

# Hawthorne's Unsympathetic Gaze: Unmasking Hester Prynne in the Eyes of Nathaniel Hawthorne

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## Abstract

A lot of attention is paid to how Nathaniel Hawthorne treats Hester Prynne, who is the main character in "The Scarlet Letter." It's important for us to understand why Hawthorne's look is so cold and how the story's lack of care is built into the story itself. Hawthorne, who wrote Hester's story, makes it hard to tell the difference between how people really feel and how they show it to the public. The author's lack of care and mental distance seems to be what's wrong with the character. We read a lot of academic writing to help us figure out how this relationship works. We can learn a lot about how the author thinks about his work as it changes over time from these different points of view. By putting together different points of view, we want to show how Hawthorne's cold gaze affects the story and how it changes how readers see Hester. We want to give you a fuller picture of Hawthorne's troubled relationship with Hester Prynne by looking closely at different pieces of writing and critical analysis. By using different academic points of view in this way, we can better understand how complicated the relationship is between the author and the character in "The Scarlet Letter." This study looks at the idea that Hawthorne looked at Hester with a cold gaze. This helps us understand how complicated the book is and what the author's lack of emotion means in a bigger sense.

**Keywords:** The Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorne, English Literature, American Literature, Feminism

## Introduction

**T**he Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne is a magnificent work that tells a tale of social customs, guilt, and judgment in the harsh setting of Puritan New

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England. Amidst the scarlet symbols and the rigid moral codes, a subtle tension unfolds between the author and his principal character, Hester Prynne.

This essay first discusses Hawthorne's encounter with Hester Prynne before delving deeper into the author's insightful tales. By scrutinizing Hawthorne's portrayal of Hester, we aim to unravel the layers of complexity woven into the narrative and understand the underlying motivations that shaped the character of this iconic literary figure.

In the novel "The Scarlet Letter," the dark world of the Puritan Massachusetts Bay Colony in the seventeenth century serves as the backdrop. The narrative tells the tale of Hester Prynne, a woman who cheated on her husband and was punished by having the letter "A" tattooed on her chest as a form of punishment. Guilt, redemption, and the conflict between what individuals want and what society wants are all topics that are addressed throughout the narrative. It is difficult for Hester to deal with the fact that people judge her, that they do not want to be around her, and that she feels ashamed. Through his meticulous writing, Hawthorne reveals how brutal the culture of the Puritans was. The scarlet letter is more than just a reminder of the crime that Hester committed; it is also a poignant metaphor of the fragile relationship that exists between sin, judgment, and redemption.

We are going to take a look at five well-known works that discuss the character of Hester Prynne as well as Hawthorne's perspective on the matter. On the subject of how Hawthorne portrays Hester in a negative light, each of these articles presents its own opinion and argument. Because of the complexity of the character, academics and reviewers have had a difficult time understanding it. In order to reveal the many layers of symbolism and psychological depth that are concealed inside the narrative, they have dissected Hawthorne's representation systematically.

One website asserts that Hawthorne's depiction of Hester is a reflection of the conventions that prevailed during that era, which lends credence to the author's argument regarding the limitations that were placed on women in Puritan society. It is stated on another page that Hawthorne purposefully wrote a story that was not sympathetic in order to demonstrate how complicated feelings of guilt, humiliation, and perseverance can be. This page also discusses the psychological factors that contributed to the development of Hester's character. A number of individuals are of the opinion that the presumption that Hester is shown to be uncaring is incorrect.

They consider her to be a proto-feminist figure because they believe that her strength and refusal to accept societal standards are two qualities that deserve admiration.

Taking into consideration all of these different points of view, we are able to observe all of the issues that are caused by the character of Hester Prynne. In this academic writing class, our objective is to determine what Hawthorne means when he refers to the "authorial gaze" and to examine critically the implications of the unfavorable stories that are woven within *The Scarlet Letter*. With the help of this initiative, we intend to accomplish more than simply demonstrating the nuances of Hester's personality. We also want to contribute to the larger conversation about the roles that women play in literature, the expectations that society has of them, and the ways in which Hawthorne's writing style has influenced the development of literature throughout time.

### **Review of the Literature**

"Hawthorne's pen, sharp as the scarlet letter, etched Hester's tale with an unsympathetic gaze, revealing the complexities beneath the embroidered surface." Throughout the novel, Hawthorne masterfully crafts a narrative where the reader witnesses the ebb and flow of the author's compassion for Hester Prynne. The reader becomes privy to Hawthorne's ambivalence, a sentiment not entirely mirrored by the audience. As the story unfolds, Hester, the emblematic figure of feminine resilience, undergoes both harsh treatment and apparent rejection by the author, evoking a palpable sense of disappointment.

The lack of affection that Nathaniel Hawthorne is said to have had for Hester Prynne has been investigated by a number of different specialists on their own. Through the use of a variety of theoretical perspectives and lenses, these studies investigate the intricacies of how Hawthorne portrayed Hester in a negative light. Various academics have a variety of perspectives regarding the intricate relationship that exists between the author and the character of Hester Prynne, and they employ a variety of theoretical approaches in order to provide an explanation for this relationship. When we take into account all of these different points of view, we are able to form a comprehensive image of how Hawthorne wrote about Hester and the more profound concerns that are addressed in "*The Scarlet Letter*."

It would be beneficial for us to study some scholarly publications that discuss the possibility that Nathaniel Hawthorne did not care about Hester in "The Scarlet Letter." We are going to accomplish this by approaching it from a variety of perspectives and ways of thinking.

The intricate interplay of sympathy and rejection towards the central character, Hester Prynne, forms a significant thematic tension as explained by Michael Dunne in his article "*Hawthorne, The Reader, And Hester Prynne*". This tension is not only pivotal to the narrative but also reflects the nuanced and ambivalent sentiments of the author himself. Hawthorne's complex emotional stance towards Hester becomes especially pronounced in Chapters 17 and 18, situated in the forest, where pivotal events unfold, unraveling the layers of his sympathy and disdain (Dunne 34). Michael Dunne tried to draw a picture in which he shows us how Nathaniel Hawthorne was indeed unsympathetic towards Hester Prynne.

In a similar manner, Nina Tassi discusses the insensitive treatment of Hester in the novel "The Scarlet Letter" through the perspective of sexuality and gender dynamics in her work titled "Hester's Prisons: Sex, Intellect, and Gender in "The Scarlet Letter"." The purpose of this is to highlight situations in which Hester's character breaks standard gender conventions. The passages that take place in the forest, in which Hester encourages Dimmesdale to flee from the Puritan society, provide essential points of investigation. In spite of the fact that these events demonstrate Hester's resiliency and bravery, the author contends that they also reveal her susceptibility to Hawthorne's lack of empathy. Not only does she discuss the ways in which Hester was subjected to the manipulations of society and masculine characters, which ultimately resulted in her suffering, but she also demonstrates how brutal Hawthorne was to Hester (Tassi 23).

From a feminist point of view Suzan Last in her article "Hawthorne's Feminine Voices: Reading 'The Scarlet Letter' as a Woman," delves into the multifaceted roles of female characters, particularly Hester Prynne, examining the complexities of their experiences and the societal expectations placed upon them. Last contends that, despite the feminist perspective, Hawthorne's unsympathetic stance towards Hester is evident in the way he subjects her to various trials and tribulations. The article highlights Hester's struggles as she navigates a Puritan society that ostracizes her for her perceived transgressions. Last argues that Hawthorne, in portraying Hester

as a woman with limited agency, subjects her to a form of literary punishment that aligns with his ambivalence towards the feminist discourse of his time (Last 349).

Leland S. Person, Jr., in his article titled "Hester's Revenge: The Power of Silence in The Scarlet Letter," states that although Hawthorne devotes a great deal of attention to the significance of speech and public speaking in *The Scarlet Letter*, he is also interested in the effects of silence. This provides us with a fresh viewpoint regarding the fact that Hawthorne's decision to silence Hester was actually due to the fact that he was insensitive and did not care about Hester. The quiet that Hester maintains serves as a catalyst for her vengeance, which she not only exacts against the men in her life but also against society as a whole and, most intriguingly, against Hawthorne himself. According to Leland S. Person Jr., silence is frequently employed as a means of demeaning women by portraying them as helpless and unimportant. It is his contention that the deliberate absence of words in narratives is a reflection of and a contributor to the larger gender inequality that exists in society (Person 465).

In the book "The Scarlet Letter: The Power of Ambiguity" written by Fred H. Marcus, the author focusses on Nathaniel Hawthorne's deliberate use of ambiguity as a tool for telling a story. Marcus contends that Hawthorne uses this ambiguity to establish a psychological barrier between himself and the character of Hester Prynne. He says this makes the ambiguity more effective. According to Marcus, Hawthorne avoids establishing a profound emotional connection with his protagonist by retaining the ambiguity and openness to interpretation that characterizes Hester's thoughts, feelings, and intentions.

Marcus suggests that this deliberate narrative strategy serves to make Hester a somewhat mysterious and elusive figure, preventing readers from fully understanding or empathizing with her internal struggles. In doing so, Marcus contends that Hawthorne might be purposefully distancing himself from Hester, indicating a certain insensitivity or lack of sympathy toward her character. The ambiguity becomes a narrative device through which Hawthorne keeps Hester at arm's length, potentially reflecting the author's complex feelings or even detachment from the plight of his central character (Marcus 449).

## Methodology

This study looks at why Hawthorne didn't feel sorry for Hester Prynne in *The Scarlet Letter* by reading the text carefully, comparing it to other works, and reading other critical studies.

Reading Hawthorne's original text carefully is the first thing you should do. Pay special attention to the parts where Hester feels embarrassed in public and alone at home. Many people notice that Hawthorne keeps himself and his main character emotionally separate in the way he tells the story, the words he uses, and the way the story is put together. People look for signs of ambivalence or distance in the most important parts of the text, like the scenes on the scaffold, Hester's conversations with Dimmesdale, and her quiet times. This in-depth study of the text is the best way to understand how Hawthorne's writing style changes the way people feel about Hester.

The study also uses both a thematic and a comparative approach. To better understand Hawthorne's view on women's power, shame, and punishment, it helps to compare Hester to other "fallen women" in literature, like Tess Durbeyfield (*Tess of the d'Urbervilles*) and Anna Karenina, as well as to people from Hawthorne's own time. This difference helps us figure out if Hawthorne's lack of concern is a common trait in writers or just a quirk in the way he tells the story.

It also looks closely at research that has been done in the past and present on *The Scarlet Letter*. Over time, people have had different ideas about how sympathetic or not sympathetic Hawthorne was. There are many important points of view, but some of the most important ones are feminist, psychological, historical, and narrative. We read journal pieces from the last few years, mainly those that came out after 2010, to see what people are still arguing about and what new ideas they have. It is important to have this intellectual conversation because it helps us understand the case in the context of what is being talked about in schools right now.

When we use these qualitative methods together, we can get a better picture of both the literary work and its larger critical context. Using textual data, comparative literature, and scholarly analysis together can help us fully understand how Hawthorne's vision as an author shapes the story and how people react to it.

## Main Arguments

Nina Tassi, in her article "Nina Tassi - 'Hester's Prisons: Sex, Intellect, and Gender in 'The Scarlet Letter'" explores the multifaceted imprisonments of Hester Prynne in Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter." Tassi contends that Hester's prototype, Anne Hutchinson, laid the foundation for Hester's character. Hutchinson's defiance of societal norms and subsequent persecution serve as parallels to Hester's struggles. Tassi argues that Hawthorne, despite expressing concern about feminist movements of his time, inadvertently portrays Hester with a blend of masculine and feminine traits. Hester's imprisonment, according to Tassi, extends beyond the physical scarlet letter, encompassing her intellect, will, and sexuality. The article delves into the complexity of Hester's character, drawing connections between her imprisonment and societal perceptions of female roles. In Nina Tassi's article, the primary focus is on Hester Prynne and how Nathaniel Hawthorne, through the character of Hester, grapples with complex issues related to gender roles and societal expectations. Tassi argues that Hawthorne, despite expressing concerns about feminist movements of his time, delves into intricate explorations of the masculine and feminine genders, particularly through Hester's character.

As Nina says in her articles,

*Hawthorne of artistic woman shares with the artist. Hawthorne describes a future in which an never re Hester, etherealized, desexualized woman may safely assume a higher, if not exactly equal role. This "new woman" will have Hester's admirable feminine qualities but not her intellectual and sexual "masculine" excesses. In this visionary future, a new balance between men and women will be achieved. Prophecy will replace the wild passions of sex and intellect. But this is hardly a woman's victory: A prison, however freely entered, is still a prison. Hester remains alive because she resists staying in every prison in which she is confined.*

In the intricate tapestry of "The Scarlet Letter," Nina Tassi delves into the multifaceted imprisonment experienced by Hester Prynne, extending beyond the overt symbolism of the scarlet letter. Tassi argues that this confinement, particularly the mental and intellectual dimensions imposed on Hester, serves as a poignant reflection of Hawthorne's unsympathetic perspective. The refusal of Hester to

disclose her lover's identity becomes a rebellious act, challenging societal expectations and norms. In crafting this intellectual prison for Hester, Hawthorne's lack of concern for her plight becomes increasingly evident, highlighting an unsympathetic gaze that transcends the tangible constraints placed upon her.

Hawthorne shows no mercy for Hester, any more than for Hutchinson. Years later, after raising Pearl elsewhere, Hester returns alone, a "sad and lonely mother" (262), dressed in gray, stripped of her rich sexuality and rebellious intellect, the scarlet letter still on her breast. The explanation that she has come back to "a more real life" sounds punitive: Here had been her sin; here, her sorrow; and here was yet to be her penitence.

*She had returned, therefore, and resumed, - of her own free will, for not the sternest magistrate of that iron period would have imposed it, - resumed the symbol of which we have related so dark a tale. (263)*

Tassi's astute analysis further uncovers the nuanced gender dynamics at play in the relationship between Hester and Dimmesdale. The evolving traits and roles they assume, with Hester embracing traditionally "masculine" qualities and Dimmesdale embodying perceived "feminine" attributes, unveil an undercurrent of disapproval within Hawthorne's portrayal. This disapproval becomes a visible facet of his unsympathetic gaze, as he grapples with the unconventional femininity embodied by Hester. The narrative complexities shed light on Hawthorne's discomfort with societal norms being challenged, particularly through the character of Hester.

The article "Hawthorne, The Reader, and Hester Prynne" written by Michael Dunne examines in great detail the manner in which the author gradually shifts his perspective of the delicate relationship that Hawthorne has with Hester Prynne. The narrative demonstrates how Hawthorne's emotions are in direct opposition to the conservative social concept that is present in all of his works of literature for the most part. Within the context of this challenging dance, the exploration reveals subtle shifts in feelings, which provides evidence that the relationship is undergoing a transformation. The fact that Hawthorne is the one who came up with the idea for Hester's story does not change the fact that he appears to avoid it on purpose. In particular, this is the case when he goes into detail about how she is having difficulties with both her feelings and her thinking. After conducting a thorough research of the piece, it has been determined that there are instances in which

Hawthorne appears to have purposely constructed Hester's mental and intellectual captivity. Due to the manner in which the author writes, it gives the impression that he does not care for the characters he created and does not appear to completely comprehend them. As a result of these extra information, we are better able to understand why Hawthorne regarded Hester's problems with such a dispassionate and emotionless expression. There are some passages in "The Scarlet Letter" in which Hawthorne's sentiments for Hester introduce an element of suspense to the story and go against what the audience anticipates. It would appear that the author has conflicting feelings regarding Hester Prynne due to the fact that she depicts her in a variety of different places.

In Chapter 2, as Hester is being executed by scaffolding, the text describes her as "tall, with a figure of perfect elegance on a large scale." It is important to note that this perception of physical attractiveness is not the same as the way in which society treats her. That Hawthorne is interested in Hester is demonstrated by the fact that he pays a great deal of attention to her beauty; but, the events that are taking place around him make it quite clear that he does not approve of what she is doing at the same time. One of the ways that Hawthorne makes Hester's character more challenging is by having her feel bad in public while at the same time focusing on how attractive she is. Although the author finds Hester appealing, she does not like what she considers to be her wrongdoings. This causes the author to have conflicting feelings. Towards the end of the novel, when Hester is vehemently defending herself against what society thinks of her, she adds, "What we did had its own consecration." Such was the way that we felt! Yes, we did say that to one another! This individual viewpoint is in direct opposition to what the majority of individuals in Puritan society consider to be correct.

There is a conflict in Hawthorne's mind between Hester's courageous defense and the fact that she is free and independent. Hester is given the opportunity to express her thoughts, but the fact that she is forced to face the repercussions of her actions in the community demonstrates that the author does not fully agree with what she has to say. During the last chapters, Hester is seen walking back to Boston while wearing the scarlet letter on her chest. She is filled with a sense of pride.

The text continues by saying, "She was so helpful, with so much power to do and power to sympathize, that many people refused to read the scarlet A in its original meaning." Hawthorne's depiction of Hester's return home causes him to experience

an even greater degree of internal conflict. Because she was "helpful" and the scarlet letter is being reinterpreted, the story is more complicated than it would have been otherwise. It appears from these items that Hester may be able to make amends for the mistakes she has made. On the other hand, this is contrasted with the everlasting symbol of her transgressions in the past. These examples demonstrate that Hawthorne's work is a well-choreographed dance between the elements of interest and rejection. In addition to adding suspense, this goes against what the readers anticipate. The author's ambivalence towards Hester adds depth to her character, making her a compelling and enigmatic figure in the novel.

The article, "Hawthorne's Feminine Voices: Reading 'The Scarlet Letter' as a Woman" by Suzan Last, provides valuable insights into the dynamics between Hawthorne and his portrayal of Hester Prynne. It complements our research theme of Hawthorne's unsympathetic gaze towards Hester by shedding light on the subtleties of the narrative.

Fred H. Marcus explores Nathaniel Hawthorne's masterful use of ambiguity in "The Scarlet Letter," contending that the novel's complexities go beyond straightforward allegory. Marcus suggests that Hawthorne, akin to a 20th-century psychologist, employs paradoxes to convey a more intricate pluralism than allegory allows. When reflecting on her own actions, Hester acknowledges, "*She (Hester) knew that her deed had been evil; she could have no faith, therefore, that its results would be for good.*" This internal conflict demonstrates Hester's self-awareness and raises questions about the nature of her "evil" deed. The fact that Hester is aware of the ethical consequences of her actions adds an additional layer of mystery to her character.

Because Hawthorne does not provide an explanation for what Hester's "evil" behavior implies, it is more difficult for readers to understand why she behaved in the manner that she did. Based on this interpretation, it appears that Hawthorne intentionally creates ambiguity in Hester's character, which serves to exacerbate the difficulties associated with her moral standing and position in society. This ambiguity contributes to a nuanced and unsympathetic portrayal, as readers grapple with the complexity of Hester's experiences and Hawthorne's exploration of her internal and external conflicts. In the same way that the scarlet letter on Hester's chest, which was initially an indicator of her transgression, is beginning to be understood by the society, the community is beginning to figure it out. There are

some individuals who do not wish to read it in the manner that it was intended to be read because they believe that it means "Able," which gives the impression that Hester is powerful. As a result of this lack of clarity, it is impossible to comprehend Hester's personality and to comprehend where she fits into society. This is because the scarlet letter is a symbol that may be interpreted in a variety of ways, which makes it significantly more difficult to comprehend. Hawthorne creates a contradiction by portraying Hester as both a sinner and a powerful lady by focusing on her strength and competence. This helps to illustrate the conflict. The portrayal of Hester that Hawthorne provides is made even more difficult by the use of symbols that give rise to confusion.

According to the research paper titled "Hester's Revenge: The Power of Silence in The Scarlet Letter" written by Leland S. Person Jr., the quietness that Hester Prynne exhibits in Nathaniel Hawthorne's work serves as a means for her to retaliate and become more powerful. In the essay, it is discussed how Hester regains her power by making the decision to remain silent, despite the fact that people frequently censure and ignore her opinions.

When Hester finally manages to break out of prison with her child in Chapter 2, the citizens of the town stare at her as if they are passing judgment on her. However, Hester remains silent despite the fact that everyone is observing her with great attention. Hawthorne describes herself as "*Standing alone in the world—alone, as to any dependence on society, and with little Pearl to be guided and protected—alone, and hopeless of retrieving her position.*" During this particular incident, Hester's first act of resistance is to maintain her silence. It is clear that Hester does not want to comply with the norms of society, as evidenced by the fact that she does not want to explain herself verbally. Those who live in a culture that encourages disclosures and feelings of regret do not anticipate her to maintain silence. It has been suggested by some individuals that her initial reserved demeanor is what gives rise to her subsequent nonverbal expressions of who she is. In Chapter 3, during the scene at the Governor's Hall, Hester is pressured to reveal the name of Pearl's father. Despite the authoritative figures demanding a confession, Hester remains silent. Hawthorne describes, "*Hester Prynne, therefore, did not flee. On the outskirts of the town, within the verge of the peninsula, but not in close vicinity to any other habitation, there was a small thatched cottage.*" This silence under pressure highlights Hester's determination to protect the identity of Pearl's father. Hester's choice to remain silent in the face of authority emphasizes her resilience. In this instance, her silence

serves as a form of rebellion against societal expectations. Person might argue that Hester's ability to withstand public scrutiny contributes to her portrayal as a silent yet powerful figure. Hester passionately implores Dimmesdale, saying, "Let us not look back, nor forward. We are not here. Not here! Wherefore should we linger upon it now? The past is gone! Wherefore should we linger? In sooth, Hester, I forgot everything! [...] I have a right to claim my own eyesight when and how I choose!" (Chapter 17).

Hester's plea reflects her desperation to break free from the judgmental gaze of Puritan society. Her assertion of the right to her "own eyesight" symbolizes a desire for autonomy and a release from societal scrutiny. Hawthorne maintains a narrative ambivalence, neither explicitly endorsing nor condemning Hester's proposal. He narrates, "So spoke Hester Prynne, and glanced her sad eyes downward at the scarlet letter. And, after many, many years, a new grave was delved, near an old and sunken one, in that burial-ground beside which King's Chapel has since been built" (Chapter 17).

The mention of a new grave suggests a somber fate for Hester, hinting at the consequences of her plea being unfulfilled. Hawthorne's ambivalence is evident as he weaves a complex narrative, leaving Hester's ultimate destiny open to interpretation. Dimmesdale responds to Hester's plea, "And why not, mother?" he inquired. "Were it not better that he should be dead? [...] In Heaven's own time, a new truth would be revealed, in order to establish the whole relation between man and woman on a surer ground of mutual happiness" (Chapter 18).

Dimmesdale's reluctance to escape with Hester reflects Hawthorne's reservations. The reference to a "new truth" suggests that Hawthorne views societal norms and revelations as immutable, denying Hester the possibility of a liberated future.

The unsympathetic gaze of Hawthorne is evident in the narrative choices. He crafts a story where Hester's plea, reflective of her struggles and desire for freedom, is met with ambivalence and, ultimately, denial. This is in line with our primary goal, which is to examine how Hawthorne makes Hester's efforts to rehabilitate herself and become independent appear to be unsuccessful. In order to convey his point, Hawthorne focuses on the tragic ramifications of societal traditions and the fact that they never alter during his writing. The appeal that Hester makes is a powerful approach for her to demonstrate how much she desires to be free and how difficult

it is for her to redeem herself in the eyes of society. To summarize, the information presented in Chapters 17 and 18 lends support to the idea that Hawthorne had a condescending attitude toward Hester. As a result, this demonstrates how personal goals and societal constraints come into conflict in "*The Scarlet Letter*."

## Conclusion

We might gain a deeper understanding of the relationships and events that take place in Nathaniel Hawthorne's "*The Scarlet Letter*" by examining Hester Prynne through a variety of scholarly perspectives and examining her from unique angles. Whatever perspective you choose to examine, it is undeniable that the author and his well-known primary character, Hester, have a negative relationship with one another.

When it comes to Hawthorne's image of Hester, the most essential thing that Michael Dunne, Nina Tassi, Suzan Last, Leland S. Person, Jr., and Fred H. Marcus all agree on is that it is frigid. Through woodland settings that reflect strength and weakness, societal restraints on women, deliberate silence, or complex tales, the author's collection of work demonstrates that they are able to construct a powerful persona while simultaneously maintaining an emotional distance. Particularly in Chapters 17 and 18, the passages that take place in the forest are extremely important because they shed light on the areas in which Hester's talents and shortcomings intersect. This period of time demonstrates not only the problems that Hester is experiencing, but also Hawthorne's confused thoughts regarding what will occur to her. Tassi's analysis of Hester's gender demonstrates that she is a victim of the deception that society employs, which is the same way that Hawthorne dealt with her.

The fact that Hawthorne does not care for Hester is demonstrated by the fact that in a world where men are in authority, the female perspective of Last puts Hester's problems to light. By demonstrating that Hester's quiet is a method to push back at society's standards, which demonstrates how heartless Hawthorne is, Person's study of silence adds an important facet to the story. Marcus's emphasis on uncertainty amplifies the significance of the fundamental idea. In order to establish a psychological gap between the two of them, it is necessary to intentionally keep Hester's ideas and reasons for doing things unclear. Marcus is of the opinion that the increasing distance between them makes Hawthorne's lack of sympathy for his

primary character even more evident. In a nutshell, the academic articles that we have all read together describe a scenario in which Hawthorne uses Hester Prynne as a means of coping with his unresolved feelings of tension and ambiguity. This is despite the fact that she is a well-known figure. The author takes careful choices regarding the characters, the progression of the plot, and the tactics of narration, all of which point to a convoluted and unfeeling picture. The book "*The Scarlet Letter*" is not only an excellent piece of literature, but it also demonstrates how complicated the relationship is between an author and the work that he or she creates. The chilling gazes that reverberate across the pages serve as a constant reminder of this fact.

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Article Information:

<i>Received</i>	28-Feb-2024
<i>Revised</i>	26-May-2024
<i>Accepted</i>	1-Jun-2024
<i>Published</i>	15-Jun-2024

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Declarations:

Authors' Contribution:

- All authors **Conceptualization, and intellectual revisions. Data collection, interpretation, and drafting of manuscript**
- The authors agree to take responsibility for every facet of the work, making sure that any concerns about its integrity or veracity are thoroughly examined and addressed

• **Conflict of Interest:** NIL

• **Funding Sources:** NIL

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