



# Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*

## Characters/Part I

By

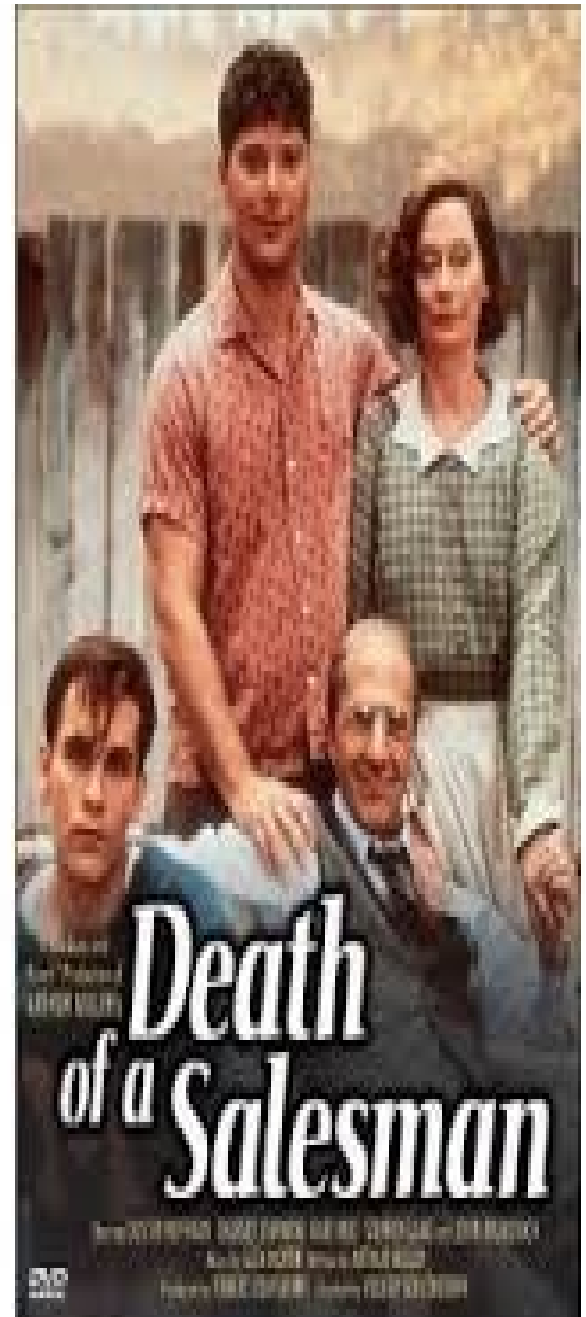
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# Willy Loman

The main character in the play, Willy, develops a theory involving personal attractiveness and being well-liked. He believes that if a person is well-liked and has a great deal of attractiveness, he can easily achieve success. Willy builds his life around this illusion.



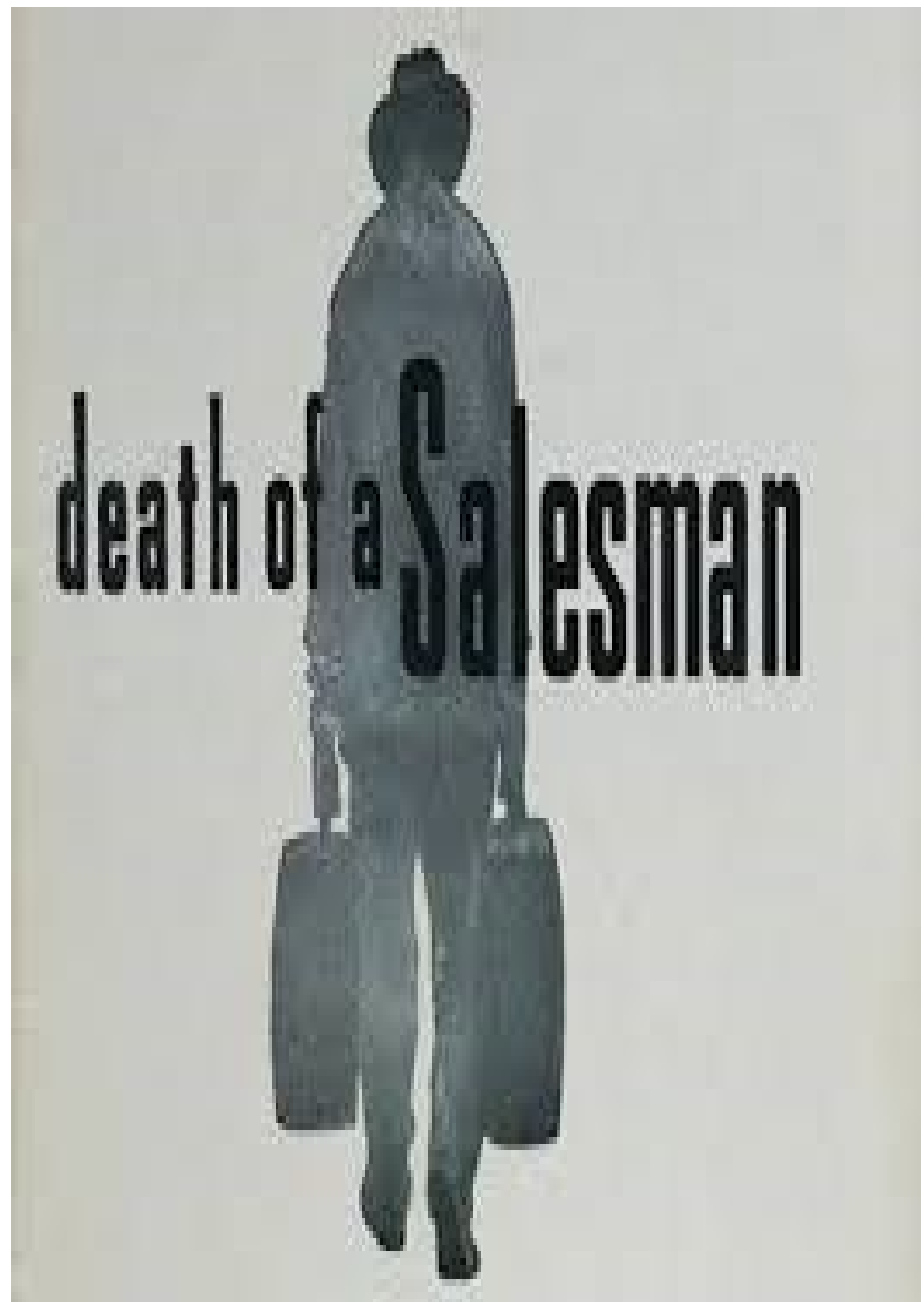


Once in his youth, he has seen a man named Dave Singleman who is able to stay in his hotel room, where he telephones buyers and sells a tremendous amount of merchandise without even leaving his room. When he dies at the age of eighty-four, buyers and salesmen from all over the country come to his funeral.

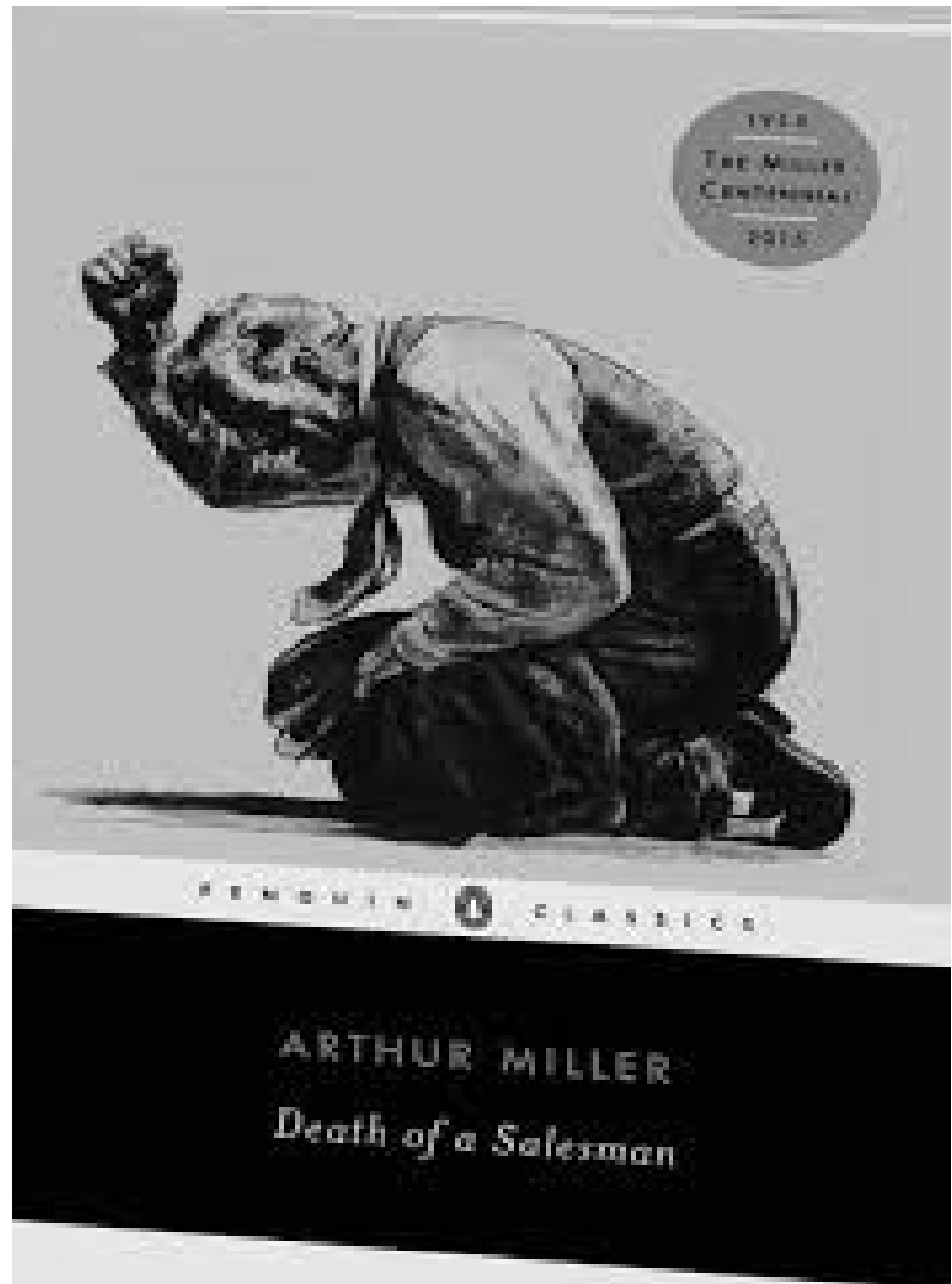
Thus, Willy spends his life trying to imitate this person. He speaks of Dave Singleman as a legend and imagines that his death must have been beautifully noble.



Willy begins to tell lies about how well-liked he is in all of his towns and how vital (important) he is to New England. At times Willy even believes these illusion and becomes so enthusiastic that he tells his family that he has made more money in commission (getting money according to the amount he sells).



Despite the fact that he is presented as a pathetic figure, his character remains flat since he does not achieve self-realisation or self-knowledge typical of the tragic hero. He cannot grasp the true understanding of himself as a literal “loman” or “low man.”



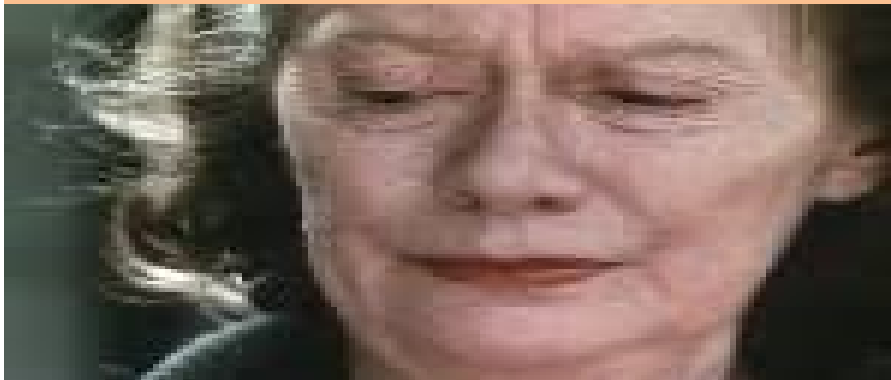
## Linda Loman

Linda is Willy's long-suffering, devoted wife, who desperately loves her husband and resents the fact that his sons do not love and appreciate their father as much as she believes they should.



Linda speaks carefully, and has a quiet manner that belies her inner strength.

Linda has tremendous patience, and serves as the family peacemaker.



Linda knows that Willy is suicidal, irrational, and difficult to deal with; however, she goes along with Willy's fantasies in order to protect him from the criticism of others, as well as his own self-criticism.

