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Nation of Tragedy in Death of a Salesman

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Dedication

To

Our Mothers

*strong and gentle souls who taught us to trust Allah ,
Believe in hard work and that so much could be done with
Little*

Our Supervisor

For being so kind and helpful with us

Our Father

*For earning an honest living for us and for supporting and
encouraging us to believe in ourselves*

Almighty Allah

*For giving us patience and power to get this paper
Fulfilled and for guiding us*

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*Above all we would like to express our sincere
gratitude and affection to our supervisor*

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knowledge.*

*Her guidance throughout helped us research and write the
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*Last but not least; We would like to thank
our families, parents and friends
for their continuous
support and encouragement*

Abstract

The Death of a Salesman: A play by Arthur Miller, written in 1948 and produced in 1949. Miller won a Pulitzer Prize for a work he described as “the tragedy of a man who gave or sold his life” in pursuit of the American dream. The play premiered on Broadway in February 1949, had 742 appearances, has been revived on Broadway four times, and won three Tony Awards for Best Revival. Some critics consider it one of the greatest plays of the twentieth century.

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Chapter One

1.1 Introduction

A play written by the famous playwright Arthur Miller, who recently died in 2005, who is known for his blending of symbolism and realism in his numerous plays with social origins, especially this play, which in turn was awarded the "Pulitzer Prize" and "Critiques Award" and has been translated into more than twenty languages, dealing with the subject of the conflict between Generations within the same family, and the young generation's lack of appreciation for the sacrifices of the previous generation and criticizing the American dream among its pages. We find the writer sheds light on the issue of poverty and ambition within two different dimensions, the first being the single family, and the resulting disintegration and contradictions in viewpoints, and the second in exploitation and greed. and the resulting social crises.

It is considered the most famous American play, and is now studied in various parts of the world as a classic of the twentieth century. Then she won two Pulitzer Prizes and the Drama Critics' Prize, and she has been translated into more than 20 languages, including Arabic.

1.2 Arthur Miller: Life and his works

American writer, novelist and playwright. He was one of the icons of American literature and cinema for 61 years. He is considered one of the giants of contemporary American theater, and he was a major defender of intellectual freedom, denouncing all forms of oppression, and he was one of the advocates of the idea of a theater accessible to the public.

Miller emerged from the depression years in the thirties to write plays that imitate in their power the classic Greek tragedy. His play "The Death of a Salesman" is a classic example of twentieth century drama. This play is studied in schools around the world and deals with the clash points in the nature of the relationship between what is social and what is individual pregnant It contains a critical look at the American dream.

Miller was famous for his left-wing views and was accused of communism in the fifties. His playwriting was distinguished by sharp

propositions in dealing with the problems of contemporary man, especially the American man. He wrote many plays, perhaps the most important of which are: *Al-Mihna*, *A Look from the Bridge*, *All My Sons*, which in 1947 won the Tony Award for Best Play. In 1949 he was awarded two Pulitzer Prizes and the Drama Critics' Prize for his most famous work, *The Death of a Salesman*, a play that has been translated into more than 20 languages months after its appearance and is still studied and shown around the world.

He was included in the campaign of the Commission to Inquiry on Anti-American Activism and his reputation as a progressive writer and activist for freedom of opinion and expression led him to court in 1956. He condemned repressive regimes everywhere and at the same time he condemned the foreign policy of the United States, especially with regard to human rights.

Arthur Miller's private life was equally exciting, especially his failed marriage to Marilyn Monroe. Rumors followed this marriage from its first moments. It was rumored that Miller's marriage to Manro was an attempt to camouflage the FBI, which was chasing Miller's left-wing activities.

Miller was born into a middle class Jewish family in New York City. His father, Isidore Miller of Boulogne, was an immigrant to the United States before World War I. He was a designer and owner of a women's fashion store that was destroyed in the Great Depression of 1929, causing Arthur to be affected by his transition from a affluent state to poverty. The transition of the middle family to a poor family due to the Great Depression

had a significant impact on Miller, at the age of fourteen, facing the real world and making him aware of the world's economic and social crisis. Because of this violent economic shock, Miller was forced to practice many simple professions, such as a cafeteria worker, truck driver and worker. In a factory in addition to his studies at the University of Michigan, however, he was soon able to earn a living from his writing, so he enrolled in a class to be trained in writing the play. Miller began

practicing drama writing in 1938, after his graduation, and his first work, shown on Broadway, was *The Man Who Had All Good Luck*. His early

works bore the impact of the rupture and loss that he felt in the days of the Great Depression, and he was influenced by socialist ideas and admired the revolutionary theater and was a student of the works of the Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen and wanted, like him, to highlight the system that oppresses man. His mother was a housewife, interested in literature and education. His sister Joanne became an actress known as Joan Copeland and appeared in some of his plays. Miller spent his primary school education in Harlem from 1920 to 1928 and first saw the stage in 1923 at the Schubert Theatre. He spent his high school education at Abraham Lincoln High School near Clooney Island in Brooklyn, New York. Miller excelled in athletics but was poor academically. His application to the University of Michigan was denied, but despite this Miller put \$13 of every \$15 he earned into the college fund until his application to the University of Michigan was accepted in 1934.

At the beginning of his enrollment at the University of Michigan, he chose journalism, then moved to English literature and focused on ancient Greek literature and the writings of Henrik Ibsen. During spring break in 1936 he wrote his first work for a \$250 contest. He won the Avery Wood Award. He obtained a BA in English literature in 1938. On August 5, 1940, he married his colleague, Mary Grace Slattery, after a love story, and they had Jean and Robert, who became a director, writer and film producer. He produced the 1996 film *Ordeal* and starred Daniel Day-Lewis, Miller's brother-in-law.

Miller was discharged from military service during World War II due to an old sports injury. In 1956 he divorced Mary Slattery, and on June 29 of the same year he married Marilyn Monroe, whom he had met eight years ago through Elia Kazan, and at that time Marilyn converted to Judaism. On January 24, 1961, Marilyn Monroe obtained a divorce from Miller. On February 17, 1962, Miller married photographer Ing Murth, whom he

met when she attended with a number of photographers from the Magnum Agency to film the creation of the movie "Unlucky" in 1961, and they had two children, Daniel and Rebecca, and their marriage lasted 40 years until her death on January 30, 2002.

Rebecca Miller became an actress, writer, and director, and married Daniel Day-Lewis, whom she met while filming a movie about her father's novel, "The Ordeal" in 1996. Miller announced his engagement to painter Agnes Barley in 2004 but they never married, but have lived together since 2002. Arthur Miller died of Omar, 89, died of a heart attack after suffering from cancer, heart disease and lungs, on the evening of February 10, 2005, on the 56th anniversary of the premiere of the play "Death of a Salesman" on Broadway. Miller was surrounded by his family when he died at his home in Roxbury, Connecticut, four months after the death of his older brother Kermit Miller and three years after the death of his wife Inge Morath. Miller wrote his autobiography in a book called "Time Turns."

Chapter Two

2.1 Arthur Miller: Death of a Salesman

Miller's family had been relatively prosperous during the playwright's childhood, but during the Great Depression of the 1930s, as with many other families, their economic situation became very precarious. This experience had a profound impact on Miller's political standpoint, and this can be seen in much of his work for the theatre.

Death of a Salesman represented a decisive change of direction for the young playwright. His previous success as a playwright, *All My Sons*, was a social drama heavily influenced by Henrik Ibsen, but with his next play, Miller wished to attempt something new. The mixture of hard-hitting social realism and dreamlike sequences make *Death of a Salesman* an innovative and bold break with previous theatre, both by Miller and more widely.

In his essay 'Tragedy and the Common Man' (1949), which Miller wrote to justify his artistic decision to make an ordinary American man the subject of a theatrical tragedy, Miller argued that the modern world has grown increasingly sceptical, and is less inclined to believe in the idea of heroes. As a result, they don't see how tragedy, with its tragic hero, can be relevant to the modern world. Miller argues, on the contrary, that the world is full of heroes. A hero is anybody who is willing to lay down his life in order to secure his 'sense of personal dignity'. It doesn't matter what your social status or background is.

Death of a Salesman is an example of this ethos: Loman, who cheated on his wife and lied to his family about his lack of work and his reliance on friends who lent him money, makes his last gesture a tragic but selfless act, which will ensure his family have money to survive when he is gone.

Of course, this doesn't mean that Miller is somehow endorsing the hero's final and decisive act. The emphasis should always be on the word 'tragedy': Loman's death is a tragedy.

Abstract *Death of a Salesman* is the representative work of Arthur Miller, a famous modern American dramatist, which creates the character Willy Loman who arouses the strong aesthetic emotion of tragedy. From the perspective of individual, family and society, Willy's death reflects the tragic connotation of lost individual self-value, distorted role of

family pillar and shattered dreams at the bottom of society in American society. Keywords Tragedy, American Dream, Death of a Salesman.

Death of a Salesman revolves around the last 24 hours of the 63-year-old traveling salesman Willy Loman, who devoted his life to promote the sales of their goods, in order to succeed but eventually committed suicide. Willie's suicide is the distorted understanding of the "American dream" pursued by everyone. From a broader sense, the play looks at the values of the national problems, analyze the cost of people blindly believing in "American dream". This paper aims to explore the real cause of death of Willy Loman, that is, his tragedy is the tragedy of itself and the social interaction, and to provide with characteristic interpretation of personal tragedy of postwar American.

The American Dream Complex Every nation's literature has its own complex, for the American literature, this complex is the "American dream". The enduring theme of American literature in the 20th century is the persistent pursuit of the heavy sense of loss and haunting American dream. So what is the American dream? Everyone has equal opportunity, and hard work can gain wealth and recognition from others, thus gaining freedom. Its basic values include individual liberty, self-reliance, equality of opportunity and competition, material wealth and diligence. As stated in the Declaration of Independence, the American Dream is translated into these solemn and sacred words: "All men are created equal, and that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are innate human rights". The average American thinks that if he works hard, he will succeed and be happy.

The Personal Tragedy of Willy Loman In this drama, the protagonist Willy Loman's "American Dream" is very different from the traditional American dream. Willy believes that a person with good looks and popularity can be liked and become successful. His older brother, Ben, was the embodiment of this illusory, idealistic American dream. Ben enters the jungle at the age of 17 and achieves material success through ruthless competition by every possible means. Willy always looked up to his brother and held him up as a shining example to himself and his children. Whenever he felt at a loss, he would console himself with his brother's words. He did not see his brother's opportunistic American success, nor did he recognize the sorrow of David Singman working at the age of 84. Based on the lack of a clear picture of the American Dream, rather than hard work of the traditional American dream, Willy constructed what he called the "American Dream". Not only did he revel in this shallow,

mistaken American dream, but he outdid his two sons, for whom the solution he thought was to “give him the answer” when he did not work hard at mathematics; His very superficial obsession with charm and popularity is at odds with a stronger, more pragmatic understanding of the American dream. In contrast, neighbors Charlie and his son

Bernard, both ridiculed by Willie as less popular but with a down-to-earth attitude toward work and study, were in sharp contrast to Willie and his son. At the beginning of the play, it is sensed that Willy is suffering from a severe form of self-deception, always getting stuck in his idyllic past to escape the present. He was thrilled by the hopeless “Florida plan” proposed by his two sons to console him. He built his image of success in his sons’ eyes by bragging on himself. He finally couldn’t accept the sad reality of his two sons’ failure and tried to use his death insurance money to revive them.

Willy Loman’s Social Tragedy “American Dream” is the ideal of Willy’s life, but he is facing the American society of 1940s, which is not possible to make his little salesman realize the dream of “getting ahead”. After the civil war, because of the abolition of the backward of southern plantation economy and system, combined with the industrial revolution, the United States rose from agricultural country to become the world’s industrial powers, in the social and historical conditions, everyone can make a fortune. Thanks to the two world wars, the post-war American economy developed rapidly and materialism prevailed, people were immersed in the concept of materialism and regarded material success as the only criterion for people’s success, thus blinding the moral concept of the “American dream” originally expressed by the founder of the country. “Living in a society with a high emphasis on materialism, achieving self-worth and success through hard work has become a history, and the common dream of people is to have a lot of money and become a successful person” Zhu, 2005, p: 26. It can be said that Willy’s tragedy is not a personal tragedy, but a social tragedy. In such a capitalist society where money is paramount, productivity is more or less a reflection of a person’s value, goods and money are above everything else, and those who can no longer bring capital appreciation are bound to be abandoned. Ben had ventured to Alaska in his early years, but he had chosen the path of success that old salesman Singman had followed. A salesman is a man who lives and sells himself -- a man who lives and dreams by the fleeting power of his image, by the “smiling face and polished shoes” (Miller, 2005, p. 1082). But one day, “If people don’t smile back, the world will fall down”. Willy

was too old to make money on long journeys, and he had no value as a salesman or as the main breadwinner of the family, so he was abandoned. Willy exaggerate their career, to the survival of life on the great promotion of beautiful fantasy, didn't realize the wrong understanding of the self value ourselves. If we say that Willy Loman's understanding of the American dream is ridiculous, so is the capital society he finds himself in. He is like hundreds of millions of ordinary people to sell the myth of the American dream.

Willy Lowman, obsessed by the American dream, finally leads to his demise. As a loser, his failure is more of the social reason, however, when the play has been played 742 times, it struck a chord with the audience widely, touched the hearts of the audience. Willie's survival crisis is, in fact, is the crisis of capitalist society as a whole. It is through this figure that the author accuses the material myth promoted by the American society at that time. Guided by the myth of materialism, the commodity a man can sell is himself. As Willy once said to Charlie:

Miles of roads, trains, trades, years, you're worth more dead than alive. Willy's suicide is a tragedy of both his own and society.

The play *The Death of a Salesman* is about a lie and even the death of the American dream, about hypocrisy and self-delusion, as well as about claiming that everything will go well even when he realizes that this is a lie to himself.

Although we do not know in the play what Willie sells as a peddler, the important thing is to see how the society that paints me grinds this good man to an intolerable degree.

Willie seems more or less satisfied that things will improve, but in moments of truth, especially with his clash with his boss Howard, Willie shouts, emphasizing his humanity, saying that he is not an orange that Howard eats and then throws its peels!.

This sentence, of course, reflects Miller's position on the entire institution of capital (by the way, left-wing thought, unlike now, was prevalent among American Jews in the fifties and sixties of the last century).

Willy's tragedy differs, then, from the idea of tragedy, as in the Greek theater, as well as in Shakespeare's plays, because the characters of the tragedy belong to the class of rulers.

These people face death in moments of facing the truth, as Mrs. Macbeth cried in moments of facing the truth!

As for here, there is an ordinary man who believes that appearances, tact and a beautiful image can benefit him in success, but he collides that reality is not.

The play raises questions that one cannot help but notice. What does a crushed person do when he realizes that there is no hope for justice that comes from the political class.

Willy's decision to commit suicide in his car to give his son a chance at life by obtaining insurance is perhaps an attempt to take advantage of some tools of American capital in order to buy a better life for his children.

What is important is that the play *The Death of a Peddler* constituted an important criticism of the American way of life, which was claiming to have bypassed old Europe by offering a new way of life that offered opportunities for all, something which proved that it was not the case at all.

The importance of the immortality of this wonderful work is that it talks about the marginalized man in the face of the machine of political and economic capital that he alone cannot break.

The play tells the tragedy of a poor man through a struggle between two generations and the new generation's lack of respect for the old or its appreciation for its efforts, and in the end the old generation sacrifices itself for the sake of its children. The writer also explains the contradiction of poverty and ambition at the same time and the desire of the poor to reach their goal.

Chapter Three

3.1 Nation of Tragedy in Death of a Salesman

The salesman of the title is Willy Loman, a travelling salesman who is in his early sixties. He works on commission, so if he doesn't make a sale, he doesn't get paid. His job involves driving thousands of miles around the United States every year, trying to sell enough to put food on his family's table. He wants to get a desk job so he doesn't have to travel around any more: at 62 years of age, he is tired and worn out.

He is married to Linda. Their son, Biff, is in his thirties and usually unemployed, drifting from one temporary job to another, much to Willy's displeasure. Willy's younger son, Happy, has a steady job along and his own home, and is therefore a success by Willy's standards.

However, Happy, despite his name, isn't happy with the life he has, and would quite like to give up his job and go and work on a ranch out West. Willy, meanwhile, is similarly dreaming, but in his case of the past, rather than the future: he thinks back to when Biff and Happy were small children and Willy was a success as a salesman. The Lomans' neighbour, Charley, offers Willy a job to help make ends meet, but Willy starts to reminisce about his recently deceased brother, Uncle Ben, who was an adventurer (and young Willy's hero). Linda tells her sons to pay their father some respect, even though he isn't himself a 'great man'.

It emerges that Willy has been claiming to work as a salesman but has lately been borrowing money as he can't actually find work. His plan is to take his own life so his family will receive life insurance money and he will be able, with his death, to do what he cannot do for them while alive provide for them. Biff agrees reluctantly to go back to his former boss and ask for a job so he can contribute to the family housekeeping.

Meanwhile, Willy asks his boss, Howard, for his desk job and an advance on his next pay packet, but Howard sacks Willy. Willy then goes to Charley and asks for a loan. That night, at dinner, Willy and Biff argue (Biff failed to get his own former job back when his old boss didn't even recognise him), and it turns out that Biff once walked in on his father with another woman. Willy goes home, plants some seeds, and then – hearing his brother Ben calling for him to join him – he drives off and kills himself. At his funeral, only the family are present, despite Willy's prediction that his funeral would be a big affair.

3.2 Willy Loman's Death as a Personal Tragedy

Dishonest and Hypocritical. As a common people, Willy Loman longed for gaining others' respect, including his family, his neighbors and his brother. However, there was no need for him to utilize lies to conceal his failure. Dishonesty was the flaw of his personality. He told lies about how popular and respected he was in the town, and how important he was to New England, wanting to be adored and admired by his sons. In fact he was not that popular.

When Willy went to borrow money from Charley and happened to meet Bernard, Bernard wanted to know how his old friend Biff was doing. Willy also told a lie. Biff was, in fact, obsessed with his job and his life, not having found a position in society.

Self-centered and Unable to Face the Reality. Willy was too self-centered and easily to lose temper, not allowing others to change his mind. Willy did not respect Linda and Biff at all. He wanted Biff to become a successful salesman, which Biff actually did not long for.

Willy owed his failure to his indecent clothes, unwilling to discover the real reasons for his failure. After being fired, Willy came to borrow insurance money from kind-hearted Charley, who offered Willy a job. Willy, however, refused to work for Charley. Working for his neighbor, maybe was better than being the road salesman. He preferred to be a salesman with little salary rather than work for Charley to get fifty dollars a week.

Holding False Values. As a salesman, Willy Loman focused on personal details over actual measures of success, believing that it is personality and not high returns that gain success in the business world. Just as he said in the play:

Willy: the man who makes an appearance in the business world, the man who creates personal interest, is the man who gets ahead. Be liked and you will never want.

Willy: Because you got a greatness in you, Biff, remember that. You got all kinds a greatness.

Willy instilled the false values into his sons' mind. He strongly had faith in Biff's personal charm, ignoring to underline one's talent and diligence. There was no denying that Willy's personal flaw was one aspect of his tragedy, for his sticking to unacceptable traditional values.

3.3 Willy Loman's Death as a Family Tragedy

Conflicts between Willy and His Two Sons. Biff and Happy were Willy's beloved two sons. However, the main father-son conflict was between Willy and Biff. There were many reasons that triggered conflicts.

Father-son Betrayal. "In the eyes of Biff, Willy is an omnipotent hero. He admires Willy and treats him as an idol. For Willy, Biff is his proud just as the character of Apollo." Willy hoped that Biff could follow his plan, be admitted into university or go into business. To Biff's disappointment, he failed in the graduation exam. He thought it was not only his failure but also a strike to his father. He prepared to go to university, especially for his father. So he went to Boston to turn to him for help. However, Biff discovered the secret about his father that shocked him. His father had an affair with a woman in the hotel. He was so frustrated and flew into in a rage. Willy's hero image in son's mind was fragmented. Willy turned out to be a hypocrite and a "liar". Since then, Biff's spiritual pillar collapsed. He burned his favorite football shoes of the University of Virginia and refused to attend summer session, giving up the opportunity of going to university and embarked on a completely different way. Without Willy's betrayal, maybe Biff would have different destiny.

Father's Inappropriate Education. Happy, an attractive and powerful man, was Willy's second son. He tried to attract Willy's attention and he desired for father's favor. But Willy gave Biff more attention, he had never realized what happened and just ignored Happy's feeling.

As unfortunate as it is, there are many instances where a father favors one son over another, which leads to social conflicts within the less-favored son. In most cases if the elder son is favored, the younger son will be ignored.

Parents should educate children that it is shameful to be a thief. But Willy did not prevent and even instigate Biff's theft; he did not punish Biff for "borrowing" a football from school. Under the twisted values and education, Biff became misdemeanor. If Willy had stopped Biff and educated him, things may become different.

In material society, a person who is successful does not depend on his popularity. Under Willy's educational philosophy, Biff pursuits the so-called personal charm and ignores his own talent. There is no doubt that his failure is doomed.

Therefore, family education has a great impact on children growth and development. Willy, to some extent, was not a good father. He instilled twisted dream of being a successful salesman into their mind, not teaching his sons right values, not underlining the importance of study.

Different views of American Dream. When he was young, Willy was educated by the principle of “American Dream”, that was to work hard to reach one’s goal, he admired his father and brother Ben’s diligence and success in the jungle, while he was determined to chase his success in a big city. Just as Eugene O’Neill said, “We talk much about American Dream and propagate it across the world. To the majority, does not it mean to pursue the material success?” He did have ambition, but could not understand the truth of the business and his real needs. He expected to gain more chance by his good personality and other’s respect. Hence, Willy wanted his two sons to live in wealthy and decent life, but their dreams collide, namely, city to country, reality to idealism. The point was that they could not confront the reality.

Biff, an idealistic boy, was aware of the fact that he did not belong to the business world. He was disgusted at Business community preferring natural life. Biff thought it was worthless in the way of life of the city. When he came back home to readjust himself, Willy regarded it as a failure. The following conversation was Biff’s inner voice.

Biff:(with rising agitation): Hap, I’ve had twenty or thirty different kinds of jobs since I left home before the war, and it always turns out the same.....I suddenly get the feeling, my God, I’m not get in anywhere! What the hell am I doing, playing around with horses, twenty-eight dollars a week! I’m thirty-four years old, I ought to be make my future. That’s when I come running home. And now, I get here, and I don’t know what to do with myself. (After a pause)I’ve always made a point of not wasting my life, and every time I come back here I know that all I’ve done is to waste my life. “Happy had never fully come to realize that phony part of his father and his father’s dreams. Moreover, he had more fully than Biff accepted his father’s dreams.” He managed to pursue the American Dream. At the end of the play, he still was blind to recognize himself, but determined to stay in the city and carry out his father’s dream by becoming a top businessman.

Conflicts between Willy and Linda. Linda loved Willy very much. Although Willy disrespected her even betrayed her, she was totally obedient to Willy, dare not talk with him. Biff: Did you have it taken off?

Linda: I'm—I'm ashamed to. How can I mention it to him? Every day I go down and take away that little rubber pipe. But, when he comes home, I put it back where it was. How can I insult him that way? I don't know what to do. I live from day to day, boys. I tell you, I know every thought in his mind. It sounds so old—fashioned and silly, but I tell you he put his whole life into you and you've turned your backs on him.

On the surface, there was no conflict between Willy, the sinful and moody husband, and Linda, the loving and patient wife. But at a deep level, it was partly the conflict between them that leads to the problems of the family. They cannot communicate with each other very well. Willy suffered a lot physically and spiritually on his trip or his work, his patient and considerate wife could not share the pressure with him. She just mentioned casually the bill they had to pay and carefully accommodated the father-son conflict. She did not try changing her husband's twisted values, nor did she prevent the breakup of the family at last. It was the tragedy of love and family.

3.4 Willy Loman's Death as a Social Tragedy

Willy was influenced by the concept of Darwin "The origin of species", the survival of the fittest.

However, the real society was not that fair to everyone, especially to those from middle-low class.

Howard: We have only got a half-dozen salesman on the floor here.

No, but it is business, kid, and every body's gotta pull his own weight.

Willy I put thirty-four years into this firm, Howard, and now I can't pay my insurance! You can't eat the orange and throw the peel away— a man is not a piece of fruit!

Willy was the victim of society, particularly a victim of a harsh economic system that first used and then discarded him. At that time, under the influence of money worship and various desires, people, especially, the capitalists would like to try every means to guarantee their survival and success in society. The employers were rather exploitative, who regarded employees as pieces of fruit, eating the fruit and throw the peel away. Regardless of how much sacrifice Willy has made for the company, his boss merely cared about Willy's current values and refused to provide him one more chance.

Conclusion

The play ends in tragedy when Willy decides to commit suicide hence the nickname Death of a Salesman. He had no real friends to attend his funeral which his brother Charlie and his family attended. Arthur explains that there are situations that arise in an individual's life when he must set aside his own desires to please the family and atone for their faults. According to Lully, his actions would result in insurance reimbursement for his family and sparing the shame of the scandal upon which his life was based. The book is inspiring because it depicts the harsh reality of society among struggling families.

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