

# **Echoes Down the Corridor: Collected Essays,** 1944-2000

By Arthur Miller



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For some fifty years now, Arthur Miller has been not only America's premier playwright, but also one of our foremost public intellectuals and cultural critics. **Echoes Down the Corridor** gathers together a dazzling array of more than forty previously uncollected essays and works of reportage. Here is Arthur Miller, the brilliant social and political commentator-but here, too, Miller the private man behind the internationally renowned public figure. Witty and wise, rich in artistry and insight, Echoes Down the Corridor reaffirms Arthur Miller's standing as one of the greatest writers of our time.



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## Echoes Down the Corridor: Collected Essays, 1944-2000 By Arthur Miller Bibliography

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#### **Editorial Review**

#### From Publishers Weekly

The distinguished playwright's personal dignity and decency resonate throughout this low-key but affecting collection. Best known as the author of such modern classics as Death of a Salesman and The Crucible, Miller has always been intensely engaged in the political and social issues of his day, not just in America but around the world. The 50 essays collected here range from atmospheric reminiscences of his childhood in Brooklyn and studies at the University of Michigan, to accounts of visits to China, the Soviet Union and Turkey as an advocate for victims of governmental persecution. Deeply influenced by the radical culture of the 1930s and by his youth during the depression, Miller has always been firmly on the political left; there are several references to his brush with McCarthyism in the 1950s, and "The Battle of Chicago" recounts his experiences as an anti-Vietnam War delegate at the 1968 Democratic Convention. Yet he has never succumbed to utopian notions of human and political perfectibility. The existence of evil is a given, and the collection is haunted by the Holocaust, particularly the question of how much guilt the Germans as a nation must bear and how much can be attributed to passivity in the face of power and to the indifference to others' sufferings of which we all are capable. Dismay at many manifestations of modern capitalist culture jostle a bedrock commitment to free speech in this autumnal work (more than half the pieces appeared when Miller was over 50). Editor Centola does not consistently provide dates for the essays or identify the publications in which they appeared. Nonetheless, this is a welcome companion volume to Miller's Theater Essays, illuminating the fundamental beliefs that underpin his activism as well as his art. (Oct.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

## From Library Journal

It shouldn't surprise anyone who has read or seen Death of a Salesman or The Crucible that Miller has strong political opinions, that he is concerned with ordinary people in difficult situations, and that he has a great deal of compassion. These 50 essays, previously uncollected, will only reinforce that perception; they will also supply many hours of pleasurable reading. Centola, coeditor of Miller's Theater Essays, has chosen to arrange them chronologically rather than thematically, thus offering the reader an overview of modern history and cultural analysis. This reviewer was surprised to find that Miller had even written about the Clinton/Lewinsky episode, which he analyzed in light of its similarities to (and differences from) the Salem witch trials. This collection is not to be missed. Recommended for all libraries. DSusan L. Peters, Emory Univ. Lib., Atlanta

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#### From Booklist

The most honored U.S. playwright has been summing up for quite a while. Since his own seventies, he has given us an autobiography, several new plays that some rudely suggest come from the slush pile (*The Ride down Mount Morgan* belies that rumor), his collected theater essays, a volume of stories, and now more essays, several of them, seemingly inevitably, about the theater. Many of the best pieces here are memoirs, such as "A Boy Grew in Brooklyn" and "University of Michigan," which carries the boy to college. Or they are sketches of persons he has known, such as "A Genuine Countryman" and Watson, Miller's representative World War II vet in "Belief in America." Unfortunately, Miller dilutes the book's quality with some political commentary and satire that can be leaden even when it isn't dated. This is, then, minor stuff compared to *Death of a* Salesman and *All My Sons*, but of interest because of those two classic American plays. *Ray Olson* 

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