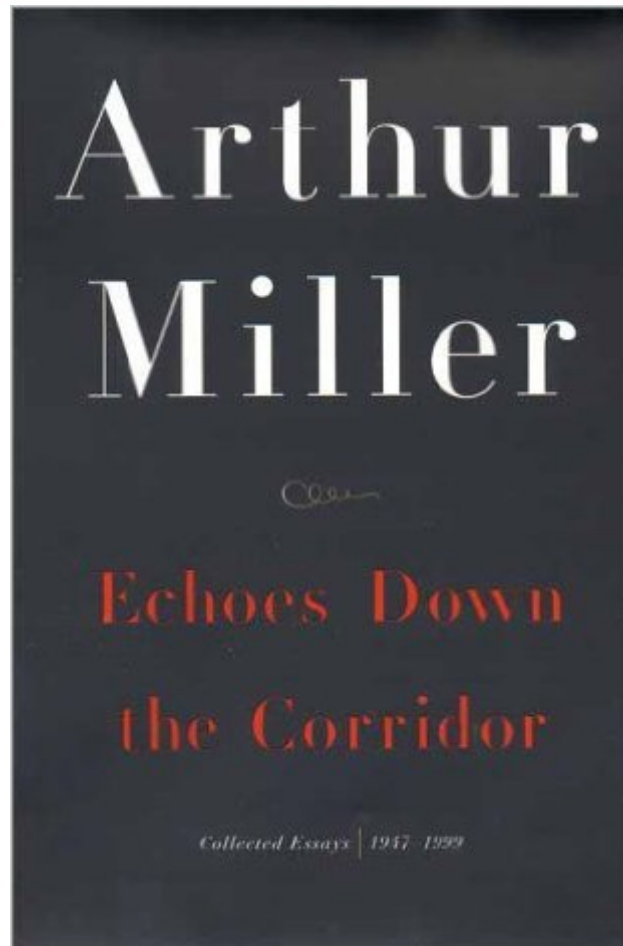


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Echoes Down The Corridor: Collected Essays, 1944-2000



Synopsis

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, from "Belief in America" (1944), which recounts Miller's experiences during the Second World War, to the "The Crucible in History", his 1999 Massey lecture at Harvard, published here for the first time. Spanning the second half of the twentieth century, *Echoes Down the Corridor* takes us on a whirlwind tour of modern history, as Miller captures the frenzied spirit of our schizophrenic age: the Holocaust and the Nazi war crime trials; the depredations of McCarthyism and "The Night Ed Murrow Struck Back"; Vietnam and a firsthand report on the 1968 "Battle of Chicago"; Watergate and the failed Nixon presidency. Here is Arthur Miller, the brilliant social and political commentator - but here, too, Miller the literary critic (on Mark Twain, Ibsen and Tennessee Williams); the Swiftian satirist ("Let's Privatize Congress"); the world traveler (with his wife Inge Morath at the Opera House in Tashkent, with Harold Pinter in Turkey, Nelson Mandela in South Africa, and "Lucky" Luciano in Sicily). Giving a rare glimpse of the private man behind the internationally renowned public figure, Miller's personal essays paint a fascinating portrait of the artist through poignant reminiscence and evocative memoirs - of a Brooklyn boyhood during the Depression, of his formative years as a young playwright, of an incredible lifetime in and out of the theatre. 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.

Book Information

Hardcover: 332 pages

Publisher: Viking; 1st edition (October 9, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0670893145

ISBN-13: 978-0670893140

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 1.1 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,546,992 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #226 in [Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Cartography](#) #5912 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Essays & Correspondence > Essays](#) #13344 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism >](#)

Customer Reviews

I read his first essay about Brooklyn on the NYT books site and had to buy the book. Miller captures the past while avoiding nostalgia and bitterness towards the present, a very hard trick to master. The Depression really comes alive in his books, as does the immediacy of the Communist witch hunt. For someone in her 20s, it's hard to imagine how visceral the fear must have been, but Miller describes the uneasiness in not knowing whether the world was becoming socialist, fascist, communist or holding on to democracy. His writing was also beautiful - perfectly constructed sentences.

This is a compilation of essays written from 1944-2000, mainly related to politics, so for those interested in Arthur Miller's thoughts on past political events & movements this will be of interest. Personally I didn't really like it. I was hoping for more personal stories and his thoughts on more general topics. I have a degree in political science so maybe that's my problem, I find it of little appeal now however I have to wonder if anyone would find this relevant anymore, I kind of doubt it. It's not all boring, I quite enjoyed the first couple of essays. After that he seemed to focus more on the political stuff (labor movements etc obviously a hot topic back in the depression) and so I felt like a squirrel digging thru a lot of dirt to find a few acorns, the interesting tidbits amongst a lot of boring stuff. I would recommend instead his autobiography which is pretty good, sadly not great, but certainly worth it: *Timebends: A Life*.

This gives books gives you tiny glints of insight into the ideas and work of the great playwright. Nothing monumental. But little steps that help one along the way.

I enjoyed the essays that dealt with his life and his experiences in the theatre. The politically based essays aren't anything that I am interested in.

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