

Linda Loman:

A small man can be just as exhausted as a great man. He works for a company thirty-six years this March, opens up unheard-of territories to their trademark, and now in his old age they take his salary away... For five weeks he's been on straight commission, like a beginner, an unknown... Are they any worse than his sons? When he brought them business when he was young, they were glad to see him. But now his old friends, the old buyers that loved him so and always found some order to hand him in a pinch-they're all dead, retired. He used to be able to make six, seven calls a day in Boston. Now he takes his valises out of the car and puts them back and takes them out again and he's exhausted. Instead of walking, he talks now. He drives seven hundred miles and when he gets there no one knows him any more, no one welcomes him- And what goes through a man's mind, driving seven hundred miles home without having earned a cent? Why shouldn't he talk to himself? Why?-When he has to go to Charley and borrow fifty dollars a week and pretend to me that it's his pay? How long can that go on? How long? You see what I'm sitting here and waiting for? And you tell me he has no character? The man who never worked a day but for your benefit? When does he get the medal for that?