

## A View from the Bridge

Arthur Miller's play, *A View from the Bridge*, is set in Brooklyn in the 1950s. It's a dramatic tale of incest, longing, murder and aggressive smooching centered around the downfall of one Eddie Carbone – a middle-aged docker.

Eddie lives in a poor, tight-knit Italian-American community with his long-suffering wife Beatrice and his pretty 17-year-old niece Catherine.

Eddie agrees to put up Beatrice's two illegal immigrant cousins, Marco and Rodolpho, but Rodolpho and Catherine take a fancy to each other – which bothers Eddie a little more than it probably should.

After employing numerous tactics to break up the happy couple – including the aforementioned threatening snogs - Catherine and Rodolpho are still intent on marriage. Eddie's jealousy is so over-powering that he betrays his relatives to the Immigration Office – not a wise move when said relatives are from Sicily. Marco and Rodolpho get out on bail and well, let's just say things don't turn out quite so well for Eddie...

Eddie sees Catherine and Rodolpho's engagement as a betrayal of his own sacrifice in raising Catherine;

"I worked like a dog twenty years so a punk could have her..."

But the biggest betrayal of all is committed by Eddie himself. Snitching on Marco and Rodolpho goes against the masculine Italian code of honour – exposing him to the hatred of his community. In the final fight scene with Marco it's honour that Eddie is most concerned with;

"Wipin' the neighborhood with my name like a dirty rag! I want my name, Marco!"

As Eddie lies dying he finds solace in the individual he's betrayed the most. Beatrice, despite Eddie's many faults – including a shocking kissing technique, still loves him;

Eddie: "Oh B!"

Beatrice: "Yes, yes!"

Eddie: "My B."