

a wagner matinee summary analysis

A Wagner Matinee: Summary, Analysis, and Enduring Legacy

Introduction:

Have you ever experienced a piece of art so powerful it transcends its time, resonating with the human spirit across generations? Willa Cather's short story, "A Wagner Matinee," does just that. This poignant tale explores themes of sacrifice, the transformative power of art, and the stark contrast between the harsh realities of life on the frontier and the sublime beauty of classical music. This in-depth analysis will delve into a comprehensive summary of the story, examine its key themes and symbolism, explore the characters' motivations, and ultimately, consider its lasting impact on readers. We'll unpack the emotional weight of the narrative and uncover why "A Wagner Matinee" continues to captivate audiences well over a century after its publication. Prepare to be moved by the story and gain a deeper understanding of its enduring relevance.

I. A Summary of "A Wagner Matinee"

The story centers on Aunt Georgiana, a woman who sacrificed her love of music and a life of artistic fulfillment for the sake of her family. She spent years living a harsh, isolated existence on a Nebraska farm, far removed from the cultured world she once knew. Her nephew, Clark, a pragmatic and somewhat callous man living in Boston, visits her and reluctantly agrees to take her to a performance of Wagner's music in Boston. This trip marks a profound emotional journey for Aunt Georgiana, who hasn't experienced music of this caliber for years. The initial excitement gradually transforms into overwhelming emotion as the music awakens long-dormant feelings and memories. The experience is both exhilarating and deeply unsettling, ultimately leaving her emotionally drained but profoundly touched. Upon returning to her isolated life, she exhibits a palpable sense of loss, a wistful longing for the life that might have been. The story subtly underscores the contrast between her refined spirit and her austere reality, leaving the reader pondering the price of sacrifice and the enduring power of art.

II. Analyzing the Key Themes:

Sacrifice and Duty: Aunt Georgiana's life is a testament to self-sacrifice. Her dedication to family led her to abandon her passion for music and endure a life of hardship. Cather skillfully portrays the conflict between personal desires and societal expectations, highlighting the heavy toll of such sacrifices.

The Transformative Power of Art: The Wagnerian music acts as a catalyst, awakening Georgiana's suppressed emotions and memories. It transports her beyond the harsh reality of her existence, momentarily restoring her connection to a world of beauty and refinement. This emphasizes the healing and transformative nature of art.

Civilization vs. Frontier: The story creates a stark contrast between the refined culture represented by the Wagnerian music and the rugged, unforgiving environment of the Nebraska frontier. This contrast underscores the inherent tension between spiritual and material needs.

Memory and Nostalgia: The music triggers a flood of memories, both joyous and painful, highlighting the bittersweet nature of nostalgia. It reveals the deep psychological impact of past experiences and the enduring power of memory.

Social Class and Opportunity: The story subtly critiques the social inequalities that limited Georgiana's opportunities and forced her to sacrifice her dreams. It highlights the impact of social class on personal fulfillment.

III. Character Analysis: Aunt Georgiana and Clark

Aunt Georgiana: Georgiana is a complex character, embodying both strength and fragility. Her years of self-denial haven't diminished her capacity for profound emotion or her appreciation for beauty. She represents the silent sacrifices often made by women in the past, sacrificing their own desires for the well-being of their families.

Clark: Clark, Georgiana's nephew, serves as a foil to his aunt. He represents the pragmatic, materialistic side of life, seemingly oblivious to the depth of his aunt's emotional experience. His initial reluctance to take her to the concert, followed by his detached observation of her transformation, underscores the contrast between their perspectives. He acts as a conduit through which the reader witnesses Georgiana's emotional journey.

IV. Symbolism and Literary Devices:

Cather employs various literary devices to enhance the story's impact. The Wagnerian music itself acts as a powerful symbol of beauty, transcendence, and the restorative power of art. The stark contrast between the concert hall and the Nebraska farm serves as a visual representation of the dichotomy between civilization and the frontier. Cather's use of imagery and sensory details brings the emotional experience to life, allowing the reader to fully appreciate the intensity of Georgiana's feelings. The descriptive language used to portray both the music and the Nebraska landscape heightens the emotional contrast.

V. Conclusion: Lasting Relevance of "A Wagner Matinee"

"A Wagner Matinee" continues to resonate with readers today because it explores timeless themes of sacrifice, duty, and the transformative power of art. It reminds us of the importance of nurturing our passions and the profound impact that art can have on the human spirit. The story serves as a poignant reflection on the choices we make, the sacrifices we endure, and the enduring power of memory. It's a story that transcends its historical context, prompting readers to contemplate the balance between personal fulfillment and societal expectations. Its lasting power lies in its ability to evoke deep emotions and inspire introspection.

VI. Outline of "A Wagner Matinee" Analysis:

Introduction: Brief overview of the story and its enduring relevance.

Chapter 1: Summary: A concise summary of the plot and key events.

Chapter 2: Theme Analysis: Exploration of the story's major themes (sacrifice, art, civilization vs. frontier, etc.).

Chapter 3: Character Analysis: In-depth examination of Aunt Georgiana and Clark.

Chapter 4: Symbolism and Literary Devices: Analysis of the symbolism and literary techniques used by Cather.

Chapter 5: Conclusion: Discussion of the story's enduring relevance and lasting impact.

VII. Detailed Explanation of Outline Points: (This section elaborates on each point of the outline above, and is already largely incorporated into the previous sections of this article.)

VIII. FAQs:

1. What is the main conflict in "A Wagner Matinee"? The main conflict is the internal struggle within Aunt Georgiana between her suppressed artistic desires and her years of self-sacrifice for her family, exacerbated by the powerful reminder of her past provided by the Wagnerian music.

1. What is the significance of the Wagnerian music? The music acts as a powerful symbol of beauty, transcendence, and the restorative power of art, triggering profound emotional responses in Aunt Georgiana.

1. What is the setting of "A Wagner Matinee"? The story primarily takes place in Nebraska on a farm and in a Boston concert hall, creating a stark contrast between rural hardship and urban

culture.

1. How does Clark characterize Aunt Georgiana? Clark initially views his aunt with a mixture of pity and detachment, gradually recognizing the depth of her emotional response to the music.

1. What is the climax of the story? The climax occurs during the Wagnerian performance, when Aunt Georgiana experiences an overwhelming emotional response, a profound release of suppressed feelings.

1. What is the significance of the title? The title itself highlights the pivotal role of the Wagnerian concert in the story's unfolding and thematic development.

1. What is the overall tone of the story? The overall tone is melancholic yet deeply affecting, balancing moments of profound emotion with stark realism.

1. What type of narrative perspective is used? The story is told from a third-person limited perspective, primarily focusing on Aunt Georgiana's experience.

1. What is the central message of "A Wagner Matinee"? The central message emphasizes the profound impact of art, the cost of sacrifice, and the enduring power of human emotions and memories.

IX. Related Articles:

1. Willa Cather's Life and Works: An overview of the author's life and her contributions to American literature.
2. Symbolism in Willa Cather's Short Stories: A detailed analysis of symbolic elements in Cather's short fiction.
3. The Themes of Sacrifice in American Literature: A comparative study of the theme of sacrifice in various American literary works.
4. The Impact of Music on Human Emotion: An exploration of music's psychological and emotional effects.
5. American Realism in the Late 19th Century: A discussion of the context and characteristics of American Realism.
6. The Role of Women in Willa Cather's Fiction: An examination of female characters and their portrayal in Cather's works.
7. Comparing "A Wagner Matinee" to Other Cather Stories: A comparative analysis of "A Wagner Matinee" with other short stories by Willa Cather.
8. Critical Reception of "A Wagner Matinee": An overview of the critical response to the story over

the years.

9. Adaptations of "A Wagner Matinee": A look at any film, stage, or other adaptations of the story.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: One of Ours Willa Cather, 1922 Claude has an intuitive faith in something splendid and feels at odds with his contemporaries. The war offers him the opportunity to forget his farm and his marriage of compromise; he enlists and discovers that he has lacked. But while war demands altruism, its essence is destructive

a wagner matinee summary analysis: A Lost Lady Willa Cather, 2023-11-15 A Lost Lady is a novel by American author Willa Cather, first published in 1923. It centers on Marian Forrester, her husband Captain Daniel Forrester, and their lives in the small western town of Sweet Water, along the Transcontinental Railroad. However, it is mostly told from the perspective of a young man named Niel Herbert, as he observes the decline of both Marian and the West itself, as it shifts from a place of pioneering spirit to one of corporate exploitation. Exploring themes of social class, money, and the march of progress, A Lost Lady was praised for its vivid use of symbolism and setting, and is considered to be a major influence on the works of F. Scott Fitzgerald. It has been adapted to film twice, with a film adaptation being released in 1924, followed by a looser adaptation in 1934, starring Barbara Stanwyck. A Lost Lady begins in the small railroad town of Sweet Water, on the undeveloped Western plains. The most prominent family in the town is the Forresters, and Marian Forrester is known for her hospitality and kindness. The railroad executives frequently stop by her house and enjoy the food and comfort she offers while there on business. A young boy, Niel Herbert, frequently plays on the Forrester estate with his friend. One day, an older boy named Ivy Peters arrives, and shoots a woodpecker out of a tree. He then blinds the bird and laughs as it flies around helplessly. Niel pities the bird and tries to climb the tree to put it out of its misery, but while climbing he slips, and breaks his arm in the fall, as well as knocking himself unconscious. Ivy takes him to the Forrester house where Marian looks after him. When Niel wakes up, he's amazed by the nice house and how sweet Marian smells. He doesn't see her much after that, but several years later he and his uncle, Judge Pommeroy, are invited to the Forrester house for dinner. There he meets Ellinger, who he will later learn is Mrs. Forrester's lover, and Constance, a young girl his age.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: Early Novels and Stories Willa Cather, 1987 Presents a selection of writings by nineteenth-century American author Willa Cather, featuring the short story collection The Troll Garden, and four novels, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning One of Ours.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: My Antonia Willa Cather, 2021-01-08 My Antonia is a novel by an American writer Willa Cather. It is the final book of the prairie trilogy of novels, preceded by O Pioneers! and The Song of the Lark. The novel tells the stories of an orphaned boy from Virginia, Jim Burden, and Antonia Shimerda, the daughter of Bohemian immigrants. They are both became pioneers and settled in Nebraska in the end of the 19th century. The first year in the very new place leaves strong impressions in both children, affecting them lifelong. The narrator and the main character of the novel My Antonia, Jim grows up in Black Hawk, Nebraska from age 10 Eventually, he becomes a successful lawyer and moves to New York City.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: 7 Best Short Stories by Willa Cather Willa Cather, August Nemo, 2020-05-15 Winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1923, Willa Cather is one of the most famous voices of American Literary Regionalism. His favorite scenario is Maine and his characters

are the pioneers whose work helped shape the identity of America. The critic August Nemo selected seven short stories from this essential author of American literature: A Burglar's Christmas A Wagner Matinee On the Gull's Road Paul's Case The Enchanted Bluff The Namesake The Garden Lodge

a wagner matinee summary analysis: As for Me and My House Sinclair Ross, 2018-01-09 As For Me and My House is an essential Canadian work--a precise and compelling portrait of our culture, our psyche, and the nature of contemporary art itself, now available as a Penguin Modern Classic. In the windswept town of Horizon, an unnamed diarist paints a vivid and enthralling picture of prairie life in the Depression era. Atmospheric, intimate, and richly observed, As For Me and My House is a moving meditation on the bittersweet nature of human relationships, on the bonds that tie people together and the undercurrents of feeling that can tear them apart. It is one of Canada's great novels and a landmark in modern fiction.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: A Bad Year for Tomatoes John Patrick, 1975 THE STORY: Fed up with the pressures and demands of her acting career, the famous Myra Marlowe leases a house in the tiny New England hamlet of Beaver Haven and settles down to write her autobiography. She is successful in turning aside the offers

a wagner matinee summary analysis: Lake Wobegon Summer 1956 Garrison Keillor, 2002-08-27 Meet fourteen-year-old Gary. A self-described tree-toad, a sly and endearing geek, Gary has many unwieldy passions, chief among them his cousin Kate, his Underwood typewriter and the soft-porn masterpiece, High School Orgies. The folks of Lake Wobegon don't have much patience for a kid's ungodly obsessions, and so Gary manages to filter the hormonal earthquake that is puberty and his hopeless devotion to glamorous, rebellious Kate through his fantastic yarns. With every marvellous story he moves a few steps closer to becoming a writer. And when Kate gets herself into trouble with the local baseball star, Gary also experiences the first pangs of a broken heart. With his trademark gift for treading a line delicate as a cobweb between satire and sentiment (Cleveland Plain Dealer), Garrison Keillor brilliantly captures a newly minted post-war America and delivers an unforgettable comedy about a writer coming of age in the rural Midwest.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: My Antonia Willa Cather, 2024-01-02 A haunting tribute to the heroic pioneers who shaped the American Midwest This powerful novel by Willa Cather is considered to be one of her finest works and placed Cather in the forefront of women novelists. It tells the stories of several immigrant families who start new lives in America in rural Nebraska. This powerful tribute to the quiet heroism of those whose struggles and triumphs shaped the American Midwest highlights the role of women pioneers, in particular. Written in the style of a memoir penned by Antonia's tutor and friend, the book depicts one of the most memorable heroines in American literature, the spirited eldest daughter of a Czech immigrant family, whose calm, quite strength and robust spirit helped her survive the hardships and loneliness of life on the Nebraska prairie. The two form an enduring bond and through his chronicle, we watch Antonia shape the land while dealing with poverty, treachery, and tragedy. "No romantic novel ever written in America...is one half so beautiful as My Antonia." -H. L. Mencken Willa Cather (1873-1947) was an American writer best known for her novels of the Plains and for One of Ours, a novel set in World War I, for which she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1923. She was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1943 and received the gold medal for fiction from the National Institute of Arts and Letters in 1944, an award given once a decade for an author's total accomplishments. By the time of her death she had written twelve novels, five books of short stories, and a collection of poetry.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: Trilby George Du Maurier, 1895 Little Billee is a young English painter with great talent. He and his friends Taffy and the Laird share a studio in a Quartier Latin neighborhood full of artists and musicians, including a German-Polish music teacher named Svengali. The group become acquainted with an artists' model named Trilby, who was orphaned as a child and who works to support her little brother and herself. Trilby is lively, charming, unpretentious, and beautiful, and soon Little Billee is madly in love. When his mother learns that

Little Billee intends to marry an artists' model (nude models were almost as socially unacceptable as prostitutes) she travels to Paris and tells Trilby that such a marriage would mean ruin for Billee and his family. Trilby promises that she will never see Little Billee again. Soon afterward, Trilby vanishes, leaving Billee sick and distraught. Many years later, Billee and his friends hear of a singer called La Svengali who has astonished all of Europe. By attending one of her performances, they learn that La Svengali is the wife of the music teacher they knew in the Quartier Latin, trained by him to sing with more technical mastery than anyone has ever heard. When La Svengali appears on stage, they see that she is none other than Trilby. Her singing moves the audience to tears, though everyone notices that she moves stiffly and strangely and that her face is as blank as an automaton's. Not until Svengali dies suddenly during a concert is Trilby set free from the hypnotic spell that has controlled her for years.--Allreaders.com.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: *The Sculptor's Funeral* Willa Cather, 1928

a wagner matinee summary analysis: *The Undersea Network* Nicole Starosielski, 2015-03-02 In our wireless world it is easy to take the importance of the undersea cable systems for granted, but the stakes of their successful operation are huge, as they are responsible for carrying almost all transoceanic Internet traffic. In *The Undersea Network* Nicole Starosielski follows these cables from the ocean depths to their landing zones on the sandy beaches of the South Pacific, bringing them to the surface of media scholarship and making visible the materiality of the wired network. In doing so, she charts the cable network's cultural, historical, geographic and environmental dimensions. Starosielski argues that the environments the cables occupy are historical and political realms, where the network and the connections it enables are made possible by the deliberate negotiation and manipulation of technology, culture, politics and geography. Accompanying the book is an interactive digital mapping project, where readers can trace cable routes, view photographs and archival materials, and read stories about the island cable hubs.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: *The Affair at Grover Station* Willa Cather, 1972

a wagner matinee summary analysis: *Women & Fiction* Susan Cahill, 2002 Twenty-six stories by Mansfield, Wharton, Woolf, Porter, Lessing, Oates and others illuminate the special experience of being a woman.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: *Chickadee* Louise Erdrich, 2012-08-21 Winner of the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction, *Chickadee* is the first novel of a new arc in the critically acclaimed Birchbark House series by New York Times bestselling author Louise Erdrich. Twin brothers Chickadee and Makoons have done everything together since they were born—until the unthinkable happens and the brothers are separated. Desperate to reunite, both Chickadee and his family must travel across new territories, forge unlikely friendships, and experience both unexpected moments of unbearable heartache as well as pure happiness. And through it all, Chickadee has the strength of his namesake, the chickadee, to carry him on. *Chickadee* continues the story of one Ojibwe family's journey through one hundred years in America. School Library Journal, in a starred review, proclaimed, Readers will be more than happy to welcome little *Chickadee* into their hearts.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: *Hoors* Gregory Burke, 2009-12-03 *Small Town, Fife*. Andy and Vicky were meant to be getting married tomorrow. The trouble is, Andy's stag weekend was so epic, so legendary, that he didn't survive it. The finest pleasures that Amsterdam and Hamburg have to offer, together with a mile-high fling with a budget-airline stewardess, brought him down to earth with a bump. Now it's time for the post-mortem. A black comedy about waking up to find the party's over, Gregory Burke's *Hoors* premiered at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, in May 2009.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: *The Cambridge Companion to Operetta* Anastasia Belina, Derek B. Scott, 2020 A collection of essays revealing how operetta spread across borders and became popular on the musical stages of the world.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: *Final Cuts* Ellen Datlow, 2020-06-02 Legendary genre editor Ellen Datlow brings together eighteen dark and terrifying original stories inspired by cinema and television. A BLUMHOUSE BOOKS HORROR ORIGINAL. From the secret reels of a notoriously

cursed cinematic masterpiece to the debauched livestreams of modern movie junkies who will do anything for clicks, *Final Cuts* brings together new and terrifying stories inspired by the many screens we can't peel our eyes away from. Inspired by the rich golden age of the film and television industries as well as the new media present, this new anthology reveals what evils hide behind the scenes and between the frames of our favorite medium. With original stories from a diverse list of some of the best-known names in horror, *Final Cuts* will haunt you long after the credits roll. NEW STORIES FROM: Josh Malerman, Chris Golden, Stephen Graham Jones, Garth Nix, Laird Barron, Kelley Armstrong, John Langan, Richard Kadrey, Paul Cornell, Lisa Morton, AC Wise, Dale Bailey, Jeffrey Ford, Cassandra Khaw, Nathan Ballingrud, Gemma Files, Usman T. Malik, and Brian Hodge.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: Quartet Jean Rhys, 1997 The story of a woman on the edge caught in the stranglehold between her lover and his wife. When her husband is released from prison, the situation explodes.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: Life After Life Kate Atkinson, 2014 WINNER OF THE COSTA NOVEL AWARD What if you had the chance to live your life again and again, until you finally got it right? During a snowstorm in England in 1910, a baby is born and dies before she can take her first breath. During a snowstorm in England in 1910, the same baby is born and lives to tell the tale. What if there were second chances? And third chances? In fact an infinite number of chances to live your life? Would you eventually be able to save the world from its own inevitable destiny? And would you even want to? *Life After Life* follows Ursula Todd as she lives through the turbulent events of the last century again and again. With wit and compassion, Kate Atkinson finds warmth even in life's bleakest moments, and shows an extraordinary ability to evoke the past. Here she is at her most profound and inventive, in a novel that celebrates the best and worst of ourselves.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: The Steppe, The Story of A Journey Anton Pavlovich Chekhov, 2024-08-28 Embark on a journey through the evocative landscapes of Anton Pavlovich Chekhov's *The Steppe: The Story of a Journey*. This captivating short story follows a young boy's passage across the vast and arid steppe of Russia, offering a vivid portrayal of both the natural environment and the human experiences encountered along the way. Chekhov, celebrated for his masterful storytelling and keen observations, explores themes of innocence, adventure, and the stark beauty of the Russian countryside. Through the boy's journey, Chekhov reveals the intricate details of the steppe and the profound moments of introspection that arise from travel and solitude. *The Steppe: The Story of a Journey* is a richly descriptive narrative that captures the essence of the Russian landscape and the transformative power of travel. Ideal for readers who appreciate evocative settings and the reflective storytelling of one of Russia's literary giants.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: Not Under Forty Willa Cather, 2022-08-16 DigiCat Publishing presents to you this special edition of *Not Under Forty* by Willa Cather. DigiCat Publishing considers every written word to be a legacy of humankind. Every DigiCat book has been carefully reproduced for republishing in a new modern format. The books are available in print, as well as ebooks. DigiCat hopes you will treat this work with the acknowledgment and passion it deserves as a classic of world literature.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: The Producers Mel Brooks, Tom Meehan, 2001-11-28 This is the laugh-out-loud story of two scheming men, Bialystock, a shady producer, and Bloom, his nervous accomplice. Together they come up with the ultimate con: raise more money than needed, produce a show that is bound to flop, and pocket the change. Of course, all best laid plans are subject to be mucked up.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: Roosevelt's Centurions Joseph E. Persico, 2013-05-28 "FDR's centurions were my heroes and guides. Now Joe Persico has written the best account of those leaders I've ever read."—Colin L. Powell All American presidents are commanders in chief by law. Few perform as such in practice. In *Roosevelt's Centurions*, distinguished historian Joseph E. Persico reveals how, during World War II, Franklin D. Roosevelt seized the levers of wartime power like no president since Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War. Declaring himself "Dr. Win-the-War," FDR assumed the role of strategist in chief, and, though surrounded by star-studded generals and

admirals, he made clear who was running the war. FDR was a hands-on war leader, involving himself in everything from choosing bomber targets to planning naval convoys to the design of landing craft. Persico explores whether his strategic decisions, including his insistence on the Axis powers' unconditional surrender, helped end or may have prolonged the war. Taking us inside the Allied war councils, the author reveals how the president brokered strategy with contentious allies, particularly the iron-willed Winston Churchill; rallied morale on the home front; and handpicked a team of proud, sometimes prickly warriors who, he believed, could fight a global war. Persico's history offers indelible portraits of the outsize figures who roused the "sleeping giant" that defeated the Axis war machine: the dutiful yet independent-minded George C. Marshall, charged with rebuilding an army whose troops trained with broomsticks for rifles, eggs for hand grenades; Dwight Eisenhower, an unassuming Kansan elevated from obscurity to command of the greatest fighting force ever assembled; the vainglorious Douglas MacArthur; and the bizarre battlefield genius George S. Patton. Here too are less widely celebrated military leaders whose contributions were just as critical: the irascible, dictatorial navy chief, Ernest King; the acerbic army advisor in China, "Vinegar" Joe Stilwell; and Henry H. "Hap" Arnold, who zealously preached the gospel of modern air power. The Roosevelt who emerges from these pages is a wartime chess master guiding America's armed forces to a victory that was anything but foreordained. What are the qualities we look for in a commander in chief? In an era of renewed conflict, when Americans are again confronting the questions that FDR faced—about the nature and exercise of global power—Roosevelt's Centurions is a timely and revealing examination of what it takes to be a wartime leader in a freewheeling, complicated, and tumultuous democracy.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: Toms, Coons, Mulattoes, Mammies, & Bucks Donald Bogle, 2003 This study of black images in American motion pictures, is re-issued for its 30th anniversary in its 4th edition. It includes the entire 20th century through black images in film, from the silent era to the unequalled rise of the new African American cinema and stars of today. From *The Birth of a Nation*, *Gone with the Wind*, and *Carmen Jones* to *Shaft*, *Do the Right Thing*, *Waiting to Exhale*, *The Hurricane*, and *Bamboozled*, Donald Bogle reveals the way the image of blacks in American cinema has changed - and also the shocking way in which it has often remained the same.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: *Obscure Destinies* Willa Cather, 2023-11-04 *Obscure Destinies* is a collection of three interconnected short stories written by American author Willa Cather, first published in 1932. The stories in this collection are known for their vivid depictions of life on the American frontier and the people who inhabit it. The three stories included in *Obscure Destinies* are *Neighbour Rosicky*, *Old Mrs. Harris*, and *Two Friends*. Each story explores the lives and struggles of ordinary people living in the rural Midwest, and they focus on themes such as family, community, and the passage of time. Cather's writing is praised for its evocative and realistic portrayal of the American heartland. *Obscure Destinies* showcases Cather's talent for creating memorable characters and capturing the essence of everyday life in the early 20th century. The collection is celebrated for its insight into the human condition and the enduring spirit of the American frontier.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: *An Episode of War* Stephen Crane, 2009-04-28 Though best known for *The Red Badge of Courage*, his classic novel of men at war, in his tragically brief life and career Stephen Crane produced a wealth of stories—among them *The Monster*, *The Upturned Face*, *The Open Boat*, and the title story—that stand among the most acclaimed and enduring in the history of American fiction. This superb volume collects stories of unique power and variety in which impressionistic, hallucinatory, and realistic situations alike are brilliantly conveyed through the cold, sometimes brutal irony of Crane's narrative voice.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: *The Burglar's Christmas* Willa Cather, 2021-01-01 First published in 1896, *The Burglar's Christmas* is a short story by the great American writer Willa Cather. Set in Chicago on a cold Christmas Eve, the down-and-out Crawford learns the value of forgiveness. 'The most sensuous of writers, Willa Cather builds her imagined world almost as solidly as our five senses build the universe around us.' — Rebecca West 'Her voice, laconical and richly

sensuous, sings out with a note of unequivocal love for the people she is setting down on the page.'
— Marina Warner

a wagner matinee summary analysis: Narrative Discourse Gérard Genette, 1980 Genette uses Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past* as a work to identify and name the basic constituents and techniques of narrative. Genette illustrates the examples by referring to other literary works. His systemic theory of narrative deals with the structure of fiction, including fictional devices that go unnoticed and whose implications fulfill the Western narrative tradition.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: Seeing Red David J. Schow, 2024-01-21 Brain-scorching review hyperbole! Pithy critical commentary! Big-name blurb mongering! Hardcore buy-or-die sales pitch hysteria! You'll find none of that in *Seeing Red*, David J. Schow's very first collection of short stories, back in print for the first time in nearly ten years. It features the World Fantasy Award-winning story, *Red Light*, the *Twilight Zone Magazine* prize-winner *Coming Soon to a Theatre Near You*, plus eleven more tales as startling, as disturbing, as provocative and unnerving. Between these covers you'll also find an introduction by best-selling fantasist T.E.D. Klein, and *Crimson Hindsight*, a brand-new Afterword written especially for this edition.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: Bayou Folk Kate Chopin, 2020-10-12 A pretty book of tales drawn from life among the Creoles and Acadians of Louisiana. They represent with fidelity and spirit characters and customs unfamiliar to most readers ; they are admirably told, with just enough dialect for local color; and they can hardly fail to be very popular. Some of these stories are little more than croquis — just a brief incident of idea sketched in with a few rapid strokes and left to the imagination of the reader to be materialized, if we may so speak. Others are longer and more finished, but all are full of that subtle, alien quality which holds the Creole apart from the Anglo-Saxon — a quality we do not quite understand and can never reproduce, but which is full of fascination to us from the very fact that it is so unlike ourselves.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: A White Heron Sarah Orne Jewett, 1886

a wagner matinee summary analysis: The Post-traumatic Theatre of Grotowski and Kantor Magda Romanska, 2014-10-01 Despite its international influence, Polish theatre remains a mystery to many Westerners. This volume attempts to fill in current gaps in English-language scholarship by offering a historical and critical analysis of two of the most influential works of Polish theatre: Jerzy Grotowski's 'Akropolis' and Tadeusz Kantor's 'Dead Class'. By examining each director's representation of Auschwitz, this study provides a new understanding of how translating national trauma through the prism of performance can alter and deflect the meaning and reception of theatrical works, both inside and outside of their cultural and historical contexts.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: Real Theatre Paul Rae, 2019 Draws on musicals, plays and experimental performances to show what theatre is made of and how we experience it.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: On the Divide Willa Cather, 2013-02-16 Near Rattlesnake Creek, on the side of a little draw stood Canute's shanty. North, east, south, stretched the level Nebraska plain of long rust-red grass that undulated constantly in the wind. To the west the ground was broken and rough, and a narrow strip of timber wound along the turbid, muddy little stream that had scarcely ambition enough to crawl over its black bottom. If it had not been for the few stunted cottonwoods and elms that grew along its banks, Canute would have shot himself years ago. The Norwegians are a timber-loving people, and if there is even a turtle pond with a few plum bushes around it they seem irresistibly drawn toward it.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: Great Short Works of Willa Cather Willa Cather, Robert Keith Miller, 1992 Collection of ten stories including such works as *A Wagner Matinee*, *Paul's Case*, *The Bohemian Girl*, and *Neighbor Rosicky*.

a wagner matinee summary analysis: A Study Guide for Willa Cather's "A Wagner Matinee" Gale, Cengage Learning, *A Study Guide for Willa Cather's A Wagner Matinee*, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Short Stories for Students*. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust *Short Stories for Students* for all of your research

needs.

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