

# The weakness of mary warren



The Weakness of Mary Warren In real life, most people are not entirely good or entirely evil, as they are in some fictional stories.

Humans are complex, and all of them have different problems and flaws . In Arthur Miller's play The Crucible, a terror-driven witch hunt breaks out in the tiny village of Salem, Massachusetts, during a time when the Puritans were newly settled in America. These Puritans wanted nothing more than to live peaceful, religious lives free of the turmoil they had escaped from. However, the people in Salem Village are not entirely righteous, and their combined weaknesses and sins lead to the deaths of innocent people during the hunt for Satan. One of these people is Mary Warren, a lonely, fearful servant girl who struggles with her dependence on others and lack of strength throughout the play. At the start of the play, Mary is friends with Abigail, who bosses her around and bullies her into doing evil things, like accusing innocent people of witchcraft. At first, Mary knows that what she is doing is wrong, but she is too weak to stand up for what is right.

Although she knows that Sarah Good is innocent, for example, she cannot help but to follow the other girls instead of using her own mind. When she come into the court I say to myself, I must not accuse this woman, for she sleep in ditches, and so very old and poor. But then..

. I hear a voice, a screamin' voice, and it were my voice- and all at once I remembered everything she done to me! (Miller 57). Mary knows that Sarah Good never did anything to her, but she cannot bring herself to go against the crowd. Even though Mary is friends with Abigail, she knows that what Abby is doing is wrong. Although Abigail has no remorse for her plan to

kill Elizabeth Proctor, Mary breaks down into sobs when she learns that Sarah Osburn will hang upon her conviction.

Unlike Abby, Mary's conscience eventually leads her to attempt to do the right thing and help John Proctor. John Proctor and his wife Elizabeth do not believe that there are witches in Salem. With the help of Mary Warren, his servant, John comes up with a plan to convince the court that all of the condemned people are innocent. Disgusted by the beliefs of the Salem people and the injustices that were happening all around him, Proctor convinces Mary to tell the truth about the accusers' lies in front of the judges.

Although Mary is afraid to betray Abigail, she can not stand up to Proctor, who forces her to testify in court. At first, Mary says that she had never seen any spirits, and that the girls were making everything up. Later though, the judges order her to faint by her own will, as she had done in the courtroom with the girls. She can not faint because she is too nervous, and she begins to look guilty in the judges' eyes. When Mary runs out of strength to do the right thing, she sides with the girls in order to save herself. Weakness is the main reason that Mary betrays Proctor.

She is afraid for her own life, instead of the lives of dozens of innocent people. When she tells the court that the trials are based on a fraud, the judges obviously do not want to believe her right away. If what she said was in fact true, then the judges would have been responsible for the deaths and imprisonment of many good Christians. Because of this, Judges Danforth and Hathorne interrogate Mary until she reaches her breaking point. Mary was

nervous at first when she entered the courtroom, but is even more nervous when she hears Judge Danforth tell how she can be hanged for perjury. ??? It may well be that Mary Warren has been conquered by Satan, who sends her here to distract our sacred purpose. If so, her neck will break for it.??? (102).

Mary begins to falter when the girls deny her accusations, and the judges seem to doubt the truthfulness of her confession. When Abigail and the girls then begin to accuse Mary of sending her spirit on them, she starts to panic and blames Proctor for everything, claiming that Proctor has bewitched her the whole time. She does not care about John Proctor??™s fate, only her own. She accuses him in order to save herself. Mary??™s life may have been saved at the end of the play, but many other lives were taken in its place. Because of Mary??™s weakness, John Proctor was killed, along with dozens of other innocent people.

Since Mary was unable to stand up for herself in court, all of the young girls, including Abigail, continued to condemn people out of greed and vengeance. When Mary surrendered to the accusations of the girls, she proved that Abigail had complete control over her and the court. When Mary was afraid that confessing her lies may get her in trouble, Proctor said, ??? Now remember what the angel Raphael said to the boy Tobias. Remember it. ??? Do that which is good, and no harm shall come to thee??™ ??? (82). Unfortunately, the Bible did not speak the truth in this instance. When Mary weakly attempted to do the right thing, she was immediately denied that chance by the court.

However, she managed to save herself by lying. John Proctor had always wanted to do the right thing, and never faltered from it. Because of this he was killed.