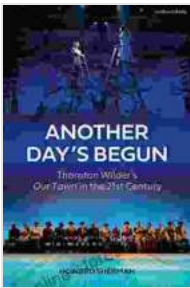


# Thornton Wilder's Our Town: A Timeless Classic in the 21st Century

Thornton Wilder's play "Our Town" premiered in 1938 and has since become a beloved classic of American theater. Set in the small town of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, the play follows the lives of several ordinary characters over the course of their everyday lives, from childhood to adulthood. Despite its seemingly simple plot, "Our Town" is a profound and moving exploration of the human condition. It offers insights into the universal themes of life, death, and the importance of human connection.



## Another Day's Begun: Thornton Wilder's Our Town in the 21st Century by Howard Sherman

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 2586 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 249 pages



One of the striking features of "Our Town" is its unconventional staging. The play is performed with minimal scenery, and the actors often speak directly to the audience. This bare-bones approach forces the audience to focus on the characters and their relationships, rather than being distracted by elaborate sets or costumes. In ng so, Wilder creates a sense of intimacy

and immediacy that allows the audience to connect with the characters on a deeply personal level.

The characters in "Our Town" are ordinary people, but they are also deeply human. They love, they lose, they laugh, they cry, and they ultimately face the inevitability of death. Through their experiences, we learn about the fragility of life and the importance of cherishing every moment. Wilder does not shy away from the difficult aspects of life, but he also celebrates the beauty and joy that can be found in even the simplest of things.

One of the most famous scenes in "Our Town" is the "drugstore scene." This scene takes place in the town drugstore, where the characters gather to share gossip, flirt, and talk about their hopes and dreams. It is a slice of everyday life that is both poignant and humorous. In this scene, we see the characters at their most vulnerable and relatable. They are not always perfect, but they are always trying their best to make sense of the world around them.

"Our Town" has been praised by critics for its realism, its humor, and its compassion. It is a play that has something to say to everyone, regardless of their age or background. It is a play that celebrates the human spirit and reminds us of the importance of living each day to the fullest.

In the 21st century, "Our Town" remains as relevant and meaningful as it was when it was first written. It continues to be performed by theater companies around the world, and it is still studied in schools and universities. The play's message of hope and resilience is something that we all need to hear, especially in these challenging times.

If you have never seen "Our Town," I encourage you to do so. It is a play that will stay with you long after you leave the theater. It is a play that will make you laugh, cry, and think about the meaning of life.

Here are some additional thoughts on "Our Town" in the 21st century:

- The play's themes of life, death, and human connection are still relevant today, even in a world that is constantly changing.
- The play's simple staging allows the audience to focus on the characters and their relationships. This is especially important in a time when we are often distracted by the digital world.
- The play's message of hope and resilience is something that we all need to hear, especially in these challenging times.

I believe that "Our Town" is a play that will continue to be relevant and meaningful for generations to come. It is a classic of American theater that deserves to be seen by everyone.

**Image alt attribute:** A photograph of a stage production of "Our Town." The stage is bare, with only a few chairs and a backdrop. The actors are dressed in simple clothing and are interacting with each other.



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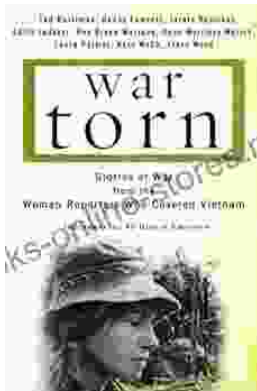
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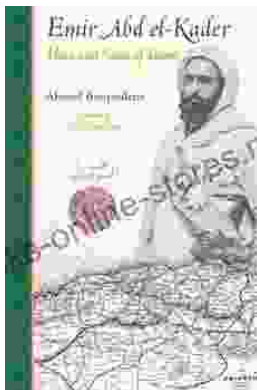
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