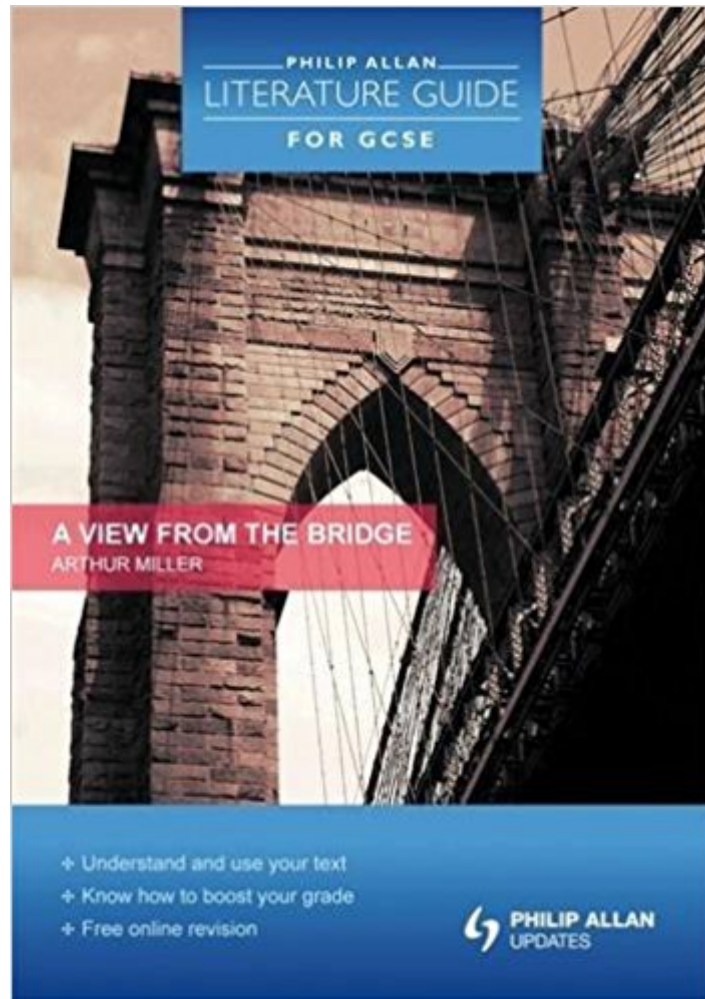


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Customer Reviews

The structure of the play is uncomplicated. The play is in two acts but within the acts there are easily defined divisions which are controlled by Alfieri. Alfieri is essential to the structure of the play. He opens and closes the play. He is Arthur Miller's mouthpiece and he moves the action fluidly. Catherine is a young lady who, it seems, as a result of her mother's death is living with her aunt, Beatrice, and Beatrice's husband, Eddie. Eddie and Catherine have developed a close family relationship. The credibility of the relationship throughout the play is increasingly questionable. Eddie is fatherlike in Catherine's eyes. In the first conversation between them Catherine looks for Eddie's approval that she looks good. She behaves almost in a coquettish manner to Eddie BUT this is not calculated. She sees him as a loving father figure. Eddie's obsessive attention to her physical

appearance is realized when he asks her to turn around so he can see in her back. His intentions here are questionable. Is he attracted or is just parental pride? Eddie realises this from the beginning. Perhaps he feels that for the responsibility he has taken, to support Catherine, he deserves a reward. The reward he wants (Catherine) is too big, and which if he got would be unnatural and ridiculous. Beatrice notices the relationship but her unwillingness to speak out makes her part of the problem. Eddie uses an emotional approach which is sensitive to Catherine's emotions. He suggests that all he is doing is looking out for her interests. He uses her inexperience to denounce her arguments. Catherine shows her interests in Rodolpho's physical appearance. Eddie subjugates her. His intentions to show power dominate his actions. Rodolpho's speech is lively and descriptive if a little frivolous.

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