

Hamnet -Maggie O'Farrell

A boy is...

A boy is coming the stairs, skipping the last three steps as his usual. He looked one way and other, did not know where to start. Then he cried a few names, no one answered. Usually, his uncle lived next to them, the maid is usually running back and forth for chores. There was always someone here. But there was no reply. So, he cocked his head and looked around. Then he reached his grandpa's glove workshop, normally, he would be scolded for even pausing at the front of his workshop. But when he entered the workshop, he could not find anyone. Hamnet was good at learning but difficult at memorizing things. His attention shifts from one thing to another very easily. For a moment, he forgot why he came down the stairs. He felt the goat skins hanging in the workshop. When he opened the drawer, a squeaking sound reached his ears, so he darted quickly. At the outside, there was no one as well. His sister, Judith, is sick and he was trying to find someone to take care of her. Normally, they would be happy if they find the surroundings are empty.

When he was about to go outside, he heard a noise. He traced it back to his grandpa's room. His grandpa was sitting with his back towards him. His father, during one of the visits, asked a promise from Hamnet that he would stay away from the grandpa when he was in his humor. Grandpa was asking him to come closer and look at one of his pages. Hamnet kept the words of his father in his heart and kept a distance. But he was not quick enough, grandpa grabbed his wrist and hit him with a glass, cutting him under his eyebrows. He runs out and went up the stairs. His twin sister, Judith, was sleeping. She had a lump between her shoulder and neck. She asked what happened to him and that her mother is coming. Her mother is a mile away from them. Her mother, Agnes, was trying to coax bees to the hives, as they have left those hives, sticking onto nearby branches. Agnes was a great beekeeper; she did not have to wear the bee-covers. After finishing her tasks at her garden, she sensed an abnormal emotion. If she had come back, she would have saved and diverted the things that was going to happen. But she did not come back.

Hamnet was running along the streets to the physician's place. He banged at the door; a woman came out and asked him to leave as the physician was not there. But he insisted that it was urgent and his sister was having a fever with some lumps. She asked if they are buboes. The boy could not answer. She asked him to go back as quick as possible to his home, she knew that he is a glove's boy. The boy run back to his house. If the boy was paying attention to what was happening along the streets, he could have spotted his whole family. His grandma, Mary, was shopping skins for the gloves with the maid, Susana. His grandpa, John, was also near the physician's office.

His grandpa, John, had left the parlor when he was with her sister in the room. The whole town avoided his grandpa after he was fined for not attending the church. Before that incident, John was an influential and renowned glove maker in the town. Then nobody wants to dine at his home. Mary, the wife of the disgraced, felt the pain and burning when she saw everyone avoiding her on the street. The family is living on what is provided by their eldest son. Hamnet's father was in London that day, having a terrible hunger. He saved as much as he could to send money back to the family. Judith was lying alone in her home. She was playing with her brother and then she felt a pain in her throat. After that, she was on her bed. Agnes, her mother, had finished collecting honey but did not come back yet. When Hamnet came back to his house, he thought that someone would be at home already. He called out, but no answers.

If you were to stand ...

If you were to stand at the window and crane your neck, it would not be possible to see the edge of the forest. A tutor, James, was holding the windowpane at the Hewswold, fifteen years or so before the Hamnet run to the physician. The Latin tutor was forced to come here to teach the boys as a payment of debt from his father, the glover. The family at the Hewswold made a trickery that resulted in the debt in the glover. He asked why he needed to come and teach at there when he was told that he must go. His father did not give any answer. His father usually slaps and hits him. And he became the expert in understanding the moods of his father. After years of carrying heavy gloveboxes, he became stronger. One day, when his father hit him, it did not hurt him at all. When his father tried to hit him second time, he pushed his father with minimum effort. When he was holding the windowpane, he wanted to escape. Then he saw a young woman carrying a hawk from the widow. She was wearing a skirt, and it is flicking around her boots. The tutor wanted to know more about her, so he used his teacher's skills. He asked the eldest son to write a sentence that contains a conjunctive. Then asked him about the servant who keeps the birds. The eldest son had no clue, so the younger son chipped in, and said that it might be "Hettie", who kept the pigs and hens, as hens are birds. The tutor was sure that the girl he saw was not holding a hen. He wanted to know more but did not want them to suspect him. So, he went out of the house after the class. Little did he know that the girl he saw was the daughter of the late yeoman, and stepdaughter of the yeoman's current wife. He left a huge dowry for her in his will. After closing the gate behind him, he saw the girl standing near it. He asked her where the bird is. She was not supposed to play with the bird today, so asked him not to tell anyone that he saw her with a bird today. Then she grabbed his hand and took him to where the falcon is kept. The falcon was hooded but it heard and twitched at every word they said. The tutor felt the warm on the part of his hand which was grabbed by the girl. Then he put out his hand and grabbed the waist of

the girl and asked her the name. The girl asked if he would let her go, when she tells him her name. And said that her name was 'Anne'. It was the similar name of the late sister of the tutors. She runs away from him but stayed in the room, teasing him that it was not her real name. Then she told him her real name, Agnes.

There was story about a girl who lived near the edge of the forest. The forest was dense, and the maidens and children were warned of what might be lurking behind it. One day a girl came out of the forest, and the farmer who lived near it saw her. He fed her and later married her. She always went inside the forest, even after a baby girl was born. The neighbors talked to her and made her see that she need to clean the house and cook for her husband. But she just nodded her head and did everything as before. Then she got a baby boy again. But she did not survive the third pregnancy. The baby girl was holding the boy in her lap. There was a woman named 'Joan', who was single, and so they arranged the marriage. But she became scared to the girl, who was found sitting on top of her at night. Joan became spotted and pocked. However, she bore all those things. Her perseverance was rewarded, the farmer married her and she bore six beautiful children with him. Joan tried to tame the girl. She tried to keep her clean and away from the forest. One day the girl saw her father killing the lamb, the crimson blood scared her. She screamed. The name of the poor lamb was Agnes. Her father told her not talk about it to anyone. Agnes run away into the forests, grabbing a stem full of thorns and shouted that she only believes in the earth and the soil, and won't be going to the church anymore. When she went to the apothecary, she said that Agnes must not tell these things to anybody. Agnes gained the power of touch. She can sense what is needed and what is lacking in someone's by touching their hands. Her brother's name was Bartholomew. It was strange to think that it was her who hold his hand. It was the myth of the childhood of Agnes. It was strange to think that it was her who hold his hand. It was the myth of the childhood of Agnes.

Hamnet climbs the stairs ...

Hamnet while climbing the stairs thought that her mother would be there already. She could cure anything. But nobody was beside Judith. Hamnet saw her suffering with bruises around her eyes. Susana came back half an hour later. She saw nothing unusual in the hallway. She put her things on the chairs that her mother usually sat while listening to the voices of those who came to speak to her. Susana did not like that the fact that their dinner was interrupted by the visitors. It seemed to her that her, and the twin's mother was not just the mother to them, but to the whole town. Her father wrote letters to them, but her mother could only read little. Sometimes, her aunt, Eliza, assisted them in replying to those letters. But lately, Hamnet was the one who replied to those as he was getting better in learning Latin and Greek. When she was brooding, Mary came in and asked her where the twin was and why she was

sitting like that. Mary grabbed and took her to the cookhouse, closing the back door. Hamnet woke up with a start.

There is suddenly nothing so ...

When he was not at the Hewslands, he assisted the tasks in the houses. His father, John, usually did not like it when he was doing nothing. One day Eliza, his sister, heard a noise coming from his room. At first, she was hesitant to go in but decided to open the door. She found that John was doing something with words in the ceiling room. It was the room for three of them, John, Eliza, and their late sister, Anne, to seek refuge. It was where they were taught how to read by John. Eliza did not know that John still came here. She asked him about the gossip that she had heard. Everyone was talking about John and the girl with the hawks. John replied that it was no hawk, just kestrel. At first, he was hesitant to reply any questions about her. Finally, he opened as Eliza knew how to talk to him sideways. She then asked if he could let her touch the kestrel. Then she told him that their father would not agree to this.

Apples were lined up in the wooden groves, without touching each other. If they touched, it would make them sour. But something is moving the apples back and forth. It was John who was undressing the shirt of the Agnes and touching her breasts. They were having an intercourse. Agnes realized from the first time she held his hands, she felt something bigger. Agnes used to check Bartholomew's working to show that she was checking on him.

Agnes and John were joined in hands, and they were seen by the Joan. Joan lashed out at the tutor for forgetting his place and his debt will never be paid even if he worked all day and night. And Agnes was left with a dowry of which he could never afford. Agnes cried out. Later, she took things into her hands. She invited the tutor to the apple shed and had an intercourse. Joan had eight children and been a widow for a year. The late farmer left her only a small portion of his wealth. The farm was left to Bartholomew and Agnes was left with a dowry. Joan only managed the matters in the kitchen and education was the only thing she could give to her sons. So, it was reasonable that she did not notice anything when her monthlies were missing. But after a few weeks, she began noticing the missing clothes. So, he checked the bellies of all the girls in the farm. Every girl has a flat stomach. Then she remembered Agnes who was milking in the byres. So, she fumed and screamed at her, forcing her fingers to check Agne's warm and noticeable belly. She asked her who put the child inside her, by calling her bad names. Bartholomew had to stop her as they were slapping each other. He then thought for a second and replied that it must be the tutor. Joan could not believe her ears. So, she went inside the house, grabbed some of the things that belonged to Agne and tried to banish her from the house. But the owner of the house, Bartholomew, softly said that she stays. Joan could not do anything as he was the owner according to the will.

The tutor was shopping along the market when he heard that he was urgently needed at his house. So, he went back. He saw Agnes, her kestrel, Mary, his mother, and his father in a room. Mary asked him if he put a child in her belly. He glanced across the room and scanned the face of his father. He thought for a second that the child might be his way out from his misery, and this house. He answered yes, and his mother threw punches in his chest. But none came from his father. His father made him and Agnes sit down. He made a calm posture, that he used to express when he was going to make a favorable deal for him. He and Agnes had unknowingly played into the hands of his father. His father said that he had no objection for this union as they both wanted to marry each other. His mother was not satisfied but hushed by his father. His father called him for a few minutes of private talks and grabbed him by the collar and asked if there are more. He replied that there was no more. So, John went to the Hewsland before the deal went out of his favor. Both parties wanted the girl to be wed, since his son was eighteen years of age, his consent is needed.

John found Bartholomew and started feeling that he may have calculated wrongly. But then Joan came, and they three had a discussion hidden from the children. But the children were hiding behind the wall to eavesdrop their discussion. They can clearly see that Bartholomew was not happy, and Joan held her ground. Finally, John shook the hands of Joan and then Bartholomew, signaling that they had reached an agreement.

Hamnet starts awake ...

Hamnet was woken by a start. His twin, Judith, was still sleeping on the bed. Her chest rising and falling in uneven intervals. Mary was cooking, and his mother, Agnes, just came back from the Hewsland. He avoided the hall so as not to meet her customers if there was any. Then she asked them where the twins are. Mary replied that they must be hiding. She looked around on the first floor including John's room. She found Hamnet on the foot of the stairs with a cut near his eyes. She climbed two steps at a time on the stair.

Eliza says to Agnes ...

Eliza was told to sleep with Agnes before she got wed. Agnes was to wed at a church with a priest who had given her the kestrel. Eliza asked Agnes whether she would like a crown for her wedding. She said that she would love it very much. Eliza made a crown with fern. The snow fell hard that night, every leaf and branch was encased with frost. The two families walked towards the church in the morning, Agnes, accompanied by her brother and Joan, and John, accompanied by Eliza, Mary, and Edmond. The priest started the ceremony asking if there were anyone who are against this union for three times. Since there were no objection, Bartholomew

walked Agnes towards the John. Agnes felt three things in her hand: the ring, rowan berries, and her husband hand. She was sure that her mother was here hovering.

Agnes moves across ...

Agnes rushed and told herself that she was still breathing. She touched the forehead of her daughter and felt that Judith was burning with high fever. She saw the swellings around her neck and armpits. Hamnet is behind her, and so she asked her what happened. Hamnet answered that it all happened when they came back from school. Then Hamnet shouted at Agnes for not being here too soon and asked if it was the pestilence. It was the thing the whole town is feared of. Agnes told him to call everyone up here, she herself grabbed Rubab and some leaves and grinded them. Her mother-in-law, Mary, came up to the room and asked Agnes that Judith got the buboes. It reminded Mary of her late daughter, Anne, who passed away from the same pestilence. Mary and Agnes had argued before in the matters of households. But this time, Mary grabbed Agnes and told her that she was going to build a blazing fire to counter the blazing fever. Hamnet, who was standing still, was called to fetch the woods.

It is past midnight ...

After the wedding, Agnes could not fall asleep. She heard owl crying across the widow. And the shape of the house looks like the alphabet 'A'. Her husband was sleeping soundly on the bed. She tried to unpack things from the wedding gifts. Her husband woke up, asked her why she was not asleep, and grabbed her on the bed, and started kissing her. Then he found a book she was holding, it was a book on how to heal certain illness and distempers. She asked him to read it for her, but he said he will do it later for her.

Agnes had moved from a country house to an apartment, from one family to another, from mud-stained places to cook house, and from her stepmother to her mother-in-law. In the town, people stayed in bed later than the country people did. The maids woke up early, and prepared bread, and other things before they woke up. Agnes was an observer, participant, and gatherer. One day when the maids woke up, all the bread had been prepared, and they were worried. The freshly made bread made by Agnes took the eyes of all the family members including her father-in-law, John. It took Mary for a while to see the changes made by Agnes. The table linen had been cleaned without being asked, and so on. Edmond was the favorite child of Mary, and his care was left to Eliza. Agnes saw that the boy will live happy and remember Eliza before he passed away. And his expenses will be paid by her husband. She saw it but did not say anything to anyone. One day John's shirt was stained by Edmond, and he tried to hit him, but her husband holds John down, while Agnes took Edmon from the dining table. Her husband was split into two: one in the

house, where he was sallow, and one in the apartment, the one Agnes had married to.

Three heavy knocks to ...

Hamnet was the closet when they heard the knocks. So, he opened the door, and saw a hideous sight of a devil, with the head of a big bird and a black cloak. He tried to close the door, but the physician came in. He ordered everyone not to go out until the pestilence is past. And Hamnet can see that he did not like Agnes as she took away some of his patients. Mary put some coins into his hands. He ordered some instructions but had a small argument with Agnes about placing a dry toad on Judith's abdomen. Agnes shut the door.

In a morning in the spring of 1583 ...

In a morning, if the residents of Henley Street were awake, they would see the newly wed daughter-in-law of the glove makers left the house with a basket on her shoulder. She went to the market. A baker put a bread into her baskets. She went into the forest, and birds were flapping around her skirts. Then she saw her mother, who told her that the branches of the forest are so dense that you could not see the rain. When she chased her mother, she felled on the ground and woke up. Her husband was sleeping, worrying about her as she was near to the delivery. She could say that they are going to have two children and they are to live longer. She went to the hideout in the forest, where she and Bartholomew used to hide from Joan. She grabbed the branches of the forest and try to deliver her baby. She had seen her mother and Joan's delivery, but the reality was harder that it looks. She pants along with the pain.

Agne's husband woke up in the morning. He had two Latin tutorials to deliver. He thought about his life and was sad that there was only a small wall between his childhood and the freedom from it. The birth of a child could free him from all these miseries. He called out the name of his wife, but no reply. He got up and found that his wife wrote some words like "Rayne" and "Brnches". He knew what these words are but did not understand their meaning. He climbed down the stairs but could not find her. Then the whole family, and the whole town were woken to find her. John was furious that he could not work with this racket. When he reached Hewsland and Bartholomew asked him why he could not take care of her sister. Then Bartholomew told him that his sister married him because she believed that he had more hidden in his chest than what he showed. Then he remembered Bartholomew the words written by his wife before she disappeared. Bartholomew knew where to look for. He found his sister with a baby girl in the forest and carried her, while telling the husband to take the basket if it is not too heavy for him.

For the pestilence ...

Two events were needed to happen for the pestilence to reach Warwickshire in 1556. The lives of two separate people were needed to meet. A glassmaker was distracted by a fight and got his fingers burned and amputated. Then a sailor was ordered to ask for foods ashore. He was not older than Hamnet, and when he saw a chained monkey in a magic show, he stopped to look. The sailor looked at the monkey feeling the chafing around its neck and sad eyes. He grabbed the monkey, and it sat on his head. The master asked the sailor for money. Since he could not pay, the master forcefully took it away. The monkey left three fleas behind. One of the fleas got crushed by the sole of the sailor. One got in his hair, and another rest in the scarf around his neck. The one in the hair jumped when the sailor stopped at an ale house. When he got back to the ship, the flea moved around and stayed near the midshipman. The midshipman was foaming after that. The captain was told of the incident.

The ship physician was sent to examine it and concluded that it was the cause of Africa fever. Since all the cats are dead, they are thrown into the sea. Then sailors died one after another. The flea that got into the ship found its way and tried very hard to survive. The captain was forced to stop at a shore and call for more sailors. Finally, when they reached London, the crew was only five in number. All their goods were distributed including the glassware, millefiori. It was carried on the back, where the flea laid eggs. Eventually, one of the glassware (millefiori beads) reached the Henley street, where Judith took it.

On an afternoon ...

To Agnes, Susana was the apple to her eye, the most perfect thing in the world. Since the birth of Susana, there had been a smell in the house. Agnes knew that she was pregnant with another child, and she would have two children in her life. The baby is good, but she could locate where the foul smell is coming from. When she looked up to her husband, she suddenly noticed a great change. It had been a long time since they talked, and he read a book to her. His face is sullen, and drunk too much. When she asked, he always said that there was nothing. One day Agnes packed the daughter on her back and went to Bartholomew to ask some advice about it. Bartholomew suggested that Agnes' husband should go to London, far away from his father. Being an errand boy would kill him. So, Bartholomew himself went to find John to suggest this idea.

Agnes was sitting ...

Agnes was holding and gripping the finger of Judith. The fire was burning so fierce that her face showed scarlet spots. Mary had experienced the similar episodes

before, two of her daughters had taken away from her in the same manner. Agnes refused to write to her husband but did not stop when Eliza wrote a letter to him to come back quickly. Then Hamnet woke up. He had an urge to find his sister and understood that the death was in the room. They both understood that they could not live both. Hamnet tried to fool the death like to everyone. He laid beside Judith and put his arm near her shoulder. He thought that if one was to live, it was her.

Susanna, shortly before her second birthday, ...

Susana was rowing a boat-basket, in a pool of invisible swam and ducks. She worried that her father who was coming in was about to step onto one of them. But he stopped and talked to his mother, Mary. Mary was needling as usual, but during the talk, her hand became unsteady. She did not like Agnes from the start. She did not like Agnes bring wild animals into the house. And she knew that it must be Agnes who initiated these ideas into his head. Mary fumed out. She asked his sons not to go by saying that he could not handle the business in London. But Agnes only intervened with one sentence: There is no reason to keep him here against his will. Agnes and her husband were walking along the Standford street. Her husband was suppressing a faster pace as she was with another child. But she can sense his urgent desire. It was her who initiated this by asking Bartholomew to talk to John. Her desire was to want her husband near her when she gave birth. They talked of matters of no significant importance. The lodging was secured by a cousin of his. It was near a river. They talked about the river. John said that he feared that he would not succeed. Agnes said that he will succeed and must go to London.

Eliza's letter ...

The letter was transported to Agne's husband after a long and torturous journey. When he received the letter, he registered the handwriting of her sister. The words are not correct, but he quickly understood what it meant. His daughter was sick and must go back to see her.

Towards the end of Agnes's second pregnancy ...

Mary was watchful towards the Agnes's second pregnancy. She even asked Susana to warn her if her mother tried to leave and take birth in the forest. Agnes felt the pain in her abdomen and knew well what it was, but it was earlier than she expected. She tried to leave the house from the back door. But Gilbert, her brother-in-law, stopped her, and Mary had arranged everything. A midwife was sent and Agnes was forced to take birth in the house. A boy came first. Mary wanted to hold him. But something was wrong with Agnes, the midwife realized that another baby

was coming. Agnes was to have a twin. And she thought that she would die, so she asked Mary to take care of her children and not to send them back to Joan. Mary would not let Agnes die in her hand. The second labor was hard and a baby girl, smaller than the first one, was born with a cord around her neck. Everyone thought she was dead, but Agnes told hold of her, and the baby cried. It was a fragile girl. When her husband visited her, she was worn thin due to feeding and caring of the twins. The business in London was getting better, and they planned to move soon. But the fragile health of Judith stopped them from moving to London. So, her husband bought a house near Standford to rent instead.

Agnes startles awake ...

When Agnes woke up, it was the darkest time of the night. Judith was still sleeping. But she found two bodies on the pallet. The hand of Hamnet is protruded from the shirt of Judith. His hair is wet with the sweat from the Judith's fever. Judith got up and could sit, Hamnet is shivering with fever. The fever climbs and climbs, and the buboes swells. Agnes realized that she was preparing for the wrong child, and the pestilence in Hamnet got stronger. Finally, Hamnet drew his last breath, nothing more, stillness.

II

A room ...

The windows in the room were wide open. And a body of a child had been prepared by his uncles. There is a decree that anyone who died of the pestilence must be buried within one day. It was reminded to Agnes, who was drowning in her own thoughts. People came and murmured their words of condolences, but none reached to Agnes. They could offer nothing that that Agnes needed. Then the hand of Bartholomew touched her. He offered his condolences and reminded that they must bury the body. Agnes told him that she would do it by herself. So, she waited till everyone was out, except Mary and Judith. Then she needled the shroud around the body. When she was nearly finished, her husband arrived. He was glad that he saw Judith up but could not console himself when he saw the body of Hamnet. It was he who carried the body to the grave. The procession was too slow and too quick for Agnes.

Hamnet was the pin that was holding them together. Agnes was broken into pieces. For the first few days, her husband could not go outside as the pain of losing Hamnet and seeing other children playing outside is immense. Judith and Hamnet was the two halves of the same person. Agnes was crying all day and night. In London, the season of theatre was about to begin, and her husband could not leave the company. The competition was going to be fierce. So, he decided to go back and told Agnes

that he must go back to London. Agnes was incredulous that he was going back even after the death of his child. Her husband hugged her from behind while she was resisting the idea of going back. She said that he could go and return when you could.

It was hard to Agnes to go back to her daily lives. She was depressed all the night. She became overprotective of the girls. Every Sunday was the day to visit Hamnet for her. She wanted to live there with him. Susana read the letters from her father, and they have become shorter. His new comedy was a success, but he still could not come back as the roads were bad.

Things were never the same as before for Agnes. She searched for the spirit of Hamnet but could not locate him. She refused to answer knocks on the door and turned away when were asked for advice. Judith one day asked Susana if her face, that resembles her father, was the reason why her husband have not come to visit them. It had been a long time since their father visited them. He just finished performing a play at the palace and was riding a ship at the thawed Thames. A year went by, and one day when Judith was taking the dogs out, she saw her father. He brought the presents for all of them, a bracelet for Agnes. They all crammed around a table for the dinner, and Agnes tried to wear the bracelets and felt that someone who wore it before wishes her harm. Then she caught the gaze of her husband. He had changed, and she can sense the prints and the touches of other women. After the dinner, her husband came to find her at Hewsland, and they talked about Hamnet. Her husband repeatedly said that he was sorry throughout the night. Then he laid out his proposal to her. It was a proposal to buy a house of their own at Stanford. Agnes thought that she had tried her best in this house but could not find him. So, her husband wrote a letter to Bartholomew to arrange the matter.

Bartholomew was also trying to renovate the hall at Hewsland, but Joan did not like the idea. So, when Bartholomew came to Agnes, she immediately noticed what was happening and advised him that he should tell that he would not renovate the house, and Joan will let you do it in a week. Then Bartholomew showed her the new house. It was the biggest in town and had enough rooms for all her children.

Agnes planted all sorts of fruits and flowers in the garden. The whole talked of how her husband being able to buy it. He visited two or three times a year, and in the second year, he stayed for a month as the plague caused the theatres to shut down. Judith was also learning how to read. Susana spent most of her time weeding the garden. Susana was worried that there will be no one to court and associate with her. The house had a dynasty of cats. It has been four years since the death of Hamnet. Judith got taller and her mother searched into her the similarities of what Hamnet might have looked like. Judith visited the old house at every night as one midwife told her that she had seen a figure running in it. It was her secret; she did not tell it to her mother. One night she felt the sense of him again.

Joan rarely visited Agnes, but one day she came to the house, and waited for Agnes. Joan never liked Agnes and always thought of bringing her down. So, it could be

assumed that she had something to make Agnes feel abject. She brought a playbill from London. It was a tragic play from Agnes's husband, named "Hamnet". Agnes could not understand why her son named was on playbill. It has been a while since she got a letter from her husband. She could not sleep that night. So, Agnes decided that she must go to London without her daughters. Mary thought it was a crazy idea. Bartholomew arranged the horses for her, and they went together to London. London was a dirty place. And after some time, they found the lodging of her husband. It was simple attic without any decorations. Also, there was an empty letter titled 'My dear one - '. Bartholomew called out her name and told her that he was at the playhouse.

Her husband was watching the crowds gather in the theatre. He had decided that he would resist his friends tonight and not go to the Traven to drink. He would write a letter to his wife about the play. Meanwhile, Agnes was crossing the bridge and reached the theatre. She saw the crowds gathering and actors performing on the stage.

She tried to understand her husband by watching what the actors were saying. But all the spoken words were meaningless to her. Then a ghost appeared on the stage, who uttered the name of her beloved son, 'Hamnet'. She thought that the play was a terrible tribulation for her son and wanted to go back to Standford. Then a man, Hamnet, appeared on the stage. It was him and it was not him. The Hamnet, and the ghost were the same. Agnes thought she had found her son whom she had been looking for a long time. Then she thought how her husband would perfect the play from the actor. She was stunned by the resemblance as well as the way he moves. She would tell all this when he found her in the crowd after the play. But for now, her eyes were on Hamnet. The ghost turned his head towards her, and said, 'Remember me'.

Summary written by Thura Htoo on 10 November 2025.