

knowing that if their boys express a little love and admiration for their father, he might be pulled out of his dismal psychological straits. In the past the Leman family was a tight-knit unit, and Willy likes his boys around, but only if they are showing at least a meager form of success. He can not accept what they are at this time of the ending of his life, and regresses during conversations to the time of his boys' adolescence when they exhibited some promise. Though his family makes attempts at compassion, and his wife is compassion personified, Willie does not find that his retirement days are shaping up as he had planned, with two successful offspring and lots of friends to share the old days with. Willy could have come to grips with his failure and family situation if he was not so fatally involved with the American dream of success. Tommy Wilhelm's wife is close to an opposite of Willy Leman's wife. Tommy's wife goes along with his failure, and the idea of a divorce, in a way which assumes the standard of living she was accustomed to while Tommy was a ^{to} ~~to~~ success to prevail. Tommy feels she is trying to "bleed" him, with manifest justification. Tommy's father is a Willy Leman in his feelings about his son's lack of success, and treats Tommy much as Willy treats Biff, although Tommy has been able at times to live what is close to a successful life. Tommy is living in the mere hostile environment, by not having a compassionate wife and having a perfectionist father. He survives, as long as we are able to watch his proceedings in Seize The Day, and is not driven to suicide, because he has had failures in the past. We assume he will find another role in life because of his desire to survive. Willy is harder to understand because he has not hit financial bottom as has Tommy, and would have a long way to go before he arrived at the plane of destitution that Tommy