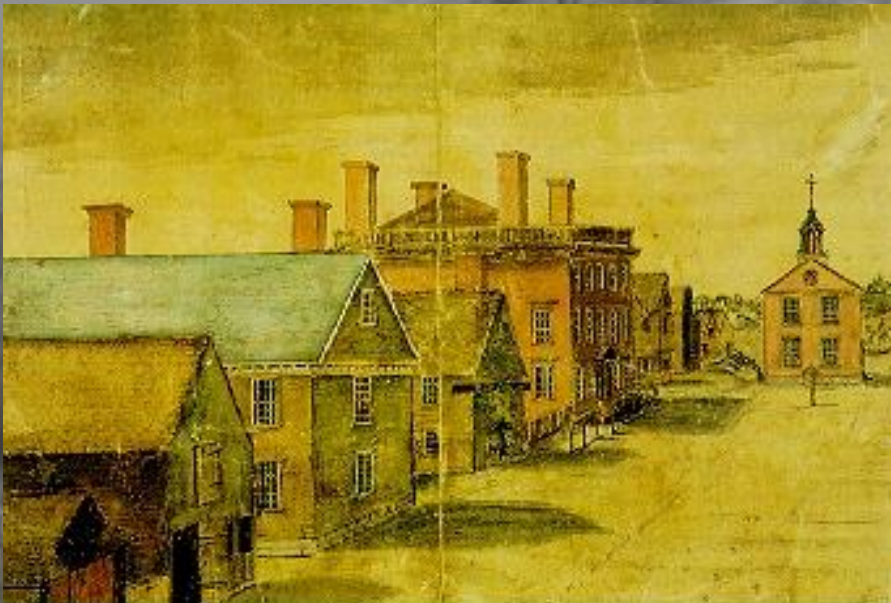


A misty, overcast landscape with a field in the foreground, bare trees in the middle ground, and a distant hillside. The scene is desaturated and atmospheric, with a soft, grey light. The foreground shows a field of dry grass or reeds, partially covered in a light layer of snow or frost. In the middle ground, several bare, leafless trees stand against the mist. In the background, a low, rounded hillside is visible, also shrouded in mist. The overall mood is somber and quiet.

The Crucible

Act I

❖ The Crucible begins in the house of Reverend Samuel Parris, whose daughter, Betty, lies unconscious in bed upstairs.



Salem Village

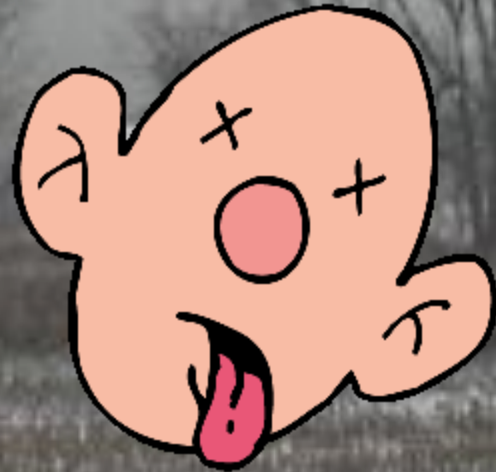


Samuel Parris

❖ Prior to the opening of the play, Parris discovered Betty, his niece Abigail, and Tituba, his black slave from Barbados, dancing in the forest outside of Salem at midnight.



❖ After Parris came out of the bushes, Betty lost consciousness and has remained in a stupor ever since.



❖ The town physician, Doctor Griggs, who has not been able to determine why Betty is ill, suggests witchcraft as a possible cause.



❖ Parris, distraught and troubled because he knows that Abigail has not been entirely truthful regarding her activities in the woods, confronts Abigail.



❖ Parris says that he saw her and Betty dancing "like heathens," Tituba moving back and forth over a fire while mumbling unintelligibly, and an unidentified female running naked through the forest.



❖ Abigail denies that she and the other girls were participating in witchcraft, but Parris suspects she is lying.

❖ He thinks that she and Betty have conjured spells.



❖ Parris also questions Abigail about her character and the reason why Goody Proctor, who is the wife of John Proctor and a very respected woman in Salem, dismissed her from working as the Proctors' servant.



❖ Mr. and Mrs. Putnam, members of one of the prominent families in Salem, enter the room and declare that Betty's illness results from witchcraft. They reveal to Parris that their daughter, Ruth, has also fallen into a strange trance.



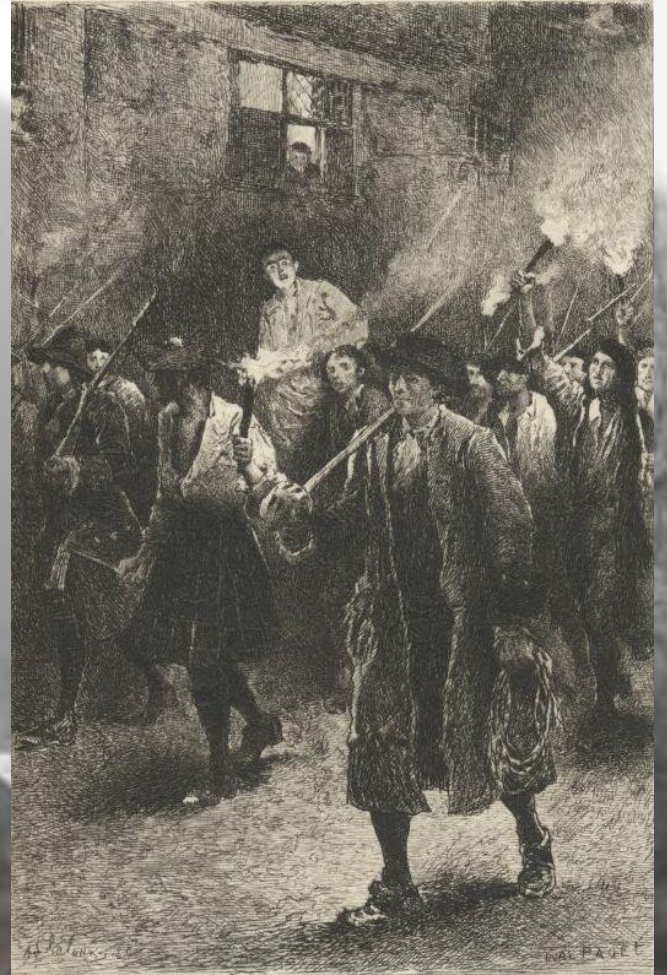
❖ Ruth's condition, coupled with the fact that seven of Mrs. Putnam's children have died as infants under mysterious conditions, convince the Putnams that evil spirits are at work in Salem.



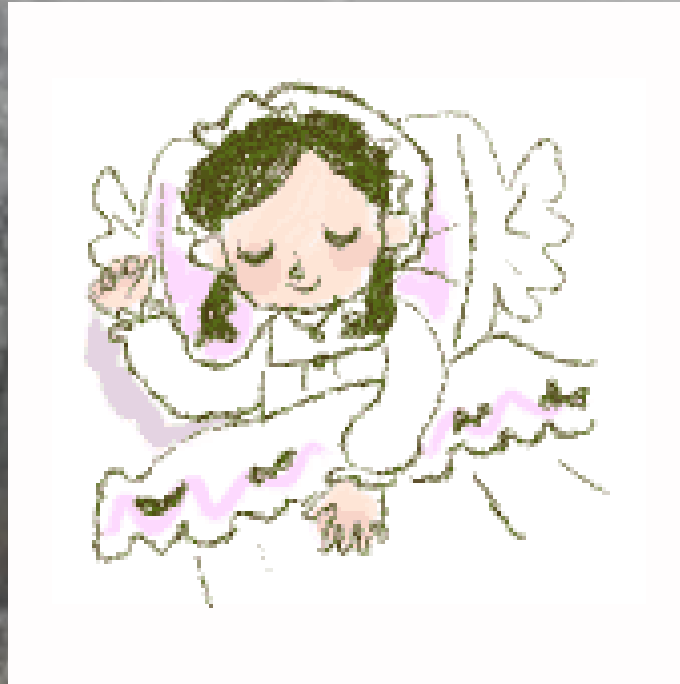


❖ Putnam tries to persuade Parris that he should declare the presence of witchcraft, but Parris is worried.

❖ He knows that a group of townspeople want to remove him from Salem, and a witchcraft scandal involving his family would give them the power to oust him from the town.



❖ Abigail and Mercy, the Putnams' servant, try to wake Betty.



❖ Abigail tells Mercy what to say when she is questioned about what she was doing in the woods.



- ❖ She informs Mercy that Parris knows they were dancing in the woods.
- ❖ She also says he knows Tituba called to Ruth's dead sisters.

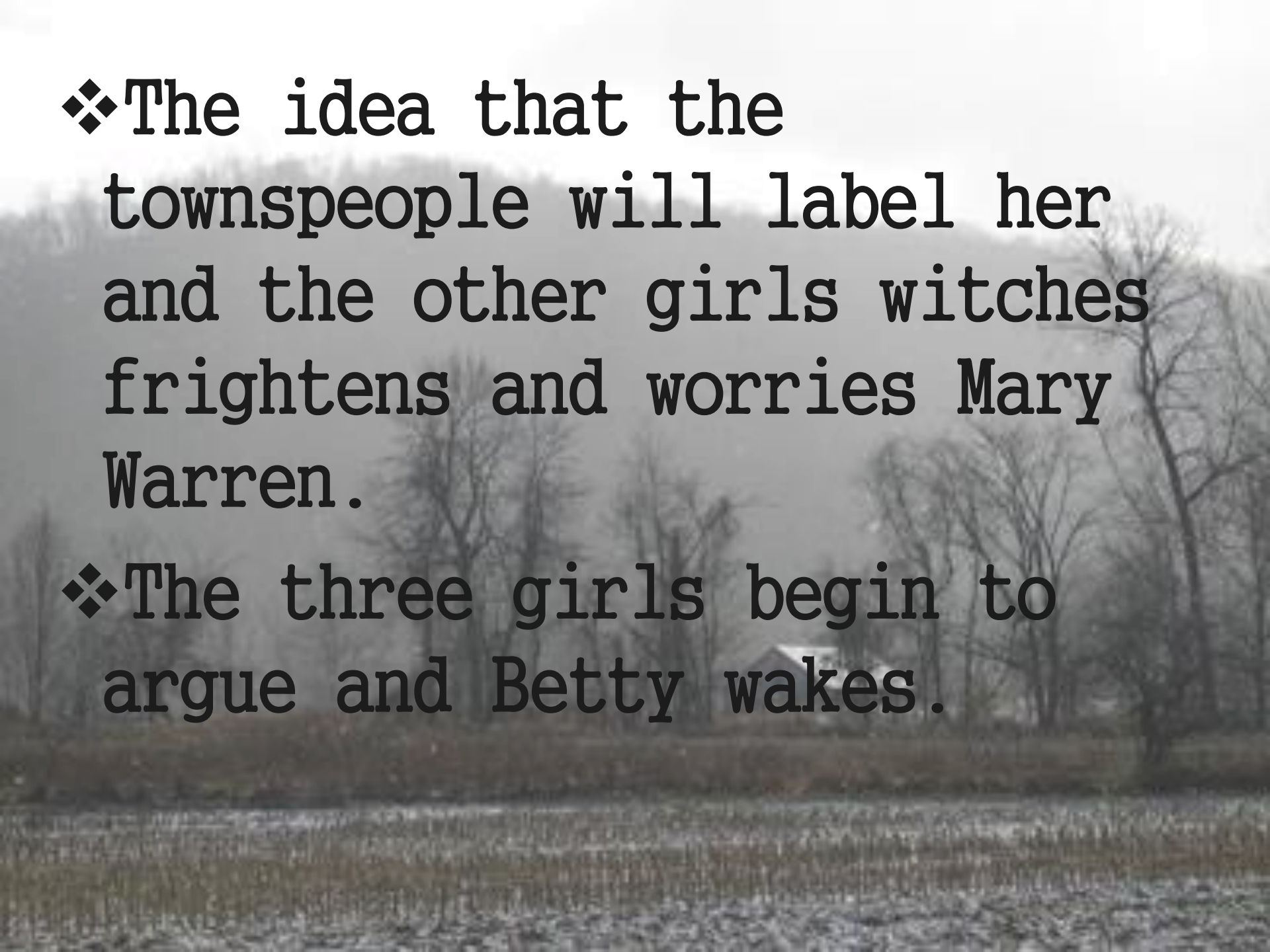


❖ Abigail reveals that Mercy is the female that Parris saw running through the woods.





❖ Mary Warren enters the room and tells Abigail that everyone in Salem blames witchcraft for Betty's illness.

A misty, overcast landscape with bare trees and a small house in the distance. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting a foggy or rainy day. The text is overlaid on this background.

❖ The idea that the townspeople will label her and the other girls witches frightens and worries Mary Warren.

❖ The three girls begin to argue and Betty wakes.

❖ Abigail tells Betty that Parris knows everything they did in the woods.

❖ Betty confronts Abigail and accuses her of not admitting she drank blood.

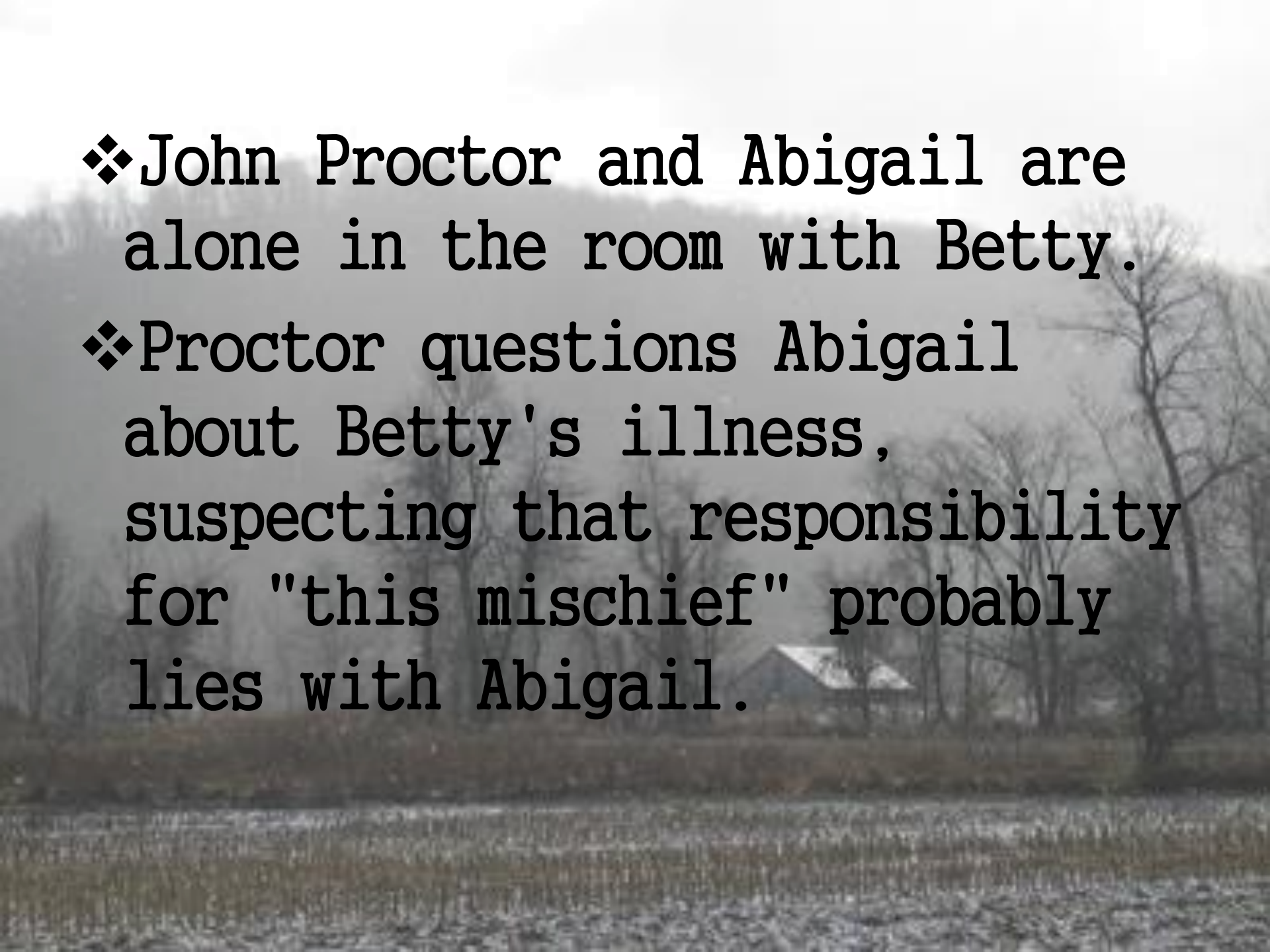


❖ She also accuses her of casting a spell in order to kill Goody Proctor.



❖ Threatening Betty, Mercy,
and Mary Warren if they tell
anyone about the spell,
Abigail tells them to say
that they only danced, that
Tituba raised Ruth's sisters
from the dead, and that
nothing else happened.



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- ❖ John Proctor and Abigail are alone in the room with Betty.
 - ❖ Proctor questions Abigail about Betty's illness, suspecting that responsibility for "this mischief" probably lies with Abigail.

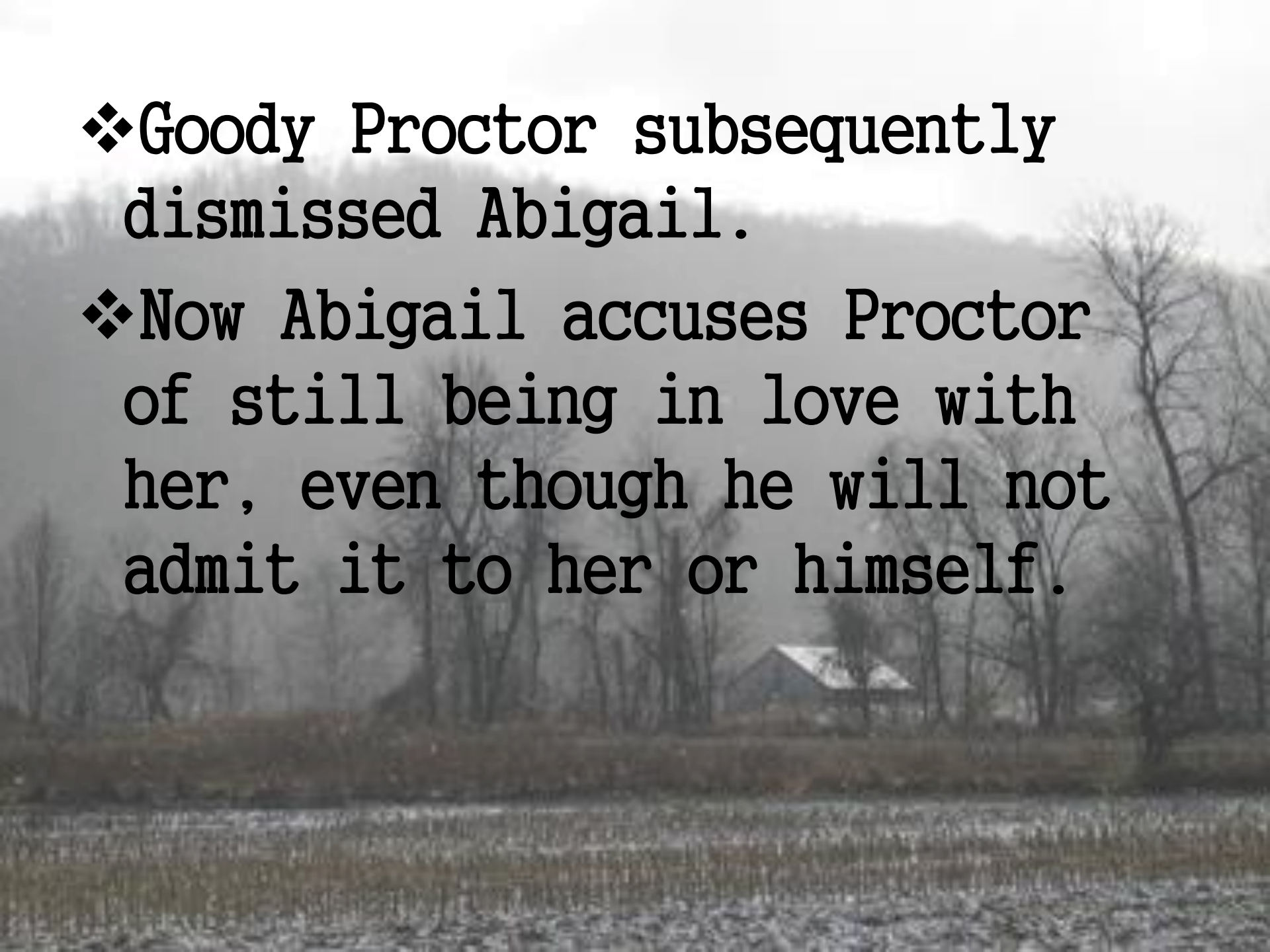
❖ Denying any involvement in witchcraft, Abigail states that she and the girls merely danced in the woods.



❖ Abigail asks Proctor if he has come to see her, but Proctor denies it.

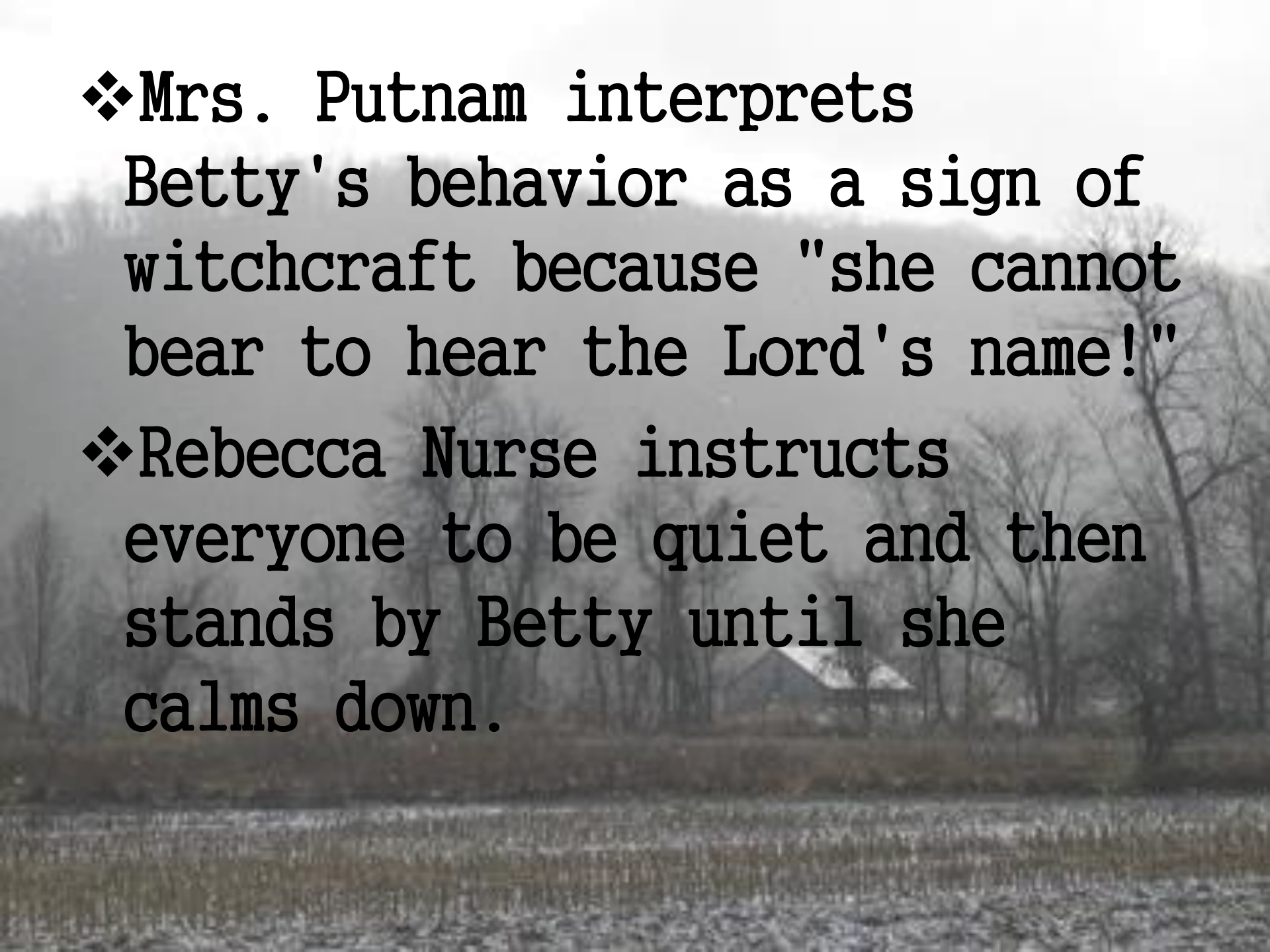
❖ The conversation reveals that approximately seven months earlier, Abigail and Proctor had an affair while Abigail lived and worked in the Proctor household.

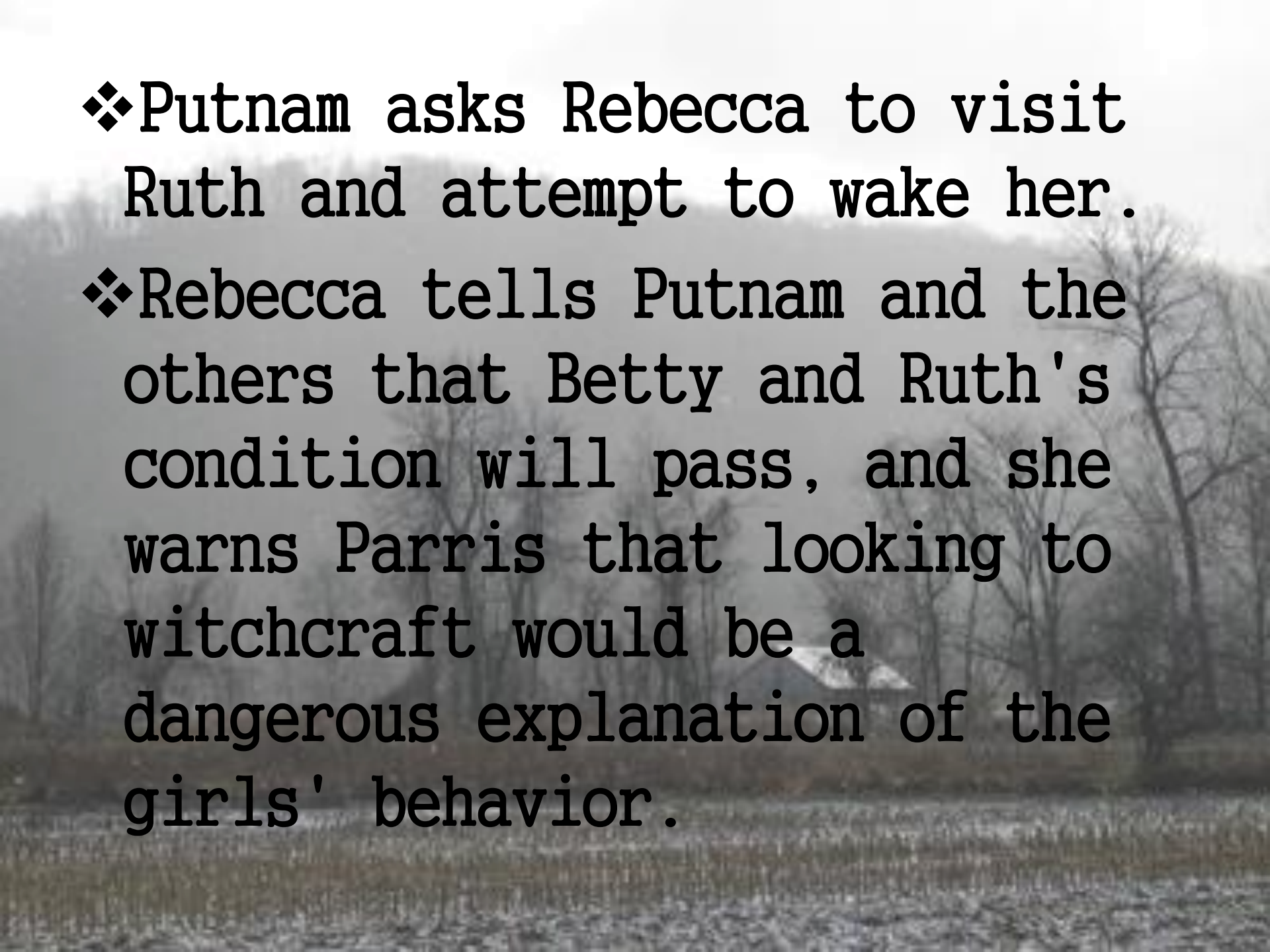


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- ❖ Goody Proctor subsequently dismissed Abigail.
 - ❖ Now Abigail accuses Proctor of still being in love with her, even though he will not admit it to her or himself.

- ❖ Betty begins screaming and covering her ears.
- ❖ Parishioners downstairs have been singing a hymn.



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- A misty, overcast landscape with bare trees and a house in the distance. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting a gloomy or somber atmosphere. The text is overlaid on this background.
- ❖ Mrs. Putnam interprets Betty's behavior as a sign of witchcraft because "she cannot bear to hear the Lord's name!"
 - ❖ Rebecca Nurse instructs everyone to be quiet and then stands by Betty until she calms down.

- 
- ❖ Putnam asks Rebecca to visit Ruth and attempt to wake her.
 - ❖ Rebecca tells Putnam and the others that Betty and Ruth's condition will pass, and she warns Parris that looking to witchcraft would be a dangerous explanation of the girls' behavior.

❖ Putnam declares that witchcraft is to blame for the loss of his seven infant children, and Mrs. Putnam becomes hostile to Rebecca.

❖ She is suspicious because Rebecca has not lost any of her children.



- ❖ Proctor criticizes Parris for preaching about money rather than God.
- ❖ Putnam, Proctor, and Giles Corey argue with Parris about his salary and his expectations as the minister of Salem.



- ❖ Parris claims that a faction within Salem is determined to get rid of him.
- ❖ The men begin discussing lawsuits and land rights.

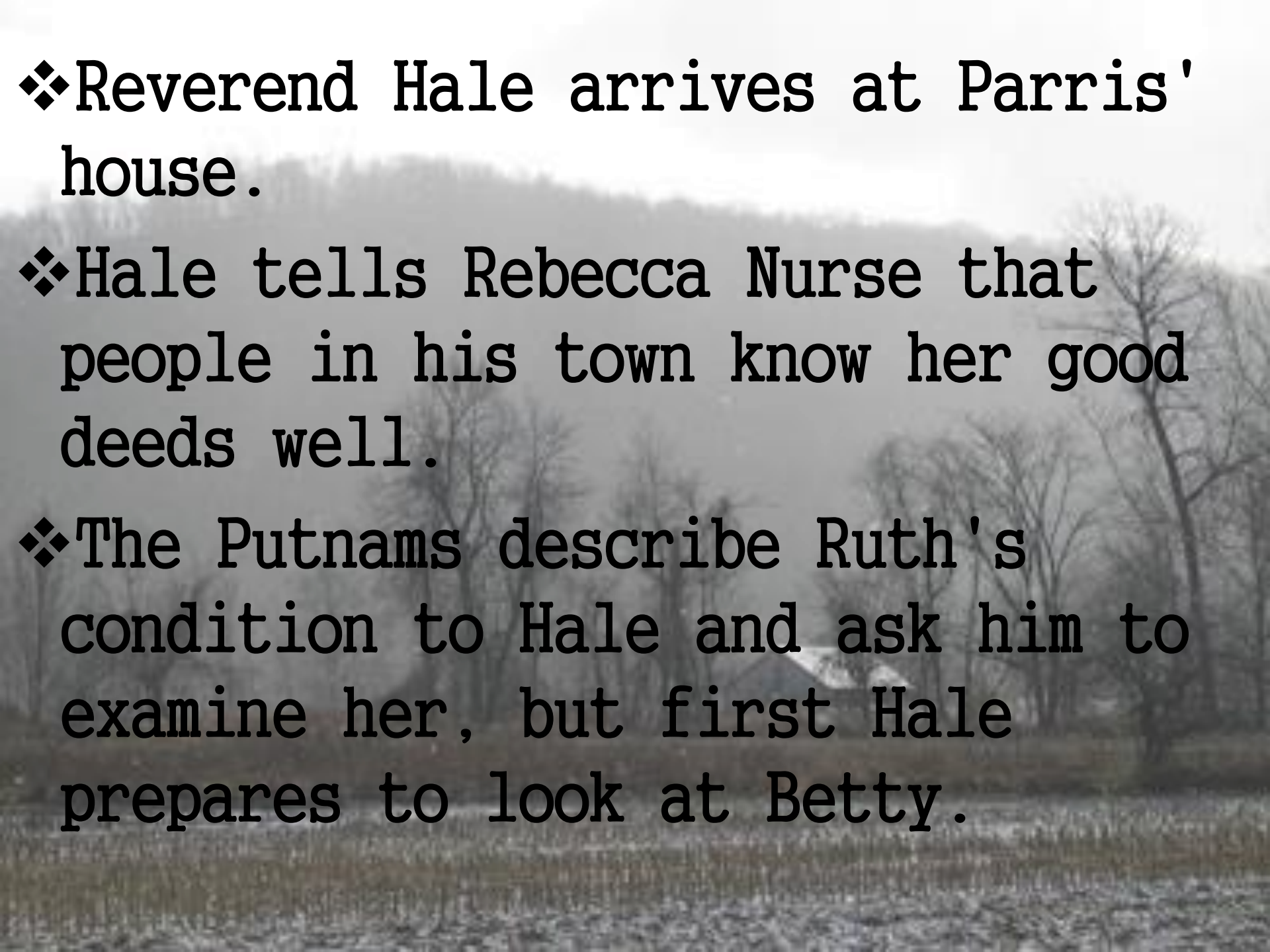


❖ Putnam accuses Proctor of stealing wood from his land, but Proctor says he bought the land five months before from Goody Nurse's husband.



❖ Putnam states that Goody Nurse's husband did not own the land because it belonged to Putnam's grandfather.



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- ❖ Reverend Hale arrives at Parris' house.
 - ❖ Hale tells Rebecca Nurse that people in his town know her good deeds well.
 - ❖ The Putnams describe Ruth's condition to Hale and ask him to examine her, but first Hale prepares to look at Betty.

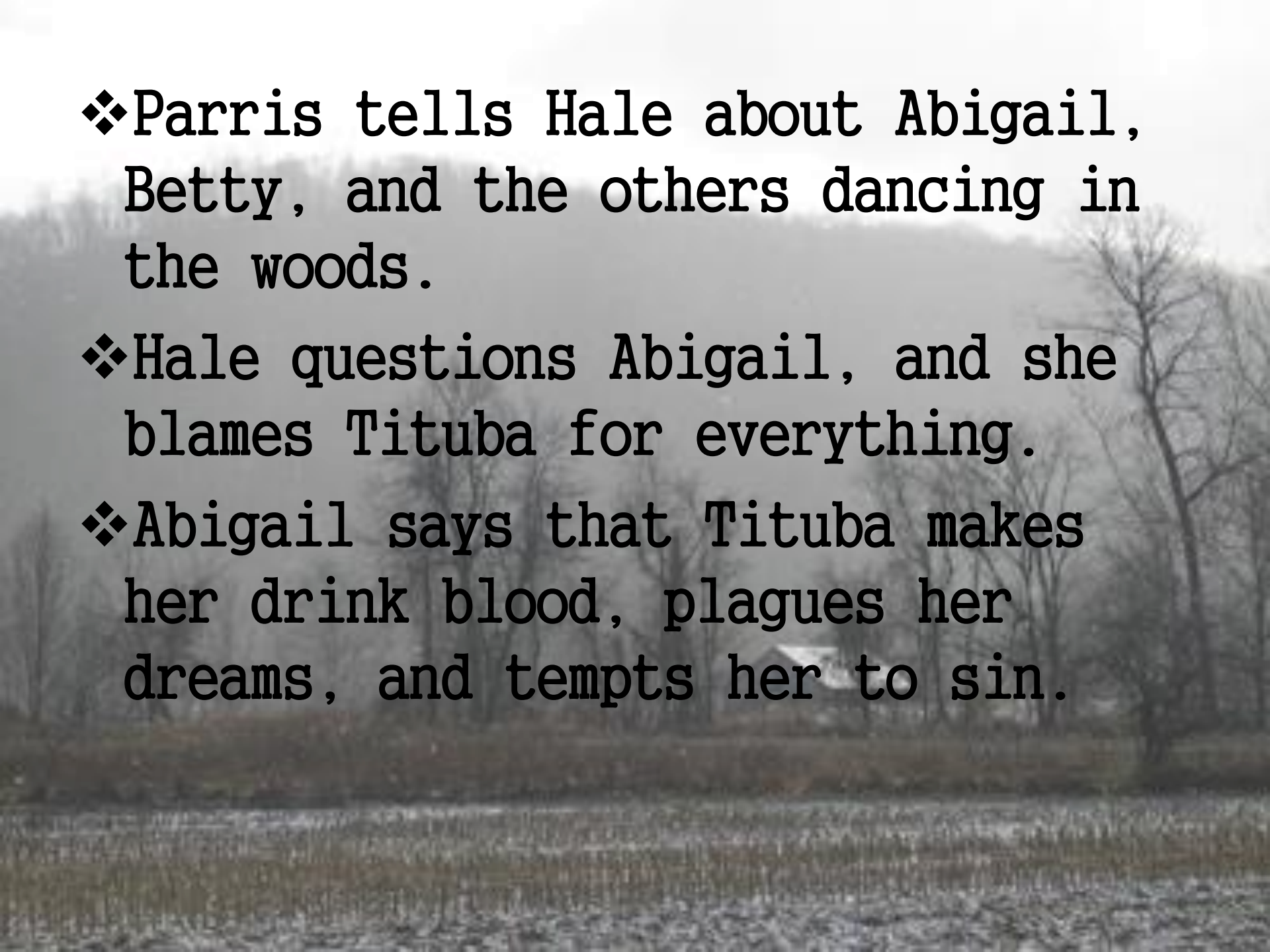
❖ Hale tells everyone in the room that he will not examine Betty unless they accept the fact that witchcraft may not be the reason for her ailment: "I shall not proceed unless you are prepared to believe me if I should find no bruise of Hell upon her."

- ❖ Mrs. Putnam states that Tituba can conjure spirits.
- ❖ Mrs. Putnam admits that she sent Ruth to Tituba so that Tituba could conjure Ruth's dead sisters in order to find out who murdered them.



❖ Goody Nurse leaves when Hale prepares to examine Betty for signs of the Devil because Hale says the process may cause the child pain.

❖ Giles Corey tells Hale that his wife Martha has been secretly reading books and that these books prevent him from praying.

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- A misty, overcast landscape with bare trees and a field of dry grass. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting a foggy or rainy day. The trees are mostly without leaves, and the ground is covered with dry, brownish grass and some snow or frost. The overall mood is somber and atmospheric.
- ❖ Parris tells Hale about Abigail, Betty, and the others dancing in the woods.
 - ❖ Hale questions Abigail, and she blames Tituba for everything.
 - ❖ Abigail says that Tituba makes her drink blood, plagues her dreams, and tempts her to sin.

❖ Hale questions Tituba and tells her that she can redeem herself by admitting that she has been working with the Devil and by telling him the names of anyone else involved.

❖ She admits that she has seen the Devil and that Goody Good and Goody Osburn were with him.



❖ Abigail admits that she has given herself to the Devil by writing her name in his book.



❖ She renounces the Devil and says that she wants "the sweet love of Jesus."



❖ Abigail also claims to have seen Goody Good and Goody Osburn with the Devil, along with Bridget Bishop.

❖ Betty wakes up and claims that she saw George Jacobs and Goody Howe with the Devil.

❖ Act I ends with Abigail and Betty naming individuals that they have seen with the Devil.