

The Bridge Of San Luis Rey Thornton Wilder

Thornton Wilder was the rare writer whose achievements as a playwright were matched by equal abilities as a novelist. As companion to its volume of Wilder's collected plays, The Library of America's edition of his early novels and stories brings together five novels that highlight his wit, erudition, innovative formal structures, and philosophical wisdom. Drawing on the post-collegiate year he spent in Rome, Wilder fashioned in *The Cabala* a tale of youthful enchantment with the Eternal City in the form of a fictitious memoir of an American student and the enigmatic coterie of noble Romans who draw him into their midst. He followed this debut novel two years later with *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, which catapulted him to literary prominence and earned him the first of his three Pulitzer prizes. Set in 18th-century Peru, the book is a kind of theological detective story concerning a friar's investigations into the lives of five individuals before they were killed in a bridge collapse. An elegantly told parable, with credible historical ambience and psychologically rounded characters, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* is primarily a probing inquiry into the nature of destiny: Why did God allow these particular people to die? *The Woman of Andros*, based on the *Andria* of Roman writer Terence, is a meditation on the ancient world filtered through the sensibility of a meditative courtesan; *Heaven's My Destination*, a departure from Wilder's historical themes, is a picaresque romp through Depression-era America; and *The Ides of March* takes up the story of Julius Caesar's assassination by imagining the exchange of letters among such prominent ancient figures as Catullus, Cleopatra, Cicero, and Caesar himself, "groping in the open seas of his unlimited power for the first principles which should guide him." The volume concludes with a selection of early short stories--among them "Précautions Inutiles," published here for the first time--and a selection of essays that offers Wilder's insights into the works of Stein and Joyce, as well as a lecture on letter writers that bears on both *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* and *The Ides of March*. LIBRARY OF AMERICA is an independent nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1979 to preserve our nation's literary heritage by publishing, and keeping permanently in print, America's best and most significant writing. The Library of America series includes more than 300 volumes to date, authoritative editions that average 1,000 pages in length, feature cloth covers, sewn bindings, and ribbon markers, and are printed on premium acid-free paper that will last for centuries.

Presents an anthology of novels, short stories, and essays.

This beautiful new edition features unpublished notes for the novel and other illuminating documentary material, all of which is included in a new Afterword by Tappan Wilder. "On Friday noon, July the twentieth, 1714, the finest bridge in all Peru broke and precipitated five travelers into the gulf below." With this celebrated sentence Thornton Wilder begins *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, one of the towering achievements in American fiction and a novel read throughout the

world. By chance, a monk witnesses the tragedy. Brother Juniper then embarks on a quest to prove that it was divine intervention rather than chance that led to the deaths of those who perished in the tragedy. His search leads to his own death -- and to the author's timeless investigation into the nature of love and the meaning of the human condition. This new edition of Wilder's 1928 Pulitzer Prize winning novel contains a new foreword by Russell Banks.

The Bridge of San Luis Rey A Novel HarperCollins

"Thornton Wilder: A Life brings readers face to face with the extraordinary man who made words come alive around the world, on the stage and on the page."

—James Earl Jones, actor "Comprehensive and wisely fashioned....This book is a splendid and long needed work." —Edward Albee, playwright Thornton

Wilder—three-time Pulitzer Prize winner, creator of such enduring stage works as

Our Town and The Skin of Our Teeth, and beloved novels like Bridge of San Luis

Ray and Theophilus North—was much more than a pivotal figure in twentieth

century American theater and literature. He was a world-traveler, a student, a

teacher, a soldier, an actor, a son, a brother, and a complex, intensely private

man who kept his personal life a secret. In Thornton Wilder: A Life, author

Penelope Niven pulls back the curtain to present a fascinating, three-dimensional portrait one of America's greatest playwrights, novelists, and literary icons.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize "The essence of Mr. Wilder's book is really the

feeling in it; it is a 'notation of the heart' with sympathy. Gaily or sadly, but

always with understanding, a belief in the miracle of love runs through it all."

—Times Literary Supplement (London) "On Friday noon, July the twentieth, 1714,

the finest bridge in all Peru broke and precipitated five travelers into the gulf

below." With this celebrated sentence Thornton Wilder begins The Bridge of San

Luis Rey, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and a novel beloved throughout the world.

By fate or chance, a monk has witnessed the collapse. Deeply moved by the

tragedy, Brother Juniper embarks on a quest to prove that it was divine

intervention, not chance, that led to the deaths of the five people crossing the

bridge that day. His search leads readers on a timeless investigation into the

nature of love and the meaning of the human condition.. This edition includes a

foreword by acclaimed author Russell Banks and an afterword by Wilder's

nephew, Tappan, along with previously unpublished notes and other illuminating

documentary material about the novel and author.

Collected interviews with the Pulitzer Prize-winning author and playwright most

widely known today for his play, Our Town

A Franciscan monk's investigation into the collapse of a Peruvian bridge probes

the private lives of the victims

Volume One of the collected short plays by one of the greatest American

playwrights of the Twentieth Century.

From the critically acclaimed and award-winning author of Golden Hill, an

"extraordinary...symphonic...casually stunning" (The Wall Street Journal) novel

tracing the infinite possibilities of five lives in the bustling neighborhoods of 20th-

century London. Lunchtime on a Saturday, 1944: the Woolworths on Bexford High Street in South London receives a delivery of aluminum saucepans. A crowd gathers to see the first new metal in ages—after all, everything's been melted down for the war effort. An instant later, the crowd is gone; incinerated. Among the shoppers were five young children. Who were they? What futures did they lose? This brilliantly constructed novel, inspired by real events, lets an alternative reel of time run, imagining the lives of these five souls as they live through the extraordinary, unimaginable changes of the bustling immensity of twentieth-century London. Their intimate everyday dramas, as sons and daughters, spouses, parents, grandparents; as the separated, the remarried, the bereaved. Through decades of social, sexual, and technological transformation, as bus conductors and landlords, as swindlers and teachers, patients and inmates. Days of personal triumphs and disasters; of second chances and redemption. Ingenious and profound, full of warmth and beauty, *Light Perpetual* "offers a moving view of how people confront the gap between their expectations and their reality" (*The New Yorker*) and illuminates the shapes of experience, the extraordinariness of the ordinary, the mysteries of memory, and the preciousness of life.

The last of Thornton Wilder's works published during his lifetime, *Theophilus North* is part autobiographical and part the imagined adventures of Wilder's twin brother who died at birth. This edition features an updated afterword from Wilder's nephew, Tappan Wilder, with illuminating material about the novelist, story and setting. Setting out to see the world in the summer of 1926, Theophilus North gets as far as Newport, Rhode Island, before his car breaks down. To support himself, Theophilus takes jobs in the elegant mansions along Ocean Drive, just as Wilder himself did in the same decade. Soon the young man finds himself playing the roles of tutor, tennis coach, spy, confidant, lover, friend and enemy as he becomes entangled in adventure and intrigue in Newport's fabulous addresses, as well as in its local boarding houses, restaurants, dives and military barracks. Narrated by the elderly North from a distance of fifty years, *Theophilus North* is a fascinating commentary on youth and education from the vantage point of age, and deftly displays Wilder's trademark wit juxtaposed with his lively and timeless ruminations on what really matters, at the end of the day, about life, love, and work.

A guide to reading "Our Town" with a critical and appreciative mind encouraging analysis of plot, style, form, and structure. Also includes background on the author's life and times, sample tests, term paper suggestions, and a reading list. A quick and easy-to-use guide to Santa Barbara County's fun, fortifying (and sometimes even free) family-friendly activities.

"Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, this is the groundbreaking satiric fantasy follows the extraordinary Antrobus family down through the ages from the time of 'The War' surviving flood, fire, pestilence, locusts, the ice age, the pox and the double feature, a dozen subsequent wars and as many depressions. Ultimately, they are

