

*Lord Hamilton I*

*Salem Village, 1692*

*Wyoming High School*

*While the chaos induced by allegations of witchcraft are new to Salem, they have plagued my homeland of Scotland for over a century in my homeland countless women accused of being witches have been burned at the stake. As a son of the Duke of Hamilton, I am of one of the most powerful houses in Scotland, second only to our God given rulers William and Mary. Being educated noblemen, my family, has drastically lessened the paranoia that led to similarly ridiculous trials in Scotland.*

*After the Glorious Revolution when the tyranny of James II was ended, my family was awarded a great deal of power due to my father presiding over the convention of Edinburgh and ensuring the Scottish Crown was given to its true owners. My family's connections in the Imperial government led me to become a Lord of Trade on the newly formed Board of Trade and Plantations. From there, I was assigned to oversee the logistics of Salem, as it has not been a chartered royal colony for even a decade. Because of this I have been placed in charge of the logistics of Salem, to ensure that the colony succeeds, thus increasing the riches of the empire.*

*As with the rest of my house, I am a God-fearing Presbyterian. This makes me quite the outsider in a city of puritans. Even those who do not know of my religion see me as a foreigner and an enforcer of the crown and resent me for it. My job, despite their feelings is the most vital in the colony. I am charged with ensuring that Salem receives the goods it needs to survive. This means I orchestrate trade between Salem and the rest of the world. My family's connections, which span all the British empire also reaches to the ends of Europe, especially France.*

*I find the rumors of Witches in the colony to be ludicrous. While Paganism does exist, and is a blight on this world, magic and witchcraft do not. The only power that men possess beyond the natural is bestowed by God himself. I am a graduate of Winchester College, and thus am well versed in the sciences and arithmetic. As an outsider, I fear that if I become the loudest voice in this argument they may turn against me, as has happened to other rational Scottish nobles. I will use my connections to ensure that while this chaos ensues, the colony will not hurt financially.*

*It is also notable that the deaths of these previously mentioned nobles accompanied by those of other well respected members of said communities resulted in pressure being put on local governments to begin excluding "spectral evidence" in trials in favor of more tangible evidence. This caused much fewer guilty verdicts, eventually resulting in skepticism in witches being present at all. Doubt will grow in the validity of witch hunting if prominent citizens of Salem, respected by the community are found to be witches and killed. This may sound cruel and heartless, but let me be clear; I do not desire anyone be killed by this nonsense. I will use every connections across the empire I have to ensure that this hysteria comes to an end quickly and the colony does not suffer while chaos runs rampant. It is my ambition that reason prevails and the opportunity to thrive returns when this lapse of common sense concludes.*

*But if a few deaths are what it takes for the people to doubt the idea that witches are truly among them and preventing Salem from imploding then it will be worth it. I must keep myself out of the eye of the community, in this endeavor, as my role cannot be an active one, as any harm that comes to me if they even think for a second that I am trying to hurt the village will result in my demise. My death would be felt throughout the colony with devastating effects as without my trade connections, Salem will be unable to sustain itself. I plan to ensure this fact before I begin my plan, and will make my importance known if their suspicions begin to fall on me.*

*My true hope is that the leaders of our empire will see my efficiency and success during this trying and vital turning point of Salem and will put me in a greater position of power, such as governor of a territory or colony. If I*

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*can secure my a family great influence for as long as this empire exists, and a foothold in the new world, I can be confident that my legacy and that of my family will be protected for the rest of time.*