



# Six Women of Salem: The Untold Story of the Accused and Their Accusers in the Salem Witch Trials

By Marilynne K. Roach

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*Six Women of Salem* is the first work to use the lives of a select number of representative women as a microcosm to illuminate the larger crisis of the Salem witch trials. By the end of the trials, beyond the twenty who were executed and the five who perished in prison, 207 individuals had been accused, 74 had been “afflicted,” 32 had officially accused their fellow neighbors, and 255 ordinary people had been inexorably drawn into that ruinous and murderous vortex, and this doesn’t include the religious, judicial, and governmental leaders. All this adds up to what the Rev. Cotton Mather called “a desolation of names.”

The individuals involved are too often reduced to stock characters and stereotypes when accuracy is sacrificed to indignation. And although the flood of names and detail in the history of an extraordinary event like the Salem witch trials can swamp the individual lives involved, individuals still deserve to be remembered and, in remembering specific lives, modern readers can benefit from such historical intimacy. By examining the lives of six specific women, Marilynne Roach shows readers what it was like to be present throughout this horrific time and how it was impossible to live through it unchanged.

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

“A well written novel approach to the witch trials worth the time taken while you await the trick-or-treaters this Halloween.”

### ***Open Letters Monthly, 10/1/13***

“Immediately immerses its readers in the events of that horrible, vertiginous year, a year which almost certainly started off as mere pranking by some mean-spirited girls but then grew into something much blacker and more complicated. Roach immerses her readers through her customary vivid, forceful writing...The seriously inquisitive now have another great book on the subject.”

### ***ForeWord, Winter 2013***

“[Roach's] fact-based insight into these women's lives, along with the moments she breaks into short, fictionalized scenes, puts these lives into perspective, allowing readers to connect with the events in a way not afforded in other accounts of this period...Roach's work will shed new light on the Salem witch trials, not only by showing how the accusers may have truly believed they were bewitched and tortured, but also by making the innocent women come to life.”

### ***Library Journal, 12/1/2013***

### ***InfoDad Blog, 10/10/13***

“Roach shows how thoroughly she has researched her subject...while also giving modern readers something to think about in our own days of social and political witch hunts. Six Women of Salem...will provide a greater sense of the real-world lives of those who engaged in and were victimized by those events.”

### ***San Francisco Book Review/Sacramento Book Review, 10/7/13***

“The book is super detailed and fantastically informative on the subject...An eye-opening piece of work...Each page drips with an honest and impartial narrative...Roach has done a great job in honoring the memories of these women with a tasteful and harmonious book.”

### ***Kirkus Reviews, 9/15/13***

“[Full of] the author's deep knowledge of virtually every man, woman and child affected by the trials in this bizarre period.”

### **Examiner.com, 9/27/13**

“Roach delivers a historically intimate narrative that gives readers a front row seat to this desperate and dangerous time in history.”—Examiner.com, 9/27

### **Roanoke Times, 10/27/13**

“A focused look at the lives of six of the accused, their accusers, and their neighbors who were part of a dark period in American history.”

### **Leavenworth Times, 10/29/13**

#### **About the Author**

Marilynne K. Roach earned a BFA from Massachusetts College of Art and works as both a historian and illustrator. She has drawn illustrations and written how-to and travel articles for the *Boston Globe*, has lectured to groups ranging from kindergarten to senior citizens, and has written several scholarly articles on various aspects of the witch scare.

She is a lifelong resident of Watertown, Massachusetts.

## **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Jennifer Dillon:**

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**Alice Lawson:**

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