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

Set in 17th-century Puritan Boston, Massachusetts, during the years 1642 to 1649, it tells the story of Hester Prynne, who conceives a daughter through an affair and struggles to create a new life of repentance and dignity. Throughout the book, Hawthorne explores themes of legalism, sin, and guilt.

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

"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 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.

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 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.

"Upon its publication in 1850, The Scarlet Letter shocked the nation by boldly confronting 'forbidden' topics including the sexual misconduct of society's leaders, the plight of single mothers, and the separation of church and state. Ironically, the novel's moral and social themes, which at the time inspired such scandal, are now the source of its continued vitality since those very issues occupy America's conscience today. Now, no study of American history is complete without thorough examination of Nathaniel Hawthorne's timeless masterpiece. This multidisciplinary study of the novel contains: Original 17th-century documents that illuminate Puritan attitudes and bring the Salem witchcraft trials to life; 19th-century magazine and newspaper articles, private journals, historical reports, and sketches of Hawthorne's time; An examination of the novel's introductory essay, 'The Custom House,' in which Hawthorne grapples with the role his ancestors played in persecuting the Quakers and the Salem witeches, as well as his own internal conflict over his vocation as a fiction writer; Reviews of "The Scarlet Letter" at the time of publication which reflect the controversy ignited by the novel; Current news articles which display the novel's relevance to today's controversial issues. Most of the documents are available in no other printed form. Each section of this casebook contains study questions, topics for research papers and class discussions, and lists of further reading for examining the issues raised by the novel."

The book is a collection of critical essays on Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter (1850). The interpretations deal with its main characters. «The Custom-House», the Spanish sailors, the Book of Revelations, and the artist as adulterer. The authors apply different critical tools such as allegory or hermeneutical exposition.

This anthology of critical essays about Hester Prynne's scarlet "A" includes contributors such as Henry James & Carl van Doren.

Seminar paper from the year 2004 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1+ (A), University of Hamburg, course: Nathaniel Hawthorne and the Puritans, 13 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: In The Scarlet Letter Nathaniel Hawthorne has not only created an intriguing plot, but also some very "picturesque" characters, among whom the character of Pearl can probably be viewed as the most unique one. Pearl, a composition of demon offspring and elf-child, cannot but raise the question of her identity, and nature, from the day she is born. Not only the Puritan

community, even her own mother persistently questions her human nature and allegorizes her as a token of guilt. Not even Hawthorne can restrain himself in reminding us constantly about the symbolic and functional nature of Pearl, so that even the most ignorant reader must notice her resemblance of the Scarlet Letter in the story. But is Pearl really just a purpose-fulfilling construction? Or is there more to this character than its function? Is a child's fascination with a shiny and colorful object really that unusual? And is it unusual for a child to behave wild if the mother raises the child in a non-authoritative form? Could it be that any real child, born into a situation described in The Scarlet Letter, would develop as Hawthorne develops the character of Pearl? This work will raise the question of Pearl's true nature and examine whether her character in Hawthorne's romance is purely shaped by her function. Yet, an analysis of Pearl's character would be a futile attempt if viewed independently of all other characters. The reader never gets to know the "independent character" Pearl. She is always reflected via her interaction with other characters or objects. Her thoughts remain obscure to the reader - unlike the other characters'. Thus, an analysis on Pearl will consist of an analysis of her interactions with the other characters in the story.

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

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

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 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.

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 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.

(Applause Books). Leslie Fiedler pronounced it the first American tragedy. F.O. Matthiessen considered it the "Puritan Faust." Until now, it appeared that Nathaniel Hawthorne's haunting drama of judgement, alienation, and redemption would be forever confined to the page. Now comes the stage version to do it justice. DeMaio's brooding choruses of superstition and doubt hover like the furies hungry for vengeance on the "voluptuous Oriental" woman whose fate would commingle with every life in Salem. The audience joins the chorus as they weigh the American contract of freedom against the fine print of convention and taboo. Performance rights available from Applause.

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.

The *Scarlet Letter* is virtually unique among works of American fiction because it has not lapsed from print in over 140 years. The history of its reception, which is fully articulated in the volume introduction, may be read as a case study in canon formation. The collection of documents in the volume outline the highs and lows of Nathaniel Hawthorne's literary reputation and the elevation of his first and best-known romance to the rank of masterpiece and classic. Also included is a selective bibliography of modern scholarship. Among the early documents reprinted are contemporary news accounts of Hawthorne's dismissal from the Salem Custom House in June 1849, which provide the immediate background to *The Custom House* introduction in the story, 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. Of special value are the various essays and other materials that trace the institutionalization of the romance within the genteel tradition of American letters in the late nineteenth century. More recently, *The Scarlet Letter* has become something of an academic shibboleth, inspiring dozens of New Critical, psychoanalytical, feminist, and other readings, which are also represented in this collection. Prominent among modern critics whose essays appear are Neal Frank Doubleday, Darrel Abel, and Nina Baym. A number of reviews of theatrical and cinematic adaptations of the story also underscore its stature as a cultural icon. This volume is essential for serious research on Nathaniel Hawthorne and provides a convenient body of valuable commentary accessible even to the student reading *The Scarlet Letter* for the first time.

Seminar paper from the year 2005 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1,3, University of Siegen, course: More Than a Renaissance: Romantic Writers in America, 10 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: The *Scarlet Letter* is Nathaniel Hawthorne's first novel and was published in 1850. Its subtitle *A Romance* consciously places the novel apart from everyday life. Set in 17th century Boston it tells a story about sin, guilt and love. As the moral values back then still were in force among Hawthorne's contemporaries, he uses the imaginative and symbolic form of the romance to alleviate the impression of the unusual themes in his novel. This essay discusses the ambiguity of the letter A that the protagonist Hester Prynne has to wear as a punishment for adultery. The letter assumes a different and ever-changing meaning for the characters of the novel, from accusation and sin to a new beginning and freedom.

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 recognizes 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 empathizes with her. Meanwhile, Roger Chillingworth is full of 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.

Set in the harsh Puritan environment of 17th century Boston, *The Scarlet Letter* describes the plight of Hester Prynne, an independent-minded woman who stands alone against society. Having given birth to a child after an illicit affair, she refuses to name the father and is forced to wear the letter "A" for adulteress embroidered on her dress

*The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne is a real classic. You should grab it and read it to experience it yourself. Here's a simple plot to *The Scarlet Letter*: In Puritan Boston, Massachusetts, a crowd gathers to witness the punishment of Hester Prynne, a young woman who has given birth to a baby of unknown parentage. She is required to wear a scarlet "A" on her dress when she is in front of the townspeople to shame her. The letter "A" stands for adulteress, although this is never said explicitly in the novel. Her sentence required her to stand on the scaffold for three hours, exposed to public humiliation, and to wear the scarlet "A" for the rest of her life. As Hester approaches the scaffold, many of the women in the crowd are angered by her beauty and quiet dignity. When demanded and cajoled to name the father of her child, Hester refuses. As Hester looks out over the crowd, she notices a small, misshapen man and recognizes him as her long-lost husband, who has been presumed lost at sea. When the husband sees Hester's shame, he asks a man in the crowd about her and is told the story of his wife's adultery. He angrily exclaims that the child's father, the partner in the adulterous act, should also be punished and vows to find the man. He chooses a new name, Roger Chillingworth, to aid him in his plan. The Reverend John Wilson and the minister of Hester's church, Arthur Dimmesdale, question the woman, but she refuses to name her lover. After she returns to her prison cell, the jailer brings in Roger Chillingworth, a physician, to calm Hester and her child with his roots and herbs. He and Hester have an open conversation regarding their marriage and the fact that they were both in the wrong. Her lover, however, is another matter and he demands to know who it is; Hester refuses to divulge such information. He accepts this, stating that he will find out anyway, and forces her to hide that he is her husband. If she ever reveals him, he warns her, he will destroy the child's father. Hester agrees to Chillingworth's terms although she suspects she will regret it. Following her release from prison, Hester settles in a cottage at the edge of town and earns a meager living with her needlework, which is of extraordinary quality. She lives a quiet, somber life with her daughter, Pearl, and performs acts of charity for the poor. She is troubled by her daughter's unusual fascination with Hester's scarlet "A". The shunning of Hester also extends to Pearl, who has no playmates or friends except her mother. As she grows older, Pearl becomes capricious and unruly. Her conduct starts rumors, and, not surprisingly, the church members suggest Pearl be taken away from Hester. Hester, hearing rumors that she may lose Pearl, goes to speak to Governor Bellingham. With him are ministers Wilson and Dimmesdale. Hester appeals to Dimmesdale in desperation, and the minister persuades the governor to let Pearl remain in Hester's care. Because Dimmesdale's health has begun to fail, the townspeople are happy to have Chillingworth, a newly arrived physician, take up lodgings with their beloved minister. Being in such close contact with Dimmesdale, Chillingworth begins to suspect that the minister's illness is the result of some unconfessed guilt. He applies psychological pressure to the minister because he suspects Dimmesdale is Pearl's father. One evening, pulling the sleeping Dimmesdale's vestment aside, Chillingworth sees a symbol that represents his shame on the minister's pale chest. Tormented by his guilty conscience, Dimmesdale goes to the square where Hester was punished years earlier. Climbing the scaffold, he admits his guilt but cannot find the courage to do so publicly.... .. The *Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

At last available in a single volume: comprehensive overviews and concise analyses of the key critical texts and approaches to the most-studied works of literature. By assembling extracts from essays, reviews, and articles, the *Columbia Critical Guides* provide students with ready access to the most important secondary writings on one or more texts by a given writer. Each volume: -- Offers a balanced and nuanced approach to criticism, drawing on a wide array of British and American sources -- Explains criticism in terms of key approaches, allowing students to grasp the central issues for each work -- Is edited by a noted scholar who specializes in the writer or work in question -- Includes notes and a comprehensive bibliography and index. With the publication of *The Scarlet Letter* in 1850, Nathaniel Hawthorne achieved not only critical recognition in his native New England but also an undisputed place amongst the newly emerging ranks of great American writers. This guide introduces and sets in context the enormous range of critical arguments that have been generated by this enduring work. From the comments and reviews of Hawthorne's contemporaries through discussions of the novel by fellow artists such as Henry James and D. H. Lawrence to radical re-readings of the postwar decades, the reader is given an invaluable guide to the critical progress of this key American text.

Hailed by Henry James as "the finest piece of imaginative writing yet put forth in the country," Nathaniel Hawthorne's *"The Scarlet Letter"* reaches to our nation's historical and moral roots for the material of great tragedy. Set in an early New England colony, the novel shows the terrible impact a single, passionate act has on the lives of three members of the community: the defiant Hester Prynne; the fiery, tortured Reverend Dimmesdale; and the obsessed, vengeful Chillingworth. With *"The Scarlet Letter,"* Hawthorne became the first American novelist to forge from our Puritan heritage a universal classic, a masterful exploration of humanity's unending struggle with sin, guilt and pride.

Hawthorne's classic tale of seventeenth-century New England is critically introduced

A key figure in the development of American literature, Nathaniel Hawthorne was also profoundly influenced by his ancestors and the Christianity that underscored their Puritan heritage. A literary classic, *The Scarlet Letter* presents a profound meditation on the nature of sin, repentance, and redemption, and on how such Christian concepts may be integrated into American democracy. This edition features an introduction by Aaron Urbanczyk, chair of the literature department at Southern Catholic College, that explores themes in "The Custom-House" that guide the reader's interpretation of the text of the novel, and several critical articles on the work's major symbols and Christian themes. Mary R. Reichardt, the editor of this edition, is a professor of literature in the Catholic Studies department at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul MN.

Seminar paper from the year 2001 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1.5, University of Freiburg (English Department), 22 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: Since its publication in 1850, Hawthorne's masterpiece romance *The Scarlet Letter* has been hailed by average readers and literary critics alike as one of the finest pieces of literature ever to have come out of the pen of an American writer. Not only regarded as "Hawthorne's most widely read and admired novel"<sup>3</sup>, *The Scarlet Letter* has also given numerous generations of critics bountiful opportunity for in-depth analysis of the novel's plot, characters, and meaning. A fair amount of scholarly attention has, for instance, been devoted to Hawthorne's "imposing splendor of portraiture"<sup>4</sup>. In the case of *The Scarlet Letter*, this has been evidenced by critics' particular interest in Hawthorne's portrayal of two of the novel's central characters: the Boston townswoman Hester Prynne and the pastor Arthur Dimmesdale. Against the backdrop of mid-17th century Puritan society in the newly founded American colonies, Hawthorne describes how these two characters' lives are, each in its very own way, dramatically changed by one moment of adulterous passion. It is the aim of the present paper to deliver a careful analysis of Hester and Arthur at the center of which shall be the difficult social and psychological circumstances the two characters encounter in the wake of their adultery. It will equally be shown that Hester and Arthur embrace different strategies in dealing with their situation. A plot analysis reveals a clear dilemma and duality of a confession versus concealment theme which impacts greatly on the two characters and their behavior. Having been forced to confess to adultery charges, Hester manages to reshape her life by confronting present demands while also hoping for future opportunities. By contrast, Arthur is tormented and obsessed by his moment of moral weakness in the past, wavering between revelation and dissimulation of his deed as he doubletalks his way through the novel's plot. The first chapter of this study intends to establish a framework for the ensuing character analysis. Its aim will be to portray Puritan society as shown in Hawthorne's work, so that Hester's and Arthur's situation in the novel's plot will become clear. An interpretation of the two characters will follow in chapter two. First, Hester's behavior and the role she plays in the novel shall be analyzed under the aforementioned confession theme. [...] <sup>3</sup> Waggoner, p. 118. <sup>4</sup> Ripley, p. 26.

These interpretative essays explore different topics and issues in the context of history and culture.

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.

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 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.

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 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.

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 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 conflict with her society, the puritan society. Therefore we will have to take a brief look at the Puritans, then we will progress with the relation between them and Hawthorne impaled in his novel and lastly we will explore the meaning of the letter itself

'For all the New York chic which surrounds them, the situations and dilemmas of Susan Minot's women could hardly be more classical. The women know they are going to lose and several of them try to guard themselves against attachment, to stay free, but their hearts are not in it. They know

there is not much they can so about it, once a look, a touch, a night out changes everything. It's a bleak situation, but talking about it doesn't appear to help, and writing about it doesn't either, beyond a certain point, soon reached. the terseness of these laconic tales has its own telling decorum'

LONDON REVIEW OF BOOKS

In a time when adultery is punishable by death, Hester Prynne becomes involved in a risky and scandalous affair with her town's handsome minister and bears his illegitimate child. For this grievous offense, she is condemned to wear a scarlet letter "A" on her breast and endure the mockery of her community forever. Explores the timeless conflict between private truth and public appearance and the choice between sin and salvation.

Nathaniel Hawthorne's most popular and enduring work. Set in 17th-century Puritan New England, The Scarlet Letter tells the story of Hester Prynne, who has conceived a daughter through an adulterous affair. The novel explores the nature of sin—both public and private. Always featured in lists of the world's best books, The Scarlet Letter is a must-read. Sayre Street Books offers the world's greatest literature in easy to navigate, beautifully designed digital editions.

In early colonial Massachusetts, a young woman endures the consequences of her sin of adultery and spends the rest of her life in atonement.