

# Wit Play Margaret Edson - A Potent Reflection of Life and Death

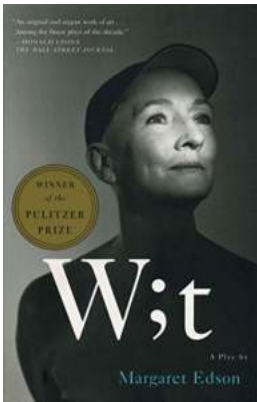
The Unforgettable Journey of Wit Play by Margaret Edson



In the realm of theater, there are certain theatrical pieces that leave an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of audiences. One such powerful production is "Wit," a Pulitzer Prize-winning play written by Margaret Edson. This exceptional work of art not only touches upon the complexities of life and death but also delves into the inextricable emotions that surround these universal experiences.

## The Synopsis of "Wit"

"Wit" revolves around the life of Vivian Bearing, an English professor specializing in the poetry of John Donne. The play presents the story of her battle with stage four ovarian cancer. Through a series of flashbacks and present-time scenes, the audience bears witness to Vivian's physical and emotional journey as she navigates the complexities of her diagnosis and the aggressive treatment that follows.



### **Wit: A Play** by Margaret Edson (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 313 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Print length	: 99 pages
Paperback	: 62 pages
Item Weight	: 6.1 ounces
Dimensions	: 7 x 0.14 x 10 inches



Margaret Edson's poignant words weave a narrative that explores the fragile balance between life and death. The audience is taken on an emotional rollercoaster, experiencing the highs and lows, the laughter and tears, and the raw vulnerability that encompasses Vivian's existence.

### **The Universal Themes Explored**

"Wit" transcends its theatrical boundaries and strikes a chord with audiences from all walks of life. At its core, the play explores themes such as mortality, resilience, empathy, and the search for meaning. Vivian's battle with cancer becomes a metaphor for life itself, challenging the audience to question their own mortality and the choices they make along the way.

Edson's deft handling of the subject matter allows the audience to reflect on the fragility of the human condition and the importance of connection. Through the character of Vivian, the play encourages viewers to experience life to its fullest, to find solace in art and literature, and to embrace the human experience in all its complexities.

## **Impact on the Theatrical Landscape**

Since its premiere in 1995, "Wit" has had a profound impact on the theatrical landscape. It has been performed countless times in theaters around the world, captivating audiences with its emotional depth and thought-provoking themes. The play's success lies not only in its powerful storytelling but also in the exceptional talent required to portray Vivian's multidimensional character convincingly.

"Wit" challenges actors to delve into the complexities of human emotions and vulnerability, transcending the boundaries of a typical theater performance. As Vivian's journey unfolds, the audience witnesses the transformation of a strong, scholarly woman into a vulnerable and introspective soul, forever leaving a lasting impact on those who watch.

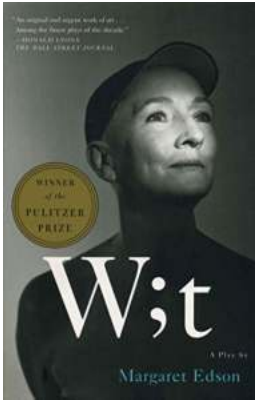
## **A Reflection of Life and Death**

Margaret Edson's "Wit" is a culmination of human experiences, encapsulating the essence of what it means to live and confront mortality. By unraveling the layers of Vivian's character, the play embraces the complexities of human existence, urging audiences to reflect on their own lives and the choices they make when faced with adversity.

"Wit" serves as a potent reminder that life is fragile and fleeting, pushing viewers to seize the present, find solace in art and literature, and embrace empathy in their interactions with others. Through its rawness and emotional intensity, "Wit"

leaves an indelible mark on the hearts of those fortunate enough to witness its powerful performance.

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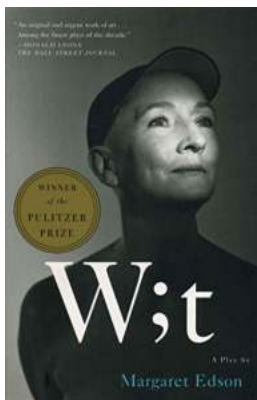
Winner of the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, the Drama Desk Award, the Outer Critics Circle Award, the Lucille Lortel Award, and the Oppenheimer Award

Margaret Edson's powerfully imagined Pulitzer Prize–winning play examines what makes life worth living through her exploration of one of existence's unifying experiences—mortality—while she also probes the vital importance of human relationships. What we as her audience take away from this remarkable drama is a keener sense that, while death is real and unavoidable, our lives are ours to cherish or throw away—a lesson that can be both uplifting and redemptive. As the playwright herself puts it, "The play is not about doctors or even about cancer. It's about kindness, but it shows arrogance. It's about compassion, but it shows insensitivity."

In *Wit*, Edson delves into timeless questions with no final answers: How should we live our lives knowing that we will die? Is the way we live our lives and interact with others more important than what we achieve materially, professionally, or intellectually? How does language figure into our lives? Can science and art help us conquer death, or our fear of it? What will seem most important to each of us about life as that life comes to an end?

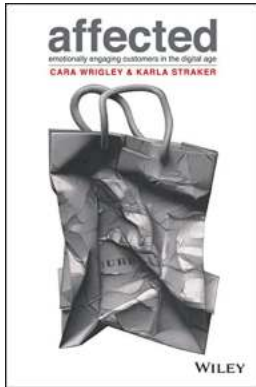
The immediacy of the presentation, and the clarity and elegance of Edson's writing, make this sophisticated, multilayered play accessible to almost any interested reader.

As the play begins, Vivian Bearing, a renowned professor of English who has spent years studying and teaching the intricate, difficult Holy Sonnets of the seventeenth-century poet John Donne, is diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer. Confident of her ability to stay in control of events, she brings to her illness the same intensely rational and painstakingly methodical approach that has guided her stellar academic career. But as her disease and its excruciatingly painful treatment inexorably progress, she begins to question the single-minded values and standards that have always directed her, finally coming to understand the aspects of life that make it truly worth living.



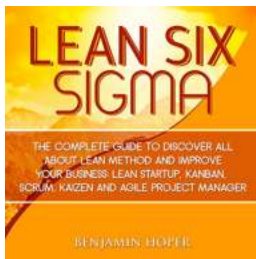
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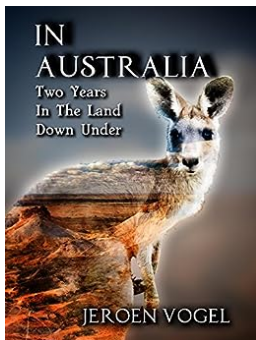
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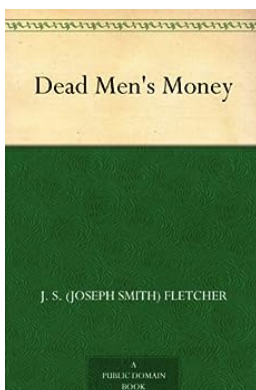
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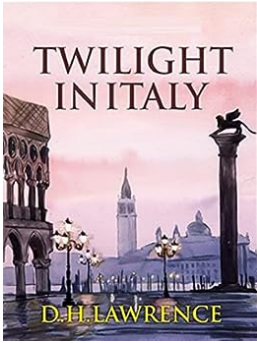
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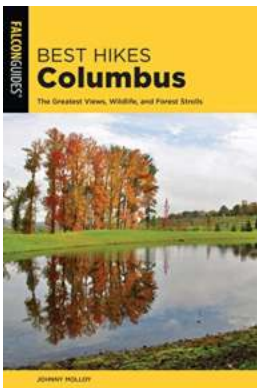
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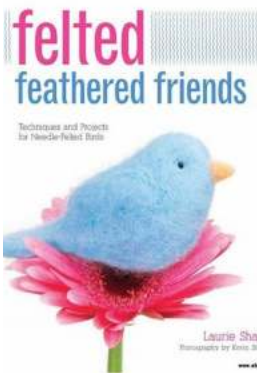
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