



# Arthur Miller's **DEATH OF A SALESMAN**

## Synopsis

In Arthur Miller's iconic mid-century play, we meet Willy Loman, a bombastic traveling salesman and father to two adult sons, Biff and Happy. After nearly crashing his car on a sales trip, Willy realizes he's not capable of driving anymore, and his wife suggests he ask to be transferred within the company to a local desk job. Their son Biff returns home from a farmhand job, and Willy expresses that Biff isn't fulfilling his potential. To Willy, being well-liked is the key to success, and Willy still believes Biff's high school popularity should have followed him into adulthood.

That night, Biff and his brother Happy hear Willy having loud, delusional talks with himself. His sons recognize that Willy is not well. Biff decides to stay home and repair his relationship with his father and pursue his father's dreams for his career and future.

Their mother operates in denial of Willy's mental health condition, believing he's well-liked and that he is still valuable to his company. Trying to make his father happy, Biff applies for a business loan and become a great American businessman his father could admire. Ultimately, Biff is denied this loan for his business idea, and Willy is fired from his job—he hasn't made sales in months if not years, and it seems his type of traveling salesman is no longer relevant. Willy is unable to accept the bad news, and feels the only contribution he can make towards his son's lives now is to commit suicide so they can receive his life insurance policy.

Willy kills himself, and at his funeral his wife is shocked that no one has come.

