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APPENDICES

A. Synopsis of the Novel

The Summary of “The Bridge of San Luis Rey” The story begins when the bridge which connects Cuzco and Peru collapses. There are five people killed in the collapse of the bridge. Those are Marquesa De Montemayor or Dona Maria, Pepita the companion of Dona Maria, Esteban, Uncle Pio, and Don Jaime. The Peruvians are shocked when hear the news. They believe that it.

Happens because of their sins. A Franciscan monk, brother Juniper, wants to investigate what behind the accident is. He wants to prove the answers historically and mathematically. For six years, he has been collecting data. He finds whether there is a relationship among the victims. Dona Maria is one of the victims who are firstly told in the novel. She is a daughter of cloth merchant in Lima. She is ugly and stuttering. Her childhood is unhappy since her mother treats her badly. Her mother forces her to wear a lot of jewelry in order to arouse some social charms. It seems that she lives and thinks alone. At the age of twenty-six, she is forced to marry with a ruined and arrogant nobleman. Her husband fails give her love and attention. And when a beautiful daughter was born she puts her obsession of love upon her. But her daughter is cold and rejects her with repulsion. At last, Dona Clara chooses to marry with a lord from Spain, Condess d’Abuirre, which requires her removal to Spain. After four years Dona Clara left her, Dona Maria is permitted to visit Europe. She visits her daughter in Spain, in hope that their relation would be better. But they fail, each hurts the other and their relationship is getting worse.

After that, Dona Maria returns to America. The only way to reach her, daughter is by writing letter. Through the letters, she wants to show how great her love toward her daughter. Live alone, Dona Maria is getting depressed. In the meantime, she borrows someone from the convent of Santa Maria Rosa de Las Rosas to accompany her.

The Abbes Madre Maria del Pilar chooses Pepita to be old lady's companion. Feeling lonely at the inn, Pepita thinks about the Abess. She begins to write the Abess a letter telling about her loneliness and needs of love. In a hurry to prepare supper for Dona Maria, Pepita leaves the unfinished letter. Dona Maria sees the unfinished letter and reads it. After read Pepita's letter, Dona Maria realized that there is someone cares of her. Dona Maria promises to start a new life. Unfortunately, on their return trip to Lima, Dona Maria and Pepita cross the bridge when the accident occurs; both of them lose their lives. The second chapter of the novel tells about Esteban. He has a twin called Manuel.

The kind Abbes, Madre Maria del Pilar has brought them up. The hard and confining life makes them become closer emotionally. When they are getting older, they do not live in the convent anymore. After trying some jobs, their love of writing brings them to be copyists in theatre, where they meet Camil Perichole. Since then, Manuel has a close relationship with Perichole which seems unusual. Esteban questions Manuel about it, but he denies having any affection for Perichole. Soon after that, Manuel has an accident. Esteban tries to help him but Manuel curses him for messing up his love affair with Perichole. Manuel's wound is getting worse. Finally, he dies because of his wound. Esteban feels guilty and blaming himself for Manuel's unhappiness. He even tries committing suicide. Captain Alvarado, his close friend, persuades him to work in a ship going on voyage to Russia. At the first time, Esteban accepts the offer, but in the next morning, Esteban suddenly refuses it and he crosses the bridge.

Esteban killed as the bridge collapses. The next chapter tells about Uncle Pio. He is a brilliant person especially in art. He has been separated from his parents since he is ten years old. Therefore, he could be independent. When he is twenty years old, he sees quite clearly that he has three aims in his life. First, need of independence.

Second, he wants to be always near beautiful woman, and the last he wants to be near those who love Spanish literature and its masterpieces, especially in theater. With a keen eye of talent, he spies Camila Perichole, a café singer. She was singing in cafés at the age of twelve. Uncle Pio coaches her to be a famous actress in Lima. As Perichole growing adult, Uncle Pio falls in love with her. The people of Lima admire her because of her beauty and acting. Being famous makes Perichole forget her origin. She becomes a mistress of a wealthy viceroy, Don Andres, who is a widower. She becomes withdrawn, avoiding admirers including Uncle Pio, who still loves her. In epidemic of smallpox, many people get illness, including Perichole.

The news suddenly is all over Lima. Feeling ashamed with the illness Perichole gives back all her jewels to their givers. She becomes frustrated and feels disappointed. Then, Uncle Pio manages to meet Perichole. He offers to bring up one of her children. He asks it take care of Don Jaime, who is sickly. On their way to go home, they cross the Bridge of San Luis Rey; they killed in the accident. The last chapter is about the background of Brother Juniper. His six year investigation results an enormous book. But his book is considered heretical. It was ordered to burn in the Square with his author. At the Cathedral in Lima, a funeral service is held for all five victims.

Several of the relatives of the dead are changed after the accident. Perichole comes to the Abess and offers her service for the convent. Dona Clara also comes to the Abess sharing her sorrow. The accident reveals the essence of love. As the Abess says, “ There is a land of living and a land of dead and the bridge is love, the only survival, the only meaning”

B. Biography of the Author

Thornton Niven Wilder was born in Madison, Wisconsin on April 17, 1897, the son of Amos Parker Wilder and Isabella Niven Wilder. His twin brother died at birth, and Wilder grew up with an older brother, Amos who was a Hollis Professor of divinity at the Harvard Divinity School, and three younger sisters. Wilder began writing since he was a boy. He began writing plays in the Thacher School in Ojai, California, where he did not fit in and was teased by classmates as overly intellectual. He also attended Emerson Elementary School in Berkeley, and graduated from Berkeley High School in 1915. Wilder also studied in law for two years before dropping out of college in Berkeley.

Thornton Wilder attended Oberlin College before earning his B. A. at Yale University in 1920 after serving in the United States Coast guard during World War I. In this college, he refined his writing skills as a member of Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity, a literary society. He earned his M.A. in French, from Princeton University in 1926. After graduating, Wilder studied in Rome and taught French at Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. In 1926 Wilder's first novel *The Cabala* was published. And in 1927, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* brought him commercial success and his first Pulitzer Prize in 1928. It was also selected by the editorial board of American Modern Library as one of the best novels of the twentieth century.

Thornton Wilder resigned from Lawrenceville School in 1928. From 1930 to 1937 he taught at the University of Chicago. In 1938, his play *Our Town* won the Pulitzer Prize and in 1942 he again won a Pulitzer Prize for his play *The Skin of Our Teeth*. Wilder volunteered for service during World War II. He became a lieutenant colonel in the Army Air Force and received several awards. Even though Wilder considered himself as a teacher first and a writer second, he continued to write all his life. He received the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade in 1957 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963. In 1967 he won the National Book Award for his novel *The Eighth Day*. In 1955, Tyrone Guthrie encouraged Wilder to rework the Merchant of

Yonkers his one unsuccessful play, into *The Matchmaker* which opened in Broadway in the winter. The musical version, prepared and again retitled but this time by others, *Hello, Dolly!*, opened in 1964 for one of the longest runs in Broadway. His last novel was published in 1973. Wilder translated and wrote the Libretti to Two Operas. Alfred Hitchcock also asked him to write a screenplay for his thriller, *Shadow of Doubt*. Although he never discussed his homosexuality publicly or in his writings, his close friend Samuel M. Steward is generally acknowledged to have been his lover. On December 7 1975, Wilder died in his sleep in Hamden, Connecticut at age 78 where he had been living with his sister, Isabel, for many years.

Thornton Wilder's Work:

Novels

The Cabala (1926)

The Bridge of San Luis Rey (1927)

The Woman of Andros (1930)

Heaven's My Destination (1935)

Ides of March (1948)

The Eighth Day (1967)

Theophilus North (1973)

Plays

The Trumpet Shall Sound (1926)

An Angel That Troubled the Waters and Other Plays (1928)

The Long Christmas Dinner and Other Plays in One Act (1931)

which includes :

◆ The Long Christmas Dinner

◆ Queens of France

◆ Pullman Car Hiawatha

◆ Love and How to Cure It

◆ Such Things Only Happen in Books

◆ The Happy Journey to Trenton and Camden

Our Town - Pulitzer Prize (1938)

The Merchant of Yonkers (1938)

The Skin of Our Teeth -Pulitzer Prize (1942)

The Matchmaker (revised from The Merchant of Yonkers) (1954)

Childhood (1960)

Infancy (1960)

Plays for Bleecker Street (1962)

The Alcestiad: Or, A Life In The Sun (1977)

The Collected Short Plays of Thornton Wilder Volume I (1997)

which includes :

- ◆ The Long Christmas Dinner
- ◆ Queens of France
- ◆ Pullman Car Hiawatha
- ◆ Love and How to Cure It
- ◆ Such Things Only Happen in Books
- ◆ The Happy Journey to Trenton and Camden
- ◆ The Drunken Sisters
- ◆ Bernice
- ◆ The Wreck on the Five-Twenty-Five
- ◆ A Ringing of Doorbells
- ◆ In Shakespeare and the Bible
- ◆ Someone from Assisi
- ◆ Cement Hands
- ◆ Infancy
- ◆ Childhood
- ◆ Youth
- ◆ The Rivers Under the Earth