Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Biography

Nathaniel Hawthorne was born at Salem in Massachusetts on July 4, 1804. He was a direct descendant of William Hawthorne, notorious for his persecution of the Quakers, and of his son John, a prominent figure in the late seventeenth century witch hunts. When Nathaniel was four years old his father, a sea captain, died of yellow fever while in Dutch Guiana. Then he lived with his mother family, manning family in Maine. He was a very serious man. When he was fourteen years old, Hawthorne sometimes went to Salem for studying and working as a keeper book here and sometimes he was thinking of becoming an author.

Hawthorne went to Bowdoin college in 1821, a small college not far from Raymond, Maine. He got his friends Horatio Bridge and Franklin Pierce in this college and graduated in 1825. Under the Manning generosity Hawthorne lived mostly at home, earned very little money, kept largely apart from society, and kept reading and writing. When he was twenty four years old in 1824, he published Franshawe by his own experience. In 1830, he published five tales and sketches in the Salem Gazette. Although some of his works had got no readers but he got an increasing reputation, especially from the publisher, and this situation, made him live approximately in the visible world, and keep writing some literary works. In 1836, he regarded as an editor for a few months of American Magazine of Useful and Entertaining Knowledge. In this association Hawthorne not only
edited but also wrote and complied whole of every publication. Hawthorne tried to
publish his Twice Told Tales which regarded as an unvaluable work by the
English writer in 1837. He is done all the things above because of his lack of
money. With the help of his friend, Horatio Bridge, it was success to be published
together with his another literary works. He is more creative in writing and at the
same year, Franklin Pierce proposed him as his torigrapher for South Seas
Expedition, but it was fail. In 1839 – 1840, he earned forliving in Boston Custom
House, and then tried communal living for several months in 1841 at Brook Farm.
Neither the Customs House nor Brook Farm had enable to lead him to the real
world. He was a very disappointed.

He married to Sophia Amelia Peabody on July 9, 1842 in Salem. After the
married they moved to old Manse in Concord which they rented from Emerson
and where they remained until 1845. From this marriage they had their children,
Julian Rose and Una. Hawthorne lived happily, although economically they had
been decrased because of his passiveness in writing. Hawthorne removed his
family to Salem in 1845, tried to become post master, and instead was appointed
surveyor of the Custom House in Salem, where he remained until 1849. Before
losing his job in Salem, he wrote Mosses An Old Manse in 1846 together with
some other stories. The Scarlet Letter, 1850, was gis first succesful novel. The
novel which written by Hawthorne brought him much money and got increased in
reputation. He then bought a house, known as wayside, in Concord.

When his friend, Franklin Pierce, was nominated for president by the
Democrats, he asked by Franklin writing a campaign biography. Hawthorne was
uninterested in politics but he felt than he should help the man who had most aided him. So he wrote The Life of Franklin Pierce in 1852. And when Franklin won as a president, he became United States consul at Liverpool. During the whole of life he stay in England from 1853 until 1856, and 1858 until 1859 he lived in Italy where he felt most at home among the American and British resident and travellers. When after another year in England, he came back to Concord in 1860.

He did not write much of works after a few years of his return to Concord, because of his imagination was dissolving and the civil war interrupted his reflection. In May 1864 he set out from Concord as he had been accustomed to do in his years in Salem, he was travelling with his best friend, Franklin Pierce. He was dead while this travelling with his friends. He died, on May 19, 1864 in Piyounth, New Hampshire, because of brain tumor. He was buried in the sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Concord, Massachusetts.
This story is excavated from Hawthorne’s finding during his three-year-experience working for The Salem Custom House, Massachusetts. One day when he is not occupied with work, he happens to dig down old documents and finds a bundle of papers of Mr. Surveyor Jonathan Pue which contains personal documents. What attracts him most is a piece of red cloth with golden thread knitting on its four edges and a letter “A” from which then this story flows down.

One morning in summer in 1640’s in a place called Cornhill, the people of Boston flock together. They are from all walks of life. There is a cluster of bearded men wearing fadedcolored clothes and grey hats on their heads. These men associate with women, some wearing hoods and others bare headed. They assemble in front of a wooden edifice, the door of which is heavily timbered with oak and sudden with iron spikes. Exactly they are standing in a grass plot before the jail, in Prison Lane, waiting for something horrible.

It is a custom of that time, when people come together, they usually want to witness a punishment carried out by local authority. Could it be an execution of a criminal who will be sentenced according to the verdict of public sentiment though such simple conclusion is not easy to be drawn at that early era of such strict puritan, or they might anticipate to see a sluggish servant, or undutiful child, whom his parents have given over to the civil authority to be corrected at the whipping-post. It is also possible that an Antinomian, a Quaker, or other
heterodox religionist, is to be scourged out of the town, or an idle and vagrant
indian, whom the white man’s liquor has made riotous about the streets, is to be
driven with stripes into the forest. It might be, too, that a witch, like old Mistress
Hibbins the bitter-tempered widow, is to die upon the gallows. Whatever the case
is, the spectators seems to have some cold attitude. One thing should be noted at
time, both mild and severe acts of public crime are alike made venerable and
awful.

Some women who are amidst the throng obviously pay special attention to
the punishment which is about to take place. They have equal freedom as men
amidst the society and to mingle in the front most to witness the punishment.
They speak in high tone that would startle us and at times utter bold speech.

It is heard from their conversation that it is a woman name Hester Prynne
who is going to face the punishment. The women, who consider themselves of
mature age and reputable church members, have an argument that the sin
committed by Hester is so severe that they fell necesarry to be the judges
themselves to examine Hester. Otherwise, Hester will not get equal punishment as
Hester’s godly pastor the Reverend Mr. Dimmesdale takes it very grievously to
his heart that such scandal should have come upon his congregation. One of the
women says that if Hester is only to wear a scarlet letter “A”, as a symbol of
adultery, on her garment, as the punishment, then she still can cover it with her
brooch. But another woman ensure that no matter how Hester try to hide the
scarlet letter, she surely will always feel the disgrace deep down her heart.
The a man among the crowd asks the women to shut up as the door of the
prison is open now. A beadle appears like black shadow. A sword is by his side
and his stuff of office is in his hand. His countenance is tight and hard. As hard as
the laws of puritan. With his right hand he pushes Hester’s shoulder who is now
walking in front of him.

But at the doorstep of the prison Hester pushes the beadle hand aside to
show that she still has dignity and strong character. Then, as if it is her own will,
she steps forward to the open air. She bears a baby of about three months old who
winks and turns aside its little face from the vivid sunshine because it has never
been used to it. Before its presence today, it has been acquainted only with the
grey twilight of the dungeon, or other darksome apartment of the prison. When
Hester stops and stands right before the crowd, she clasps her baby tighter to her
bosom not because of impulsion of her motherly affection, but because she tries to
conceal something fastened into the breast of her gown. However, she realises that
this is useless as she can not conceal her sin by using the result of the sin itself.
She takes the baby on her arm and with a burning blush, and yet a naughty smile
and glaring eyes, looks around at her townspeople and neighbours. Clearly, on the
breast of her gown, in a fine red cloth surrounded by an elaborate embroidery and
fantastic flourishes of gold thread, appears the letter “A”. It was artistically done,
with high quality of creativity that the letter goes with the gown she wears. It goes
with the taste and luxury of that time as well, but greatly againts the regulations of
the colony.
Some women of the crowd feel jealous of Hester’s talent of needlework. To them, by showing her ability, Hester is intentionally trying to laugh in the face of their magistrates. Now the procession goes on. The beadle carries on driving Hester to the place set for her punishment. There, on the scaffold at the market place, Hester will undergo the punishment. Under the daylight to reveal the scarlet letter to the public.

The punishment for Hester is that she has to stand on the scaffold for a few hours. But she does not have to face the most terrible punishment of that time, rope around the neck and black cloth sack which usually used by those face life sentence. The scaffold is as high as man’s shoulder and since Hester has already known the kind of her punishment, she ascends and now everybody can see her. The presence of the governor and his staff, the judges and the generals seems to prevent the spectators from saying bad words or scorning Hester. They all seriously, though look gloomy, pay attention to the procession. The sinner, Hester, tries as best as she can to stand like a lady against thousand of eyes which are fixed to the scarlet letter upon her bosom. She seems to be well-prepared to face this punishment even though her heart sometimes wants to shout and to throw himself off the scaffold or, of she could, she wish she were insane.

Then, appear before her, in her memory’s picture gallery, a narrow and winding throughfares, the tail and grey house, huge cathedrals, ancient building, a city in Europe where a new life, has awaited her. Still in connection with the invalid scholar, a new life, but feeding itself on time-worn materials. Then all those memories and scenes fade away. Again, Hester is now facing the rude
marked place of the puritan settlement. All townspeople assemble with their stern look upon Hester who stand on the scaffold, a baby on her arm, and the letter “A” in scarlet, fantastically embroidered with gold thread, upon her bosom. Hester almost can not believe her eyes. She hold the baby closely to her breast so fiercely that it sends out a cry. Then she turns her eyes down to the letter, touches it with her finger to ensure herself that they baby and the disgrace are real. Yes, this is the reality she faces now and all her other imagination have gone.

Conscious of being the object of public observation for sometimes, Hester then feel herself relieved and turn her sight to a direction where she catches a sight of figure of a white man, standing apart from the crowd. He is accompanied by an Indian. He is small with furrowed face which reflect out standing intelligence. Although this man tries to conceal under his garment, Hester can notice clearly that one of this man’s shoulder rise higher that the other. Yes, Hester now understands that this man is her husband who left her several years ago. And has paid attention to Hester since the first time he arrived at the market place. First with only a little care but later his sharp eyesight penetrates Hester’s heart. Although there is a kind of horror on his face, he can control himself and whens Hester’s eyes fasten on his own and he realises that Hester recognises him, he slowly and calmly raises his finger and put in on his lips, make a gesture as if to tell Hester to keep quiet.

This man then pretends to ask a native of whom is the woman standing on the scaffold and that kind of sin she has committed. This man also tells the native that he is a stranger and a wanderer as well. He tells the native kept prisoner by
the heaten folk. From the native he finds out that the woman standing on the scaffold is Hester Prynne. She has to stand on the scaffold because of a scandal she commits in Masters Dimmesdale’s church. She is a wife of an English scholar who has long lived in Amsterdam who plans to move to this Massachusetts colony while her husband himself has to do something important in Europe. Hesters has been a resident of Boston for two years but she still heard nothing of her husband.

The man now understands that the baby in Hester’s arms is the result of an adultery. Now he is disappointed and angry with the father of the baby, who has caused and tempted Hester to commit the sin but who is not responsible. He tells himself that he must find who this man is.

Back on the scaffold, witnessed by Governor and sergeants who sit on the balcony, the elderly Reverend John Wilson calls out Hester’s name. with him is younger Reverend Mr. Dimmesdale who has been appointed consultant to assist Hester and to persuade her to confess. But Hester does not want to tell anybody the name of the father of the baby although Reverend Dimmesdale keeps on pushing.

When returned the prison, Hester’s condition is very weak and she is shocked that continuous guard is needed to prevent Hester from hurting herself or the poor baby.

One night the prison officer, Master Brackett decides to send for a doctor. But Hester is so surprise because the doctor who comes to examine her condition is her husband. He is accompanied by an Indian. She has seen them both in the
market place when she underwent her punishment. Her husband who is in prison with her now, has come to the colony under the name of Roger Chillingworth.

The doctor gives her a remedy while they are having conversation face to face. But Hester still refuses to tell him about her lover who has given her the baby. At the end of their meeting, they reach an agreement, Hester will not tell anybody about her lover and she is not to reveal the secret of Roger Chillingworth who actually is her husband.

Hester’s term of confinement in prison is now over. She is now out in the world again, under the sunshine to face her daily life with her baby. The Scarlet Letter upon her garment, as the symbol of the sin she has committed, will always burden her life and accompany her forever, till her death. But Hester is ready and so determined to face whatever may come her way. Thus, she does not run away from that town. She decides to take a shelter in a thatched cottage a bit far from other habitation. The cottage belongs to an earlier settler but was abandoned because the surround it is not fertile anymore. The cottage is located on the outskirts of the town, within the verge of the peninsula.

In the cottage Hester lives her life, accompanied by her little cute baby who is now growing up. She support her life with her needlework which is highly recognised by people of her town and with is envied by most women. But Hester just what to live a simple life. She tries to save what she gets from her needlework and always help the needy or those poorer that herself. She becomes more and more sociable and do good things to people to pay for the sin she has commit.
Pearl, is the name given by Hester to her baby. But the name is not the expression of aspect of calm, white or strong feeling which, indeed are not possessed by the baby. Hester names her Pearl because it is so valuable to her. It is the only thing she has and she bought her by sacrificing all she has. Although she herself is a descendant and was brought up in Puritan family, Hester does her own way bringing her baby up. She does not want to risk an error or repeat the mistake to her baby either.

Wherever Hester goes, she takes Pearl along. Sometimes she feels happy or sad or even confused to learn Pearl’s attitude and characters. Hester also always asks herself if Pearl is her real child, if Pearl really exist. Sometimes, jokingly Hester asks Pearl about who has sent her from heaven. But always Hester worries about the gossip in the society who always wonders about Pearl’s father. And judging from Pearl’s weird characters they claim that Pearl is daughter of darkness who was sent down to earth through the sin of her mother.

One day Hester has to go to governor’s hall, not only because she has to surrender a pair of gloves ordered by Governor Bellingham, but also the most important thing is that she has to discuss the future of her daughter, Pearl. So along she takes Pearl to see the Governor, elderly Reverend John Wilson and his young colleague Reverend Dimmesdale, doctor Roger Chillingworth and Governor Bellingham himself are involved in the meeting. They argue over the matter that Pearl should be taken care by the authority because they worry so much about Pearl’s future. They believe that Pearl is a descendant of the devil and they need to save Hester to avoid another sin and mistake.
Pearl is indeed an extraordinary child. She is weird and her behaviours and attitudes always seem strange. She make these people of authority surprised and annoyed. She wildly refuses the touch and approach of Reverend John Wilson who tries to investigate and to learn about her character and if she gets proper religious teaching from her mother. But astonishingly Pearl welcomes the tender touch of Reverend Dimmesdale. She seems to know that Reverend Dimmesdale is her father. After long and bitter argument the meeting ends up with authority’s allowance to Hester to carry on rearing her child, Pearl. Reverend Dimmesdale who can see the mystery in Hester’s eyes and who can feel the sacrification and the pain in her heart, although his condition is getting weaker due to deteriorated health, has done his best to defend Hester. He has successfully convinced those present in the meeting that Hester is the right person to take care of Pearl.

Reverend Dimmesdale’s decayed condition which can be seen from his paler face and his trembling voice every time he gives sermon on the Sabbath, has made the people and his congregation worry. They suggest him to try the ability of doctor Chillingworth. But Reverend Dimmesdale always refuses them. He would rather sacrifice himself and take what God destines to him because of his sin and mistake than to let Chillingworth proves his ability to himself.

There is another name hidden behind the name of Chillingworth. Nobody in the colony knows name but Hester. Roger Chillingworth is the name he uses since he comes and settles in Puritan habitation and take Reverend Dimmesdale as his spiritual guide. He intens to erase his old identity of people’s memory and he has a certain ambition. He learnt a lot about traditional medicine when he was in
Indian captivity and has proved himself to be of high intellectual and intelligence. And Reverend can not reject it anymore when his congregation, again ask him to be examined and be taken care of by him.

In order to make the treatment of Dimmesdale successful, both the Reverend and the doctor are suggested to live at the same place, near the King’s chapel. But doctor Chillingworth seems to take this chance to understand Dimmesdale privately and to exploit more and more secret out of him by giving reason that he has to know the exact cause of Dimmesdale’s sickness. Dimmesdale who know what it is that make himself suffer never tells him his secret and his real problem because he begin to suspect Chillingworth.

Chillingworth continues his investigation on Dimmesdale by pretending that he will cure his sickness. He swears that he will find out who actually Dimmesdale is. On the other side, Dimmesdale, due to his weary heart and soul which is caused by his sin and guilt, always feel suspicious that he can not tell his friends from enemies. He can not trust anybody. At the worst stage, he does not realise that Chillingworth, an old doctor who visit him everyday, is a monster who is ready to sprang upon his prey whenever he gets a chance.

In a serious conversation both Chillingworth and Dimmesdale talk about sin kept secret by the dead people who are lying inside their tombs in the cemetery beside their habitan. They argue why those dead people never want to confess. But Dimmesdale always tries this kind of conversation. Their conversation then is interrupted by Hester’s presence who pass by a path outside their window. At the end of their meeting Chillingworth still insist in having Dimmesdale telling him
the truth about his sickness caused by the sin he keep secret and regret he never
dare to confess. Hundreds time he promises himself that he will not get down
from giving sermon before he could tell his congregation that he is actually just a
sinner, disgusting and unforgivable. Still his congregation does not notice his
shrinking figure. And Dimmesdale never has a power to confess. When he is
alone he always think about his sin and regret. This goes on and on that his
condition is getting worst and he always keeps himself awake.

Years have now passed and Pearl has grown to be a wild and lively girl of
seven years old. She lives peacefully with her mother undisturbed by other
people’s business. Hester simple life which is not worrying about losing anything
but hoping just to get enough to survive has changed people’s image about the
scarlet letter on her bosom. She always helps the poor, involves herself in social
activities and does not hope even any “thanks” in return and she is not all after
worldly exactly. Soon the letter “A” does not mean disgrace anymore, people
have interpreted it is “Able” for the strength she has in facing her life. People now
have forgiven her and regarded her as a part of their society.

Hester remember when she has a conversation with Dimmesdale in
Governor Bellingham’s house when they discuss about Pearl’s future. She could
see now Dimmesdale has suffered from the sin that they have both commited. She
realises that herself has a share in Dimmesdale’s decaying condition and that she
has caused him to burden the everlasting pain. Now she decides not to remain
silent. She does not want to be hypocritic. She knows that Dimmesdale’s life, the
father of her daughter, is in danger and she is not going to let him down. She has
to go to the wicked old doctor, Chillingworth, and have a talk with him. With all strength and courage she owns, Hester goes to have a talk with her ex husband, doctor Chillingworth. She is a bit surprised to find that Chillingworth who used to be of little words, calm and a man of faculty now has transformed himself to be eager, searching yet carefully guarded look. Hester tells him that she will not keep the secret about himself anymore and she will disclose, especially to Dimmesdale, who actually Chillingworth is.

After her meeting with her ex husband, Chillingworth, Hester soon decides to see Dimmesdale. She determines to tell him the secret of Chillingworth at any risk. So when she hears that Mr. Dimmesdale has gone to visit Apostle Eliot the day before, she takes Pearl to a walk in a forest because she knows that Dimmesdale will pass by the path in the forest when he comes back. In the forest they sit down to rest and talk about the Black Man. Hester also let Pearl plays by herself near the stream. Pearl runs here and there and sometimes teases her mother with the scarlet letter in her bosom. From the talk between both mother and child it is noted that Pearl always notice that Dimmesdale always put his head on his chest as if to feel the pain in his heart.

Finally Dimmesdale passes by the path in the forest where Hester and Pearl has been waiting. They sit on a piece of wood and have a talki while Pearl is busy playing by the stream and something notice the two adults. Both Hester and Dimmesdale ask about each other condition and tell each other suffering. Until Hester mention her main purpose of meeting Dimmesdale, to tell Dimmesdale that doctor Chillingworth who is staying with him is an enemy.
Dimmesdale is shock with the fact that Chillingworth is her ex husband. However, Dimmesdale at last could forgive Hester for keeping the secret so long.

Shocking by the secret Hester has just told him, Dimmesdale’s condition becomes weaker and he please to Hester for the way out to save him. Hester pumps up the spirit of Dimmesdale. She recommends that Dimmesdale is not stay with Chillingworth anymore and better leave for somewhere as soon as possible.

Hester relieves all the burden and pain in Dimmesdale’s heart. She tells him to wake up and be someone new, forget about the past and create something new. And she makes Dimmesdale alive with spirit again. Hester next duty is to introduce Dimmesdale to her own child, the child resulted from his sin and Hester’s disgrace. But her first try to unite the wild Pearl and his sick father is unfriendly attitude by washing the mark of Dimmesdale’s kiss upon her forehead.

After the meeting in the forest with Hester, Dimmesdale shows some changes and physical improvements. His heart is covered with joy that Hester is willing to help to him and now she will arrange for their flee to Bristol. It happens that a ship is just arrive from Spanish Main and will depart in three days time. Dimmesdale thinks this very fortunate because in three days time he will given his Election Sermon, a very significant time in the career of a clergymen in new England and he will take opportunity to resign from his service as well.

Along his way home from the forest Dimmesdale encounters temptations. The temptations come to him through first, one of his deacons, then an old poor widow and the third, the youngest sister of his congregation. He does not understand and keeps asking himself why the shadow of evil keep haunting him.
Whe he finally arrive at home he wasten no time and start writing Election Sermon. When Chillingworth comes up, he straight forwardly tell him to stop his cure and reminds him that he does not need Chillingworth’s help anymore.

It is a custom that Puritan celebrate election of a new government as a holiday. People from all part of Boston will get together at the market place to witness the procession. Dimmesdale as a clergyman will give his Election Sermon. Hester is also present with her Pearl, at the market place where the scaffold, she stands on seven years ago is firmly built. But Hester is so startled to see Chillingworth there. She notices him talking to the captain of the ship. Later she finds that Chillingworth is leaving on the same ship to Bristol.

Hester is now filled with confusion. She realises that Dimmesdale and herself is yet free from danger. Chillingworth is still after them, closer and closer. Her confusion is getting bigger when spectators from other parts of the area, stimulated and provoked by rumors, circle her and disturb her. Inside the church Reverend Dimmesdale gives his wise and beautiful election sermon. His sermon is about the relation between God and human which supposedly for New England people who live in wild world. Most people are carried away by Reverend Dimmesdale’s brilliant and full of triumph sermon than ever. But his sad deep paths could not be interpreted otherwise than as the natural regret of one soon to pass away.

Now the music of the parade is heard again. The procession march from the church to townhall, where they will have a solemn banquet to end the ceremonies of the day. As the ranks of military men and civil fathers move
onward, all eyes turned towards the point where Reverend Dimmesdale is seen to approach among them. Some spectators can see how feeble and weak he look, amid all his triumph. He keeps on tottering and does not fall. Seeing the incident, Father John Wilson offers him a hand but Dimmesdale refuses. And now he has come opposite the well-recemberd and weatherdarkened scaffold where Hester stand holding Pearl by the hand.

Although the music is still played the stately and rejoicing march to which the procession moves and summons him onward, he makes a pause. Governor Bellingham, who for the last few moments has kept an anxious eye upon him, has left his own place in the procession, advances to give assistance, but there is something in Dimmesdale expression that warns him to step back. Then he turns toward the scaffold and stretches his arms. He invites Hester and Pearl to ascend into the scaffold together. The child, with the birdlike motion which is one of her characteristics, flies to him and clasps her arms about his knees. Hester slowly, as if impelled by inevitable fate, and againts all her strongest will-likewise draws near.

Old Chillingworth, fille with fear and feels himself as one that very much involved this miserable drama, thrusts the crowd among to snatch back Dimmesdale from what he sought to do. She whispers to Dimmesdale not to do foolish things and assures that Dimmesdale will never away from her and there is not place in the world that he can not touch but the scaffold. But the dying Reverend reassures that it is too late for the doctor to take revenge on him, and God will help him to break free.
With Hester’s arms around his waist and his head resting on her shoulder, Dimmesdale ascends the steps into the scaffold. He grasps Pearl’s hands tightly in his. Spectators are witness this unexplainable moments in amazement. He trembles, and with his doubtful and anxious look, he stares at Hester, but unable to conceal his withering smile. Then with a thundering voice he cries out to spectators, to people of New England who have loved him and reckoned him to be holy. He announces that he is nothing but a sinner. And he should have stood on the scaffold to confess his sin seven years ago with Hester because he shares the shame held by the scarlet letter worn by Hester.

Then with the rest of his strength he continues and points out that there is, actually a man whose sin and disgrace are unknown to public. He discloses the secret of doctor Roger Chillingworth, Hester’s ex husband and announces that Pearl is his daughter. Then with his trembling hand he tear away the ministrial band from his breast and it is revealed, the symbol of shame as worn by Hester. The spectators are bewildered by horrible miracle while Reverend Dimmesdale stands with a flush of triumph in his face as one in the culmination of pain and he stumbles on the scaffold.

Hester partly raises him and supports his head against her bosom. Old Chillingworth kneels beside him with an empty look on his face as if life has departed from his frozen body. Regret fills in his soul that Dimmesdale finally escapes from him. At this dramatic moments, with his weak-voice pronounces that Chillingworth, too, is deeply sinned yet he prays that God may forgive Chillingworth.
Then Dimmesdale turns to Hester and her child. Feebly he greets little Pearl. There is a sweet and gentle smile over his face to show that his burden is now removed. Pearl, who used to be wild, now develops all her sympathies and kisses Dimmesdale’s lips when he invites her to do so. Her tears fall upon her father’s cheek. Dimmesdale then says goodbye to Hester. He assures her that God has forgiven them by giving him the burning torture on his breast and by sending the terrible old Chillingworth to keep the torture heated otherwise he would have been lost forever. And this final word comes out with his last breath. After Dimmesdale death, Chillingworth also dies the same year and by his own will and testament, Pearl inherits a very considerable wealth both in England and America.

Hester and Pearl shortly left Boston for years. Pearl is happily married in Europe while Hester later returns and spends her last years till she dies and is buried next to her lover, Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale.