

A Southern Spring

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Cast of Characters

<u>Temperance</u>	Recent widow and town healer
<u>Thaddeus</u>	Brother to Temperance
<u>Edith</u>	Wife of Thaddeus
<u>Phoebe</u>	Townswoman against Temperance
<u>Abigail</u>	Temperance's friend, very religious

A small town in Georgia

Scene

1760s

Time

SCENE ONE

TEMPERANCE is counting cloth bandages at the kitchen table humming to herself.
THADDEUS enters.

THADDEUS

Good morning, Temperance!

TEMPERANCE

Hmmm.

THADDEUS

Wouldn't today be a nice day for a stroll through town?

TEMPERANCE

You say that every morning.

THADDEUS

Well you know the sun is out.

TEMPERANCE

The sun is out every day.

THADDEUS

And you should be too! You haven't done anything or gone anywhere. I think it's time for a change.

TEMPERANCE

And what if I want a quiet day here?

THADDEUS

A quiet day here is all you've had since John.

TEMPERANCE

John was my rock.

THADDEUS

What about those you help?

Maybe pay one of them a visit. What else would you need these bandages for?

TEMPERANCE

Maybe I just like bandages.

THADDEUS

I really think a trip to town would do you some good Tempe. John has been gone for over a fortnight. It is time to try to get on with your life.

TEMPERANCE

Are you kicking me out of your home?

THADDEUS

Of course not. I just think you should start getting back to normal. Get back to work, put your focus back on the people of this town and on God.

TEMPERANCE

I have a focus on God.

THADDEUS

And what about the people you once helped?

TEMPERANCE stays silent.

THADDEUS

Edith and I want to help you regain your life. Your first step should be going into town. Some fresh air and fresh faces will do you good.

TEMPERANCE

I get plenty of fresh air in the garden.

EDITH comes into the kitchen holding vegetables. EDITH goes to the counter and begins peeling the potatoes.

THADDEUS

Edith, don't you think Temperance should go out into town?

EDITH

Oh, I don't know Thaddeus. Maybe she should rest up.

THADDEUS

She's had plenty of rest.

EDITH

The market is full of ill-mannered people today. Maybe another time.

TEMPERANCE

What do you mean ill-mannered?

EDITH

Oh, you know how people like to talk.

TEMPERANCE

About me?

EDITH remains silent

TEMPERANCE

Edith, please.

EDITH

Oh, Temperance they're saying such vile things.

THADDEUS

What could they possibly be saying about Temperance?

EDITH

I'd rather not repeat those hateful words. It's unbecoming.

TEMPERANCE

Please, I can handle it Edith.

EDITH

They're saying that you killed John.

THADDEUS AND TEMPERANCE

What?

EDITH

It's an awful rumor. I heard Dr. Cyrus is telling people that you didn't like having your husband help you as a healer. I can't believe him. That man will cause nothing but trouble.

EDITH cuts her hand and cries out.

TEMPERANCE takes a bandage and goes to help her.

TEMPERANCE

How could people believe such a thing?

THADDEUS

I don't know but maybe we shouldn't go to town.

TEMPERANCE

No, I don't think town or the market are going to be pleasant. But maybe we could go by the house.

EDITH

Temperance, it's still your home.

TEMPERANCE

Not without John. I need chamomile and sage. I can pick some up from my stores there. Thaddeus, will you accompany me?

THADDEUS

Of course

TEMPERANCE and THADDEUS exit leaving EDITH staring silently.
End of Scene One.

SCENE TWO

PHOEBE is near the front of TEMPERANCE'S house. TEMPERANCE and THADDEUS enter
in front of TEMPERANCE'S house.

PHOEBE

Well Temperance I was wondering where you had gone.

TEMPERANCE

Phoebe? Why are you here?

PHOEBE

Well it's been two weeks now. I figured you'd want to remove all of John's things and begin your new life as a free woman. I can help with that burden.

TEMPERANCE

A free woman? What burden?

PHOEBE

Yes, free of the man you hated so much that you got rid of him.

TEMPERANCE

Of course, I didn't get rid of him! I love him.

THADDEUS

Phoebe, that false talk is unbecoming of a lady.

PHOEBE

False? It is not false. Why Doctor Cyrus told me that Temperance didn't like John taking such a large role in her healing. That she wanted it all to herself.

TEMPERANCE

I loved John helping me whenever he wasn't too busy working in the field. He would help me prepare the herbal remedies. He was a wonderful man.

PHOEBE

Of course, he was. Why he picked you of all the women in town is a mystery to me. Especially with how things turned out.

THADDEUS

He died in a tragic accident.

PHOEBE

Accidental murder?

THADDEUS

Now you know it was a snake that killed him.

PHOEBE

I know that's what Temperance said.

TEMPERANCE

It's the truth.

PHOEBE

According to you anyway. I best be off. I need to take little Samuel to Doctor Cyrus.

TEMPERANCE

I could look at him. I have been helping him since he was a baby.

PHOEBE

I don't think that will be necessary. Doctor Cyrus knows what he's doing.

THADDEUS

Temperance knows what she's doing.

PHOEBE

I heard that what she's doing is witchcraft.

THADDEUS

That is a sacrilegious accusation! And not one to be thrown around lightly.

PHOEBE

It is not me who accuses her. Dr. Cyrus believes it to be true. He has helped so many in your absence. He's such a good man.

THADDEUS

I don't believe good men go around accusing ladies of witchcraft.

PHOEBE

Dr. Cyrus says you can find a trail of witchcraft in Temperance's history if you know what you're looking for.

TEMPERANCE

My history?

PHOEBE

Those times when Reginald and Patrick had simple coughs and got "remedies" from you yet ended up dead a week later?

TEMPERANCE

Their illness got worse! What else could I do?

PHOEBE

What else could you do? Maybe not have poisoned them.

TEMPERANCE

I did not poison those men. They were my friends! They were afflicted with something I could not cure.

PHOEBE

You had a nearly spotless record before they died. Maybe they were worth more to you dead.

TEMPERANCE

What are you talking about? Why would I want them dead?

PHOEBE

I wouldn't know. I am a godly woman. I don't deal in sacrifices.

TEMPERANCE

Sacrifices? Phoebe-

PHOEBE

I must go. Good luck with your new friend the devil Temperance.

PHOEBE exits.

TEMPERANCE

Thaddeus what am I going to do?

THADDEUS

I'm not sure Tempe, but I don't think you should go into town anytime soon. Best to stay out of sight.

TEMPERANCE

Isn't that what you told me not to do?

THADDEUS

That was before I knew what was being said.

TEMPERANCE

But me? Witchcraft?

THADDEUS

This is serious Temperance. An accusation like that - you could be hanged!

TEMPERANCE

You don't think the whole town is thinking like that. Do you?

THADDEUS

Look! Here comes Abigail. A friendly face might do you some good.

ABIGAIL enters.

TEMPERANCE

Oh Abigail! How have you been?

ABIGAIL

Me? Oh, Temperance I'm fine just coming back from visiting the blacksmith. But enough about me, how are you?

TEMPERANCE

Just awful, John died and now there are these horrible rumors going around!

ABIGAIL stays silent.

TEMPERANCE

What? You don't believe all those nasty lies do you?

ABIGAIL

I just don't know Temperance. No one has seen you in a fortnight. A lot of people want answers. How did John die?

TEMPERANCE

A snake attack. Everyone should know that.

ABIGAIL

But didn't happen in front of your own home? Right there in that field?

TEMPERANCE

Yes, I can barely stand to look at the place. He barely made it to the front door. He died on my table while I was trying to save him.

ABIGAIL

How could you not help him?

THADDEUS

Did you not just hear her?

ABIGAIL

I heard she didn't save him.

THADDEUS

Wasn't able to save him. Not didn't.

TEMPERANCE

You think I let him die?

ABIGAIL

Well didn't you? Temperance you have saved people I never thought possible. How were you unable to save your own husband?

TEMPERANCE

He was so far gone when I found him. All I could really do was hold his hand as he shook and struggled to breathe.

ABIGAIL

So, you just let him die? Temperance I loved you at one time but now I'm not sure. With all these accusations of witchcraft? You used to be the most remarkable healer ...

TEMPERANCE

I can only heal with my knowledge and the grace of God.

ABIGAIL

But does your knowledge come from God or the devil?

THADDEUS

Have you been talking to Dr. Cyrus?

ABIGAIL

Of course. My Jamie had taken ill. I didn't want to bother you in your time of grief, so I took him to Dr. Cyrus. He has helped so much and been so kind in your absence.

THADDEUS

If he is so kind why would he accuse Temperance of witchcraft?

ABIGAIL

He is a reputable and Godly man. I am sorry Temperance but there's just too much against you. How could you be such a great healer but not be able save your own husband? It's all so damning.

TEMPERANCE

You would accuse me of witchcraft?

ABIGAIL

I just don't know Temperance. It's all very odd.

THADDEUS

Odd?

ABIGAIL

Dr. Cyrus says some of those remedies you made before, that seemed to work almost like miracles, were certain to be the work of the devil. That no one dared use such concoctions as you.

TEMPERANCE

They're just herbs and prayer, nothing more. What is Doctor Cyrus prescribing?

ABIGAIL

Dr. Cyrus says he would never dare use such methods as you have. He says they go against God. He's given me elixirs and instructions to bring Jamie in for bloodletting if it gets worse. Now I really must be going. Jamie needs me.

TEMPERANCE

Abigail, please don't believe these horrible rumors.

ABIGAIL

I don't know what to believe. I'm sorry.

ABIGAIL exits.

End of Scene Two

SCENE THREE

The kitchen of Temperance's home. TEMPERANCE is gathering herbs from her stores while THADDEUS looks around.

TEMPERANCE

I can't believe Abigail, my oldest friend, would believe such lies.

THADDEUS

She seemed like such a faithful woman. I wonder what happened.

TEMPERANCE

Dr. Cyrus is what happened, but what does he have to do with me?

THADDEUS

Maybe he wants all your customers.

TEMPERANCE

I don't like to think of patients as customers.

THADDEUS

But perhaps Cyrus does. He claims to be a doctor.

TEMPERANCE

But a doctor and a healer aren't the same.

THADDEUS

But they are similar. Maybe he thinks if there's no healer there will be more need for him.

TEMPERANCE

How could he have started such vicious rumors?

THADDEUS

I don't know, Temperance. Maybe you need to go to church, and prove yourself to be a faithful woman.

TEMPERANCE

I am a faithful woman.

THADDEUS

You need to show people you are so invested in the lord, that it would be foolish to accuse you of witchcraft.

TEMPERANCE

I guess sitting up front and singing louder couldn't hurt.

THADDEUS

That's the spirit! Now let's get back before Edith worries.

TEMPERANCE and THADDEUS grab bags of herbs and exit.

End of Scene Three.

SCENE FOUR

At rise THADDEUS and EDITH have just eaten dinner. EDITH is cleaning the table THADDEUS is sitting at.

EDITH

Oh Thaddeus, what do you think will happen to Temperance?

THADDEUS

Nothing if I have anything to say about it, but the whole town thinks she's practicing witchcraft.

EDITH

But witchcraft is a serious crime.

THADDEUS

I know. Someday soon I'm afraid people will start to look for her. And not so she can help them.

EDITH

How could this happen to such a sweet woman like Temperance?

THADDEUS gets up and hugs his wife.

THADDEUS

I don't know, but I think I should go speak to Cyrus before this gets out of hand.

EDITH

Do you really think that's such a good idea?

THADDEUS

If I don't, Temperance will be strung up as a witch.

EDITH

You don't think they'll really do that. Do you?

THADDEUS

I don't want to find out.

End of Scene Four

SCENE FIVE
THADDEUS is in the kitchen pacing.

THADDEUS
I have been a fool. This lousy winter has lasted much longer than any winter should. It has driven these people mad.

TEMPERANCE enters holding a basket of herbs.

TEMPERANCE
Who's mad?

THADDEUS halts and stares at Temperance looking lost.

(same speaker)
Thaddeus, who is mad?

THADDEUS
The townspeople. Everyone has gone mad from this long winter.

TEMPERANCE
The cold never did help people think.

TEMPERANCE begins to empty the basket.

THADDEUS
I fear this year has been the worst plague on their minds.

TEMPERANCE
Don't say plague. You'll get the people riled up. They already have those nasty assumptions about witches in their head.

THADDEUS
Are you not worried?

TEMPERANCE
At first I was, but now I don't know. I think they will get over their silly superstition soon enough.

THADDEUS
I don't think it's just a superstition.

TEMPERANCE
Do you think me to be a witch, Thaddeus?

THADDEUS
Of course not! But with the surrounding towns like Savannah having recently killed several women for crimes of witchcraft, we ought to be cautious.

TEMPERANCE
Well I don't know how else to be cautious besides living my current lifestyle.

THADDEUS
But perhaps you could do more.

TEMPERANCE
Like what?

THADDEUS
I don't know, but there must be something.

TEMPERANCE
What do you know that I don't?

THADDEUS
Nothing.

TEMPERANCE
You seem awfully nervous. Did you see something at the market or at the blacksmith shop today?

THADDEUS
Not so much something but rather someone.

TEMPERANCE
Well, who did you see?

THADDEUS is silent.

Thaddeus, tell me this instant who you saw!

THADDEUS
I ran into Dr. Cyrus.

TEMPERANCE
Oh?

THADDEUS
Well, not so much as ran into, more so went to his house.

TEMPERANCE
His house?

THADDEUS
I went to confront him about all the lies he is spreading.

TEMPERANCE
And what did he say?

THADDEUS

He is a smart and vile man Tempe. He manipulates people, posing seemingly innocent questions that could influence someone's condemnation.

TEMPERANCE

You mean my condemnation.

THADDEUS

He has a sharp mind that he uses to warp others.

TEMPERANCE

And did he warp yours?

THADDEUS

No, I only answered some of his questions.

TEMPERANCE

And?

THADDEUS

Oh, Temperance. I think I have done you a great disservice.

TEMPERANCE

I have done nothing wrong. What could you have told him to make him believe I have?

THADDEUS

He asked about your herbs...

TEMPERANCE

What about them?

THADDEUS

He asked where you got them.

TEMPERANCE

I mostly grow them or find them in that one spot in the woods.

THADDEUS

Yes, I know.

TEMPERANCE

Well, what did he say?

THADDEUS

He said that if you collect them in the south side of the woods by the old Crosby barn, that they are tainted.

TEMPERANCE

Tainted?

THADDEUS

He took the mayor and the priest there shortly after John died. They found stone markers.

TEMPERANCE

There are no stone markers.

THADDEUS

They found markers of devil worship.

TEMPERANCE

There have never been stone markers there!

THADDEUS

I told him he surely must be mistaken but--

TEMPERANCE

But what?

THADDEUS

He said he has a witness who claims to have seen you picking herbs there among the tainted ground.

TEMPERANCE

Witness? What witness?

THADDEUS

It's Abigail, Tempe. You took Abigail there almost a year ago.

TEMPERANCE

But there were no markers!

THADDEUS

She is saying they were there and she didn't know what they were but that they frightened her.

TEMPERANCE

Why would Abigail say such a thing?

THADDEUS

I don't know. She must believe it to be true. This is far worse than I feared.

TEMPERANCE

Thaddeus, there were no markers.

THADDEUS

I believe you, Tempe. I just don't know if I am enough.

TEMPERANCE

What do you mean enough?

THADDEUS

People are scared and angry. They are taking their fear out on you.

TEMPERANCE

On me?

THADDEUS

I'm afraid they may put you on trial Tempe.

TEMPERANCE

On trial? Just the idea of a trial will convince others I am guilty.

THADDEUS

I know. Seeing you on trial will break my heart.

TEMPERANCE

Even the sight of me on trial will solidify the rumors. The towns people will think why would there be a trial if there is no real evidence? I have loved this town and they have betrayed me. I see now that God leads our lives in strange ways and we must overcome and endure.

THADDEUS

Endure a trial?

TEMPERANCE

I have done nothing wrong, yet they deem evil. I cannot stop them or hope they come to their senses. I cannot run away so I must endure. In order to live my life, or what is left of it, in a godly way I must overcome and endure.

EDITH enters.

EDITH

Thaddeus, the sheriff is here. He says he's to collect Temperance.

TEMPERANCE

That is sooner than I thought.

THADDEUS

Temperance I am sorry that I had a hand in this.

EDITH

Hand in what?

THADDEUS

I-

TEMPERANCE

It matters not. It is clear the people of this town do not trust me. I know I have led my life well in God's eye. He will help lead me through all this madness and hearsay.

EDITH

Temperance-

TEMPERANCE

Don't, I must go. I will not run. It will only make me tired and seem more guilty in their eyes. I must face whatever my fate is with dignity. Maybe I'll be able to see John again. That would be a lovely sight.

THADDEUS and a crying EDITH hugs TEMPERANCE and then she exits. EDITH still crying hugs THADDEUS

EDITH

What will happen to her?

THADDEUS

It's up to the townspeople to decide. May God lead them on the right path.

EDITH

They can't kill her! They can't believe all these lies of witchcraft!

THADDEUS

If they do, may God have mercy on their souls.

Blackout.

Academic Reflection

I started writing *A Southern Spring* in March and finally finished it in mid-October. It took me approximately eight months to write and I am extremely proud of how it turned out. This play takes the audience on a journey where the main character Temperance is turned on by her community, leading to disastrous results. In this essay, I will discuss the writing process, the foundation for my process, and my final thoughts on the whole experience.

In regards to my writing process, I find it important to discuss what was difficult, how I overcame these difficulties, and the order in which I wrote the play. Like with any process, there were a number of difficulties that I had to overcome. I have never taken a playwriting class before, so I had to learn all of these things as I was working. The challenging part of writing a play for me stems from the fact that all the writing is dialogue; it is all meant to be said aloud. This means there should be less exposition, more action, and more direct reaction with characters. Dialogue also plays into character consistency. I wanted my characters to remain consistent but continue to grow and develop at a reasonable pace throughout the play. My biggest learning curve with dialogue was deciding what should be said versus what should be implied for the audience to draw their own conclusions. The audience does not need to be told everything outright but instead be shown through actions and implications. This is a core concept for my play because it helps build tension and ambiance. For the basis of my writing process, I learned specifically what worked for me in regards to the progression of my play.

I feel research should be the first step in writing anything, especially a historical play. Since my play is based in the 1760s, I had to gain knowledge of both the time period and the beliefs of that time. I focused heavily on the difference between healers and doctors as well as the dynamics between women and men in the workforce. As explained by Anne Braude in *Radical Spirits*, women at the time were more accepted as healers, giving out what are the equivalent of vitamins and providing basic care, while men became doctors and carried out the more intense procedures like bloodletting and surgery. Braude explores the concept of “Mediums versus Medical Men” to show the stark contrasts of the two practices and their effects on society, which is a theme I explore in my play. Since I had a healer in my play, I thought it was important to learn about the various herbs and how they were used during the time period, such as chamomile for sleep and sage for stomach issues. I researched anti-venom because of the snake attack and discovered it was not invented until 1895, well after my play’s time period; therefore Temperance would never have been able to save her husband. I felt that in order to portray the themes I wanted, it was vital to have an understanding of the psychology of internal conflicts in communities. William Zartman claims, “intergroup conflicts are fears about the denial of such needs-- fears focusing on example for perceived threats to security or identity,” which is a basis of the idea of cancel culture that I intend to have reflected in my play (Zartman). Having this extensive background knowledge allowed me to build a more realistic world with more dynamic characters.

After creating my foundation for my writing, I moved on to develop my supporting characters. I wrote diary entries for Abigail, Temperance’s nervous religious friend, to develop a solid understanding of how she would behave. Her most important

diary entry explains how she found the stone markers that led to Temperance's downfall. This entry explores her close friendship with Temperance before any accusations of witchcraft. It shows Temperance's trust in Abigail by taking her to what is her safe space. Abigail in turn shows her friendship with Temperance by sharing the joyous news of her pregnancy as well as visiting the Crosby barn even though she is frightened by it.

Dear Heavenly Father,

I went with Temperance to the woods today to collect herbs. I don't know why she likes the creepy Crosby barn as a place to gather her healing herbs. There are stones by the barn that are so big and so scary as if they are hiding a secret evil or a wild animal. I told her I was with child and she was so excited for me. She said that John is waiting for the day they have their own to run around the field with him. I see sadness sometimes within her. It was more prevalent today as we were in the woods. I think if I hadn't pushed her to leave she would have stayed all day. She enjoys the quiet of the woods in a way I never could.

Amen

Abigail is the crucial witness to solidify Doctor Cyrus' claims that Temperance is practicing witchcraft. I laid the foundation of Abigail's divisiveness in these diary entries by having her begin to question Temperance's healing ability.

Dear Heavenly Father,

It is a sad day in town. John Wilkins died from a snake attack, and Temperance was unable to save him. Temperance has been a remarkable healer, but maybe that is just out of her power. Her skill has always

fascinated me. She has such a gentle touch. It seemed for years she was able to save everyone she met. Over the past two years' though things have changed. I don't think it could be Temperance's fault. It might be, but it's ungodly to judge others. Reginald and Patrick got sick from a terrible cough and Temperance gave them a remedy. They seemed to be doing fine, but a week later they were both dead. I am sure Temperance was heartbroken to have not been able to help.

Amen

Her subtle thought of odd behaviors on Temperance's behalf has allowed Doctor Cyrus to plant seeds of doubt and fear into Abigail. Doctor Cyrus uses this to his advantage as well as Temperance's absence to get Abigail to question her own friend's motives.

Dear Heavenly Father,

Oh, lord I do not know what to believe anymore. Doctor Cyrus has been such wonderful help with Jamie while Temperance is away grieving, but he has told me such terrible things. He said that Temperance is practicing witchcraft! How horrible. He read me the signs and I should have seen them. The increase in deaths in her care, the patch of woods she took me to with the stones. I can't believe I took the herbs she gave me for birthing. I am distraught. She seemed like a godly woman, but maybe the healing got the better of her. I hear rumors of women who want to be more than what God created them to be. Maybe Temperance's ambition has become her undoing. Oh, God save her soul.

Amen

Abigail is a confused woman who has been masterfully manipulated by Doctor Cyrus. I also used extra scenes to develop the background for other supporting characters. I wrote a scene from Phoebe's and Temperance's childhood to solidify the anger and uncaring nature that Phoebe has towards Temperance. Phoebe is another woman from the town who dislikes Temperance and is jealous of John's affections towards her. She feels publicly rejected leading to a lifelong anger towards Temperance.

Outside the school in a field of flowers. Temperance is sitting with Abigail on a log. John is looking at Temperance from another log across the stage. Phoebe enters.

Childhood Scene

PHOEBE

Oh John. Isn't it a nice day?

JOHN

Yeah, I guess.

TEMPERANCE and ABIGAIL can be heard laughing.

PHOEBE

Aren't these flowers pretty? I just love bellflowers.

JOHN

I guess. They're just so purple.

PHOEBE picks up one that is yellow and different from the rest.

PHOEBE

Not this one! I think it's the prettiest. Isn't yellow such a fun color?

JOHN

It's nice, I guess.

PHOEBE

I want you to have it.

JOHN

Why?

PHOEBE

I think you deserve something pretty. We all do now and then.

JOHN takes the flower.

JOHN

Thanks, I guess.

PHOEBE smiles as JOHN takes it. Temperance and ABIGAIL get off the log and exit, passing JOHN and PHOEBE.

JOHN

Hey Temperance.

TEMPERANCE stops next to him.

I think you should have something pretty.

JOHN gives TEMPERANCE the flower.

TEMPERANCE

Oh, yellow! My favorite color.

TEMPERANCE sits on the log with JOHN. PHOEBE begins to cry silently and exits.

JOHN

I'm glad. I think we all deserve something pretty now and then.

End of Scene

The idea behind the scene was to give a reason for the jealousy that Phoebe holds against Temperance. Phoebe is an angry and resentful person, which allows for her to be more easily influenced by Doctor Cyrus's lies of witchcraft and more willing to spread rumors. The other reason for this scene was to show the relationship between Temperance and John and how long they have been together. I was able to easily start the actual process of

writing by using research as well as extra entries and scenes as my foundation for the story.

I have many thoughts about this whole experience. As I mentioned earlier, there were some difficult parts of this process, but I managed to overcome them. For example, in order to maintain a consistent voice for each of my characters, I practiced isolating certain characters' lines and making sure they remained uniform from scene to scene. I also wanted to keep the tone, which is what I intended for the audience to take away, and the mood, which is what the audience actually takes away, consistent. To keep the play from being too expositional, I checked to see if the conversations flowed well. My main method for accomplishing this was to have myself and a friend read for a scene to see if the dialogue made sense and locate any awkward wording that needed to be corrected. The other way I maintained dialogue continuity was to analyze the encounter scenes between Phoebe and Temperance and Abigail and Temperance. I found it important to show the encounters with others instead of having a character say what had transpired. I also felt it important to never have Doctor Cyrus appear on stage because I wanted him to remain an ominous, unseen character. The scene where Thaddeus explains what happened between himself and Doctor Cyrus is less about their encounter and more about Thaddeus revealing his accidental betrayal of Temperance. Along with deciding what needed to be implied on stage, I had to find what needed to be shown directly to the audience. I tried to view the play from the audience's perspective and pretend I was reading it for the first time. This allowed me to get the feeling of the different revelations throughout the play. I would also have various people read through my play then gather their thoughts and interpretations to see if they matched what I was trying to portray. I

practiced removing certain parts of the dialogue to see what information was truly needed to match the tone of my play. An important factor in knowing what to include revolves around the pacing of the play. The dialogue needed to be more conversational for the dynamic of the story and to ensure the characters were believable as people. To create the dynamic I wanted for the story, it needed tension which meant having longer and more intense scenes. Despite these difficulties, I managed to accomplish many things. I was finally able to finish a story, which I had never managed to do before with my creative writing. I feel that I was able to keep my characters dynamic and true to the personality I had intended for them. I was particularly proud of Abigail and Thaddeus. Thaddeus is a loyal friend and brother who cares for his family and thinks of himself as their protector. He constantly defends Temperance throughout the play, which leads to his ultimate downfall when he tries to confront Doctor Cyrus and ends up betraying Temperance instead. His accidental betrayal weighs heavy on him and makes him distraught. Abigail, on the other hand, is a confused, nervous and hyper religious woman. At first she is Temperance's friend, but after being manipulated into believing that Temperance has been working with the devil, she betrays her because of her extreme devotion to God. She thinks it is important to tell the truth about the stones even though she does not understand their significance in the case against Temperance. Her characterization was fun to explore in the diary entries, which I made like a prayer to reflect her religious personality. Besides characterization, I was proud of the details I added to create depth and tension within the play, especially Thaddeus' betrayal. Thaddeus thinking he betrayed Temperance creates a dynamic of family struggle as well as an internal struggle within himself since it goes against his protective nature. Abigail also creates tension and

depth by being a witness of Temperance taking herbs from a tainted place. This shows the power of manipulation and memory and how even close friends can betray you. Abigail puts what is possibly the most damning piece of evidence against Temperance directly into Doctor Cyrus's hands.

Although I did not have a page number in mind, the play ended up being longer than I expected; I thought it would be short and sweet. I did not expect my play to evolve how it did. I originally had no intention of having Thaddeus betray Temperance, but I think it is a vital part to the ending of the story. I also ended up unexpectedly adding as well as removing characters, but I am happy with how it turned out. I think the evolution of Temperance's characterization was the most interesting since I was originally focusing on the situation she was in rather than her personality. She was a woman who became stronger in her faith through her grief and would not let the actions of the town's people tear that away from her. I'm also proud of the themes I managed to include in my play. I wanted it to be a metaphor for modern-day cancel culture and the domino effect that it can have. Cancel culture is defined as your past coming back to haunt you, especially in social media, and generally leads to the end of a career. In Temperance's case, she loses her life as a result of Doctor Cyrus' rumors. Doctor Cyrus spreads the rumors that lead to an examination of Temperance's past in order to destroy her credibility. Phoebe is an instigator in the process, pushing the horrible accusations of Temperance and her character. Abigail is an example of those close to you turning on you. My other accomplishment is creating what I deem a non-traditional witch hunt. My thought is that there was originally no one seeking a witch but they manage to find one nonetheless. The traditional way is like the Salem witch trials where multiple women were accused and

there was a large hunt to find them. There was no implication at the start of the play that this town was home to any witches. Doctor Cyrus' outside influence tainted the town to let these things come to pass. I think I managed to overcome many challenges in order to accomplish the message I wanted to put into the play.

As you can see from the writing process, writing foundation, and my final opinions this play became more than I ever thought possible. With character, themes, and dialogue I was able to create a story I never thought I could. This play became a world of its own, and I am proud to have been a part of it.

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