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### Girls Against the Extremists

What someone thinks about a particular act can change based on the viewers morals, standards, and beliefs. The people around Sabatina James and Abigail Williams from Arthur Miller's tragic play, *The Crucible*, had ideas that are considered extreme. However, to Parents of James and the Salem community, they were just following their religious beliefs. This article will discuss about reputations in the religious community, the rules within the religions, and the punishments of pushing the boundaries between James and Abigail.

Sometimes in religion a person's own reputation can mean more to them than their own flesh and blood. Sabatina was a girl who just wanted to do normal things like date and wear regular clothes, but her parents had other plans for her. Her parents hated all the clothes that she wore because they were too skimpy or showed off too much and instead of dating guys her parents wanted her to get married to a man of their choosing. When Sabatina didn't want to obey they called her a whore and said that she was ruining their reputation. In *The Crucible* Abigail's situation does not differ very much. After Proctor had started to have an affair with Abigail

Proctor had thought that Abigail would ruin his reputation. In both stories these girls had both apparently ruined another's reputation, whether it be wearing the wrong clothes or cheating with a man they both had just did things that felt normal to them.

There are very strict rules when referring to extremism in religion. Sabatina was a 15-year-old girl who liked wearing t-shirts and jeans with eyeliner and lipstick. Sabatina's mother, however, is a conservative woman and did not approve of t-shirts because she found it skimpy. She also discovered that her daughter Sabatina kissed a boy which enraged her and ended up beating Sabatina which really hurts a maturing girl. There was nothing Sabatina could do about it because she was a minor and it didn't help that she was a female because they had less rights in that time period. Sabatina could only wear fully covered clothes and have an arranged marriage. Not being able to do anything Sabatina was sent to a Islamic school where there was almost nothing in the rooms and required you to repeatedly read the Quran, pray, and lectures. She had no freedom whatsoever until she escaped to vietnam with the help of her friends. Abigail was a 14-year-old girl in *The Crucible*. Being a girl, she had less rights and was also a minor at the time. Being so young, she couldn't speak her mind, so when she was caught dancing in the forest naked she was suspected of witchcraft because in *The Crucible* the forest is where the witches and the devils practice their witchcraft.

People try to push past the boundaries that are set on them for specific traits, and they don't always end up in a positive way. Sabatina was a teenage girl that was from a culture where women this age don't have many rights, practically close to none, and have to conform to the

rules that are set on them. Sabatina pushed against the boundaries set on her and tried to get into swimming and acting lessons, but because she is a woman, her father saw it as something only “prostitutes” would do. Abigail is very similar, as she was from a culture that believed men were at the top and women don’t have as many rights as they are given today. Abigail was essentially shunned by the village people for sleeping with John Proctor, which was seen as a sinful act by her culture as something women should not do. Both of these women were stuck behind the boundaries set up on them for their specific gender, and when they tried to break and push back these boundaries, they were met with resistance from the community, which made it even harder for them to move forward.

Religion can play a big role in some peoples lives from restricting how a girl can dress to having no real human rights at all. These extremists can take religion too far sometimes, but to them this is a completely normal way to live and if you didn’t live this way they thought you were crazy. The community can force people to do different things. In Sabatina case, she broke free and helps other try to do the same, but in Abigail’s case she was overwhelmed and helped in killing 19 people. This just goes to show how people can handle the community differently.