

One night, after a failed sales trip, Willy Loman arrives home in Brooklyn to the sound of a flute melody. Biff and his younger brother, Happy, who is also in the house, reflect about their adolescence and chat about their father's babbling, which frequently includes criticism of Biff for not living up to Willy's standards. Willy bemoans the fact that Biff, his older son, who has returned home for a visit, hasn't established himself. Willy drifts off into a daydream as Biff and Happy, who are unhappy with their life, daydream about buying a ranch in the West. Charley's son, Bernard, enters looking for Biff, who must study for math class in order to avoid failing. Willy confides in Biff and Happy that he is going to open his own business one day, bigger than that owned by his neighbor, Charley. To avoid having to fly, his wife, Linda, implores him to ask Howard Wagner, his employer, to allow him to work in New York. Willy leaves the room for the kitchen to have a snack when Linda reprimands him for being so negative. He compliments his younger sons who are washing his car. Young Happy and high school football standout Biff both make an appearance. They interact affectionately with their father, who has just returned from a business trip.