1The Prison-Door

* Setting: 17th-century Boston, Puritan society
* Every colony has a prison and a cemetery
* This prison has a rose-bush next to it, symbolizing nature’s pity for criminals

2: The Market Place

* A bunch of women stands outside the prison, condemning Hester, and demanding harsher punishment
* Hester emerges from prison, dressed beautifully, holds her baby (Pearl), and doesn’t drag her feet when given orders. Everyone’s staring at her
* Hester appears very protective of Pearl
* Hester wears a scarlet “A” on her chest for the rest of her life, which is her punishment for having a child with someone other than her husband. She arrived in America before her husband did. She attempts to hide the “A” with Pearl
* Hester’s made to stand on a scaffold at the market place for 3 hours for everyone to look at
* Hester gets a flashback to back in England

3. The Recognition

* Hester identifies her husband (Roger Chillingworth) in the crowd at the market place
* Roger asks a bystander what happened to Hester
* Reverend Dimmesdale publicly asks Hester to reveal Pearl’s father, knowing she won’t reveal. Hester refuses to answer, Dimmesdale doesn’t press too hard
* Reverend Wilson rambles on about sins for hours
* Hester is returned to prison

4. The Interview

* Hester was observed to be possibly suicidal and/or may hurt Pearl, so a physician was ordered in
* The physician is Roger
* Hester thinks Roger’s medicine is to harm her and Pearl as revenge for cheating
* Roger wants to protect Hester and Pearl and wants to revenge Pearl’s father
* Roger asks that Hester doesn’t reveal his identity, to protect his reputation, as being known as being married to an adulteress is bad rep

5. Hester at Her Needle

* In a few months, Hester was released from prison
* Hester could leave Boston, but she chooses not to
* Hester lives in a house at the edge of the town, isolated. She struggles with this isolation and shame for the rest of her life. Everyone’s afraid of her
* Hester could sustain herself and her child because of her talent. She can produce beautiful clothing, that everyone used for every life event (except for marriages)

6. Pearl

* Hester’s child, born from sin, but appearance-wise looks flawless, beautiful, bright and lively
* Named Pearl because Pearl cost Hester everything; she ended up in social isolation
* Like Hester, Pearl doesn’t follow social norms (inheritance, affected by how people treat Hester and isolation), hard to make her do so, making others believe Pearl’s father is the devil. Concerning and dangerous in a Puritan society

7. The Governor’s Hall

* Hester pays a visit to the governor’s house to deliver a pair of gloves, and to ask about what will happen to Pearl

8. The Elf-Child and the Minister

* Governor Bellingham is accompanied by Roger Chillingworth, Reverend Wilson, and Reverend Dimmesdale at the house
* Bellingham questions Hester why she should keep Pearl
* Hester replies that she can teach Pearl an important lesson based on her shame
* Bellingham asks Wilson to test Pearl to make sure she’s up to snuff for her age (that is, religious understanding-wise)
* The child appears afraid of the minister
* Pearl felt like misbehaving, so she made up a bunch of wild answers
* Pearl failed the test. The government plans to take Pearl away from Hester to give her to a better caretaker
* Hester defends to death her right to Pearl’s custody
* Hester calls on Dimmesdale to defend her rights to Pearl’s custody
* Dimmesdale defends Hester. He says God intended for Hester to have Pearl, as only the mother knows the child the best. Also, since God intended it, calling Hester’s custody of Pearl wrong means calling God a sinner. God intends for Pearl to be both a blessing (to protect Hester from further sinning) and a curse (to remind Hester of her shame)
* Government agrees to let Hester keep Pearl, contingent that Pearl goes to school and church
* Pearl then runs to hug Dimmesdale
* Chillingworth gets suspicious, asks to reopen an investigation into who Pearl’s father is
* Dimmesdale suggests that they don’t investigate unless God says otherwise
* Outside Bellingham’s house, his sister, a witch named Mistress Hibbins, asks Hester if she wants to sign up with the devil. Hester denies as she doesn’t want bad influence for Pearl

9: The Leech

* Chillingworth arrived in Boston using a fake name to hide his past
* He was well knowledged in European sciences and know about herbs and stuff since he was captured and lived with Natives for a bit
* Boston received him as a doctor, right at a time when Dimmesdale appears to start falling ill and medical care was rare. Everyone was hopeful
* Dimmesdale became Chillingworth’s religious advisor and Chillingworth become Dimmesdale’s doctor. They lived together
* Science and religion are radically opposite ideas and they enjoyed exchanging different perspectives on many issues
* Chillingworth believes that the spirit and the body are interconnected, so he investigates all aspects of Dimmesdale’s life to search for the diagnosis
* Chillingworth is suspicious that Dimmesdale is hiding something
* Dimmesdale doesn’t want to marry
* They lived next to a graveyard
* Dimmesdale’s side of the house was filled with religious stuff
* Chillingworth’s side of the house was a modern (for the day) lab
* They watch and learn from each other’s activities
* Some people recognize Chillingworth as a murderer under another name back in London. They think that instead of healing Dimmesdale, he’s a devil looking to kill Dimmesdale

10: The Leech and His Patient

* Chillingworth works tirelessly, still unable to diagnose Dimmesdale
* Dimmesdale develops trust issues
* Chillingworth studies some dark plants he picked from the graveyard
* Dimmesdale questions Chillingworth, and Chillingworth believes that that plant represents a buried person’s sins
* Dimmesdale and Chillingworth gets into a hostile discussion about secrets and sins
* Hester and Pearl then passes by playing around in the graveyard
* Chillingworth gets suspicious and explicitly asks Dimmesdale if he’s hiding a sin
* Dimmesdale spits back that that’s a religious matter and is outside Chillingworth’s medical vocation, thus is none of his business and storms out
* They became friends again after a few hours
* One day, as Dimmesdale is sleeping, Chillingworth notices a red A scratched on Dimmesdale’s chest

11: The Interior of a Heart

* Following his discovery, Chillingworth mentally tortures Dimmesdale
* Dimmesdale becomes suspicious of Chillingworth
* Dimmesdale’s struggles help him connect to others
* Dimmesdale wants to confess his sin to the public, but he doesn’t want to let people down
* Dimmesdale starts seeing visions
* Dimmesdale starts self-harm

12: The Minister’s Vigil

* Dimmesdale climbs up the scaffold in the night, everyone’s asleep
* Dimmesdale screamed out loud
* Dimmesdale is afraid that everyone will find him up there
* People ignored his scream, thinking it was someone’s nightmare or a witch
* Wilson passes by Dimmesdale on the way back from Winthrop’s grave
* Dimmesdale though he called Wilson up, but he didn’t. Wilson doesn’t realize what’s going on
* Dimmesdale recognized Pearl’s laugh coming
* Dimmesdale calls Pearl and Hester up
* Pearl and Hester were at Winthrop’s grave
* The 3 stands, hands held together
* Pearl asks if they’ll stand like that again tomorrow at noon. Dimmesdale replies no, but they will on judgment day
* A meteor lights up the sky drawing a red A in the sky
* Chillingworth appears near the scaffold after visiting Winthrop’s grave
* Dimmesdale tells Hester that he hates Chillingworth and asks if she knows him
* Hester doesn’t reply because of her oath
* Pearl offers to tell him, but all she does is make gibberish noise, to mock him for not planning to stand there like that tomorrow noon
* Chillingworth tells Dimmesdale that he sleepwalked up there, and Chillingworth’ll help him home

13: Another View of Hester

* Hester is shocked at how weak Dimmesdale has become
* Society has grown to love, be proud of and value Hester
* Hester help out all aspects of society for little to no credit
* Society reads her A as “Able”, not “Adulteress”
* She’s no longer woman-like: she’s no longer “soft” and beautiful, due to isolation

14: Hester and the Physician

* Hester goes to have a talk with Chillingworth
* Pearl fools around in nature
* Chillingworth says that Hester has been so good that the government is planning to let her take of the A
* Hester doesn’t want the A taken off
* Chillingworth appears to resemble the devil
* Hester declares that she’ll reveal Chillingworth’s true identity to Dimmesdale
* Chillingworth said he did nothing wrong; the medical services he provided Dimmesdale can’t be afforded by the richest person on Earth; it’s because of him that Dimmesdale’s still alive
* Hester replies that it would’ve been better if Chillingworth killed Dimmesdale
* Hester asks Chillingworth to chill on his torturing of Dimmesdale
* Chillingworth remembers when he was a nice scholar back then
* Chillingworth said that Hester has turned him into a demon
* Hester requests that Chillingworth turns back into a human
* Chillingworth refuses to do so and said to let fate handle everything

15: Hester and Pearl

* Hester declares that she hates Chillingworth
* Pearl gives herself an A made of eelgrass
* They discuss the A, as Pearl appears more mature
* Hester refuses to tell the truth
* Ever since then, Pearl keeps harassing Hester for the answer to what the A means and why Dimmesdale keeps putting his hand over his heart

16: A Forest Walk

* Hester wants to meet Dimmesdale privately to tell him about Chillingworth
* Pearl and Hester stay in the forest
* Sunlight keeps retreating away from Hester while not from Pearl
* Pearl asks for a story about a Black Man
* Pearl asks why the Brook seems sad
* Dimmesdale arrives to the forest looking very weak
* Pearl fools around in nature

17: The Pastor and His Parishioner

* Hester and Dimmesdale talks again after many years. Hide in forest
* Dimmesdale is sick from hiding his sins for years. He doesn’t want the public to know, to not let them down
* Hester reveals to Dimmesdale who Chillingworth really is
* Dimmesdale blame Hester for his sufferings
* Hester begs for forgiveness
* Dimmesdale forgive Hester, as Chillingworth sinned much much worse
* Dimmesdale fears Chillingworth’s revenge for Hester breaking his secrecy
* Hester said there’s nothing serious to worry about
* Hester requests that Dimmesdale leaves Chillingworth’s care
* Dimmesdale turns to Hester for advice on how to alleviate his sufferings
* Hester suggest Dimmesdale to leave his life behind and start a new one in Europe
* Dimmesdale said he’s too weak to start a new life

18: A Flood of Sunshine

* Hester has wild ideas, as she’s isolated from Puritan society, so her thoughts are not limited Puritan style
* Dimmesdale finally agrees to move to Europe to start a new life with Hester and Pearl
* Dimmesdale feels freed
* Hester removes her A and threw it far away
* Hester feels free, and looks soft and beautiful again
* The sun stops avoiding Hester
* Hester asks Dimmesdale to meet Pearl, calls Pearl to come back

19: The Child at the Brook-side

* Dimmesdale shocked at how much Pearl resembles him
* Children don’t like Dimmesdale
* Pearl hesitates to cross the brook to get to them, as Hester no longer has her A
* Dimmesdale thinks that the brook may be a divider of 2 worlds that don’t cross, or Pearl is a demon, since demons can’t cross brooks
* Hester retrieves her A and puts it back on
* Hester makes Pearl greet Dimmesdale
* Pearl asks Dimmesdale if they’re going back up to the scaffold to stand together publically
* Dimmesdale replies no, and kisses Pearl
* Since Dimmesdale said no, Pearl washes off the kiss in the brook

20: The Minister in a Maze

* Hester has booked a ship back to Europe, to depart in 4 days
* Dimmesdale feels reenergized and everything seems changed to him
* The witch knows about what happened in the forest
* Dimmesdale feels like stirring trouble
* Chillingworth offers to get Dimmesdale up to strength to deliver the Election Sermon tomorrow. Dimmesdale denies
* Dimmesdale rewrite his Election Sermon

21: The New England Holiday

* There’s an event in the marketplace: the inauguration of a new governor
* The people at the marketplace were slightly happier than usual, as per Puritan regulations
* In England, all events were celebrated very joyously. A diluted version of this joy was reflected in this event
* The Puritans dressed sadly, the Natives dressed brightly, and sailors behaved wildly
* People stood away from Hester
* Chillingworth talks to a sailor and books the same trip as Hester, under Hester’s name
* The sailor notifies Hester that Chillingworth’s coming along

22: The Procession

* The parade comes
* Dimmesdale appears cured, unrecognizable
* Dimmesdale delivers his Election Sermon
* There were hints of pain in the way Dimmesdale spoke
* Dimmesdale’s sermon had a very moving tone, about the relationship between God and humans
* Pearl fooled around in the crowd, lightening the atmosphere
* Pearl encounters a sailor who tries to flirt with her
* The sailor asks Pearl to deliver a message to her mom that Chillingworth invited his other friend aboard too
* People from all over the place comes to check out Hester’s A

23: The Revelation of the Scarlet Letter

* Dimmesdale finishes his sermon
* Everyone says this is Dimmesdale’s best sermon, very moving
* Dimmesdale sounded like he’ll be gone soon
* The event is marching on to the town hall
* Dimmesdale looks weak again
* Dimmesdale notices Hester and Pearl standing by the scaffold
* He runs to them
* Chillingworth runs to the scene to get Dimmesdale to stop to protect his reputation. Dimmesdale disregards
* Dimmesdale asks Hester to help him up to the scaffold. Pearl and Chillingworth followed up
* Everyone in disbelief
* Dimmesdale confesses his sin and exposes the A on his chest
* Dimmesdale collapses and dies

24: Conclusion

* People had different accounts of what happened, what the A means and motivations
* Chillingworth turned weak and died within a year
* Chillingworth’s will left his property to Pearl
* Pearl and Hester left Boston for a while
* Hester eventually came back, but without Pearl
* Pearl is happily married elsewhere and still cares about Hester
* The connotation of the A became positive
* People often came to Hester for help