

Shelby Side 2

I also read the play

I did!

I just thought I was missing something

so I looked at sparknotes

as like supplemental material

anyway

I totally get what the monologue is doing from like

a literary standpoint I guess

but your name is literally just a word that someone else gave to you

you can change it

you can give it to someone else –

I mean

you gave yours to your wife

and that's another shitty thing!

MR. SMITH

language...

NELL

but right?

women's names are all tied up in their relationship to a man

we were just talking about this in feminism club

MASON

yeah it's like

women have "miss" and "ms" and "mrs"

and all men have is "mister"

BETH

it's all about possession

MASON

it's kind of fucked up

MR. SMITH

Mason!

language!

NELL

but that's really good, Mason

START → SHELBY
okay but wait wait wait
I have a point, I swear
it's a good one

Shelby Side 2

I make really good points
I'm really smart
I know a lot of you don't think I am, but I am
you've told me I am, Mr. Smith
remember?
I do
I remember it very clearly
I remember exactly where we were

MR. SMITH

...
yes, Shelby
I think you're very smart
I think all of you are smart
and my goal as an educator
is to get you to apply that intelligence / into -

SHELBY

I mean
that's not really how you phrased it to me
but okay
so anyway
it's like
your name was made up
your ancestors were like
"ooh there are a bunch of blacksmiths in our family, better call ourselves Smith"
right?
like that's what names *are*
they're fiction
but my body is a fact
I live inside of it

MR. SMITH

we're going to have to wrap up this point pretty soon, Miss Holcomb
if you could please bring it back to the text?

SHELBY

Abigail was a human being
she like
she existed
that's a fact
but John Proctor is just obsessed with this made-up thing

BETH

yeah but
his name stood for a lot more

Shelby Side 2

it's like
his reputation
his honor

A STUDENT (or IVY)
yeah like
Abigail's been trying the whole play to like
ruin him or something
she's obsessed with it

NELL
nope
yeah he made choices

SHELBY
exactly!
yes!
but he's just pretending like
I dunno like
his fiction is more important than her fact?
I mean
that *sucks*
like
John Proctor is clearly the villain
right?

MR. SMITH
John Proctor is one of the great heroes of the American Thea/tre

SHELBY
yeahhhhh no
I don't think he is
I think he sucks

reactions

MR. SMITH
okay well I think we all have a lot to mull over / and we

SHELBY
last thing last point I swear
say you run into someone who might not recognize you right away
and they're like
"Mr. Smith? Carter Smith? is that you?"
you could easily be like
"oh no, sorry you must be thinking of someone else, that's not my name"

Shelby Side 2

but if I run into someone and they're like
"are you living inside of a body or are you a ghost?"
I mean I am pretty clearly inside of a body

MR. SMITH
Shelby, let's / just

SHELBY
a name doesn't mean anything if it doesn't have a body to be attached to
your name doesn't have a memory, *Carter*
but my body remembers being touched by you
and I know your body remembers mine

confused reactions and murmurs from the class

MR. SMITH
all right, Shelby
I'm gonna have to ask you to leave
right now

SHELBY
wow
yeah
it's funny you're asking me to leave
when six months ago
you were asking me to come

END

*total chaos reactions
the students who can actually function through their shock grab their phones*