make up for it, but she’s still cold to him.

-asks her to see his goodness too.

**Elizabeth: “the magistrate sits in your hear that judges you” (58)**. – he’s his own moral compass. It’s not for her to judge.

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**Mary Warren Returns with News of Increasing Hysteria**

Pg. 58: Mary Warren enters again – acts strangely and gives Elizabeth a poppet (doll) she made during court

-**39 women arrested** now including Goody Osburn “will hang!” (59).

-**Sarah Good**: confessed

🡪 ***she’s an old woman, used to beg***; Mary said she mumbled when she was turned away – Sarah said she was saying commandments but then couldn’t say them when asked

-**Goody Good,** 60, pregnant

🡪 Mary Warren now believes in witchcraft 🡪 power of hysteria

**-Elizabeth’s name has come up** – Mary Warren “saved her” – and tells John to speak to her respectfully from now on b/c she’s important 🡪 **Mary’s TOTALLY EMPOWERED now!**

**-Elizabeth tells John to go to Abigail directly because “she thinks to kill me, then to take my place” (65)**

🡪tell Abigail that she has no shot – Eliz. Thinks John still “blushes” for her

Proctor gets angry: ***“…I am honest! But I’ll plead no more! I see now your spirit twists around the single error of my life, and I will never tear it free!”*** (66)

Elizabeth suspects that Abigail “has an arrow in you yet” meaning Abigail still has a hold on John. -66

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Pg. 66 - Hale arrives in doorway late in the evening:

-tells them **Rebecca Nurse has been “mentioned”** – Elizabeth scoffs at the idea given her good reputation/pious (holy) -> shows that anyone can be targeted.

**Hale: Proctor vs. Parris** -

-Hale questions their religious practices – says Proctor doesn’t go to Church often

-Proctor criticizes Reverend Parris’ focus on things such as golden candlesticks and questions his dedication to the actual nature of the religion: ***“the man dreams cathedrals, not clapboard meetin’ houses”*** 🡪 **Rev. Parris is more ambitious than he is pious**

-Hale questions why only 2 out of 3 of their children are baptized

-Proctor: doesn’t want Parris laying a hand on his child ***“I see no light of God in that man.”*** (69)

-Hale asks Elizabeth if she knows her commandments and asks John to recite his. **He says 9 out of 10 but can’t remember last one…Elizabeth reminds him of last: adultery 🡪 IRONIC**

-Proctor tells Hale about Abigail’s admission that their behavior was “sport” not witchcraft

-Hale can’t understand why others would confess if it’s not witchcraft – Proctor points out ***“And why not, if they must hang for denyin’ it? There are them that will swear to anything before they’ll hang; have you never thought of that?”*** (72).

-Elizabeth says she doesn’t believe in the existence of witches if people like her are being accused…Hale is shocked and questions her support of the Gospel.

-Proctor assures Hale that they are a “Christian house” – Hale tells them to baptize their 3rd, go to Sunday prayer, and keep solemn, quiet way

**Hysteria Mounts Even More**

p. 74 – Giles enters and says they took his wife, **Martha Corey;** Francis Nurse enters and says they took **Rebecca Nurse** too.

**Rebecca’s charge**: “For the marvelous and supernatural murder of Good Putnam’s babies.” 75

They’re outraged, but Hale says that the Devil is “afoot” in Salem and can affect anyone no matter how pure: ***“Until an hour before the Devil fell, God thought him beautiful in Heaven”*** (76).

Giles: reports that Walcott accused Martha Corey, his wife, is cursing his pigs b/c he can’t keep one alive for more than 4 weeks since they had an altercation – 76

**Elizabeth Accused:**

Ezekiel Cheever arrives – he’s the one coming around to arrest people – **comes with a warrant for Elizabeth** – 77

-he has 16 other warrants

-**charged by Abigail Williams**…Cheever asks for any poppets (dolls) that she might have…Cheever spots the poppet on the mantel that Mary Warren gave her earlier. Cheever finds a needle in it.

-Cheever reports that Abigail was at dinner at Rev. Parris’ earlier and fell to the floor with a pain in her side – ***“stuck two inches in the flesh of her belly, he draw a needle out***.” She said it were your ***“wife’s familiar spirit pushed it in”*** (79).

-Proctor says Abigail did it herself, but Hale is struck by the “proof”

-Mary Warren enters and admits that poppet is hers and she put the needle in it during court…Hale asks if this is true but also suggests that “someone conjures you even now to say this”

-Elizabeth is charged with murder for attempt on Abigail – Elizabeth reacts and says, ***“The girl is murder! She must be ripped out of the world!”*** 🡪 her outburst does little to convince officials that she’s innocent

-**Proctor reacts furiously** when Hale suggests that the court will be fair and vindicate her if she’s, in fact, innocent***:***

***“Is the accuser always holy now?...I’ll tell you what’s walking Salem – vengeance in walking Salem. We are what we always were in Salem, but now the little crazy children are jangling the keys of the kingdom, and common vengeance writes the law! This warrant’s vengeance! I’ll not give my wife to vengeance!”*** (81).

-Elizabeth agrees to go and leaves directions for Mary for household items that need completion

-John Proctor vows to bring her home ***“I will fall like an ocean on that court! Fear nothing, Elizabeth”*** (82).

-Proctor is upset to see them chaining her

-Hale still believes in court process **“I cannot judge her guilty or innocent – I know not. Only this consider: the world goes mad, and it profit nothing you should lay the cause to the vengeance of a little girl” 🡪 he sees Abigail as an innocent little girl**

-Hale encourages them to think of why the heavens have sent such a wrath upon the town – what have they done to bring this on?

🡪 **Proctor “has been reached by Hale’s words”** : **he blames himself b/c of his adultery – feels this is his punishment**

**The Plot Thickens:**

-Giles leaves and Proctor tells Mary Warren that she’ll go to court to testify – Mary seems afraid of Abigail “She’ll kill me for sayin’ that!” and when Proctor continues towards her, Mary reveals **“Abby’ll charge lechery on you, Mr. Proctor!” -🡪 Mary knows about affair and Abigail is going to use it against him if he tries to turn it on her – she’ll blackmail him.**

-Proctor wants to team up with Mary against Abigail and expose her: “Then her saintliness is done with” – he expresses **“deep hatred of himself**” **(Internal Conflict Increases – he’s guilty already for his sin and now feels that his wife, who he betrayed, is paying for his sin)** – his sin is coming back to haunt him.

-Mary is petrified of the girls and fears they’ll turn on her…

Proctor furious: **“My wife will never die for me! I will bring your guts into your mouth but that goodness will not die for me!” –** he will sacrifice himself for Elizabeth – he proves his dedication. – 85

-He grasps Mary’s throat and vows to rip away all pretense and stand exposed for what he is…Curtain falls as Mary repeats “I cannot, I cannot…”