

The Scarlet Letter Today

By Jack Hall

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CHARACTERS

Nathaniel- An old school fundamentalist

Hester- An adulteress

Sean, Brad, and Hugo- Bad boys

AUTHOR'S NOTE: This is definitely not a skit for every audience. It was written to point out just how far we have come in accepting sexual sin in our society. You can use this as a jumping off point to discuss how sex, and those caught in the sin of adultery, have been mistreated or misrepresented over the years, and how sex is viewed even within the church today as a "lesser" sin. Use it to confront teens and adults honestly about the question: what does it mean to remain sexually pure?

Nathaniel enters with Hester. He stands her just off center. She hangs her head in shame. Nathaniel pulls out a scroll.

NATHANIEL: Hear ye, hear ye, the Local Council 315 on Morality has issued the following decree regarding Miss Hester Prynne. Having discovered that the woman Hester Prynne, is with child, and being that this same woman, Hester Prynne, is in fact unmarried, the Council has declared by a ten to none vote that she is to be branded an Adulteress. As punishment for her crimes, Hester Prynne will be forced to bear the mark of an Adulteress: a scarlet letter A affixed to the garments just over the breast.

Nathaniel takes out the letter A. he starts to apply it to Hester's chest, then hesitates, not wanting to touch her breasts. Hester sighs, takes the A, and puts it on her chest.

NATHANIEL: The Adulteress Hester Prynne is therefore to bear this mark all of her remaining days, even unto the day she dies.

Sean enters, sees Hester, checks her out; he likes what he sees.

NATHANIEL: She will then be buried with it, and will go to see the Lord with the mark affixed to her breast. Perhaps then, in God's mercy, she will finally find redemption for her wicked ways, if she is found to have a truly--

SEAN: Hey, baby. What's your name?

HESTER: Hester.

SEAN: That's a cool name. Is it Italian?

HESTER: No, its puritannical pilgrim.

SEAN: Really? That's kinda hot.

HESTER: You think so?

SEAN: Oh yeah.

HESTER: I think you're kinda hot.

NATHANIEL: Excuse me, what are you doing?

SEAN: Getting my groove on, what's it look like?

NATHANIEL: You can't talk to her!

SEAN: Why not?

NATHANIEL: She's an adulteress.

SEAN: Yeah, I noticed. So you busy tonight?

NATHANIEL: Young man, I don't think you realize what this symbol means.

SEAN: Trust me, I know what it means. So, uh, you wanna go for dinner?

Nathaniel grabs Sean and pulls him away. As he does, Brad and Hugo enter.

NATHANIEL: Look, this woman is a sinner. A disgrace! Not the sort of girl you want to take home to mother.

SEAN: I wasn't planning on taking her to see mother.

NATHANIEL: You scallywag! You rascal! If I were you, I'd get to church, and pray God have mercy--

HUGO: Hey, how's it going?

HESTER: Hello, boys.

BRAD: Looking good there, honey.

HESTER: Thank you.

BRAD: I'm Brad.

HUGO: Hugo.

HESTER: My name's Hester.

HUGO: Hester, what a cool name.

NATHANIEL: Hey! All of you, get away!

BRAD: Back off, gramps, we saw her first.

NATHANIEL: What's the matter with you kids? Don't you know what being an adulteress means?

HUGO: Yeah we do. It means I want her number.

BRAD: Me too.

SEAN: Me three!

NATHANIEL: Have you no morals? No decency? No... no self-restraint?

BRAD: I have sleeping bags in the back of my truck.

HESTER: That sounds nice!

BRAD: Well come on, girl!

Brad and Hester exit.

NATHANIEL: I can't believe this. Doesn't anyone care about sin any more?

Nathaniel shakes his head, starts to exit. Hugo and Sean run him down.

HUGO: Hey, you gonna be handing out any more of those A's today?

NATHANIEL: Why?

SEAN: Can we go with you?