

a telephone call dorothy parker

a telephone call dorothy parker is one of the most compelling short stories in American literature, capturing the emotional turmoil and psychological depth characteristic of Dorothy Parker's writing. This article explores the story's plot, themes, literary techniques, and historical context, while analyzing Parker's distinctive style and its impact on modern readers. Readers will discover how the story reflects the anxieties of its time, why it remains relevant today, and what makes Dorothy Parker an enduring figure in literary history. The article also discusses Parker's legacy as a writer and how "A Telephone Call" fits within her broader body of work. Whether you are studying this iconic short story for academic purposes, seeking literary analysis, or simply interested in Dorothy Parker's unique approach, this comprehensive guide provides valuable insights and thoughtful commentary.

- Overview of "A Telephone Call" by Dorothy Parker
- Plot Summary and Key Events
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- Dorothy Parker's Literary Style and Techniques
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Overview of “A Telephone Call” by Dorothy Parker

“A Telephone Call” by Dorothy Parker is a short story first published in 1930, renowned for its exploration of anxiety, longing, and the complexities of human relationships. The narrative unfolds in real-time as a woman anxiously awaits a phone call from a man she loves, revealing her inner thoughts, fears, and hopes. The story is notable for its stream-of-consciousness technique and incisive portrayal of emotional vulnerability. Parker’s sharp wit and psychological insight make “A Telephone Call” an exemplary work in her literary canon, illustrating the universal struggles of waiting and uncertainty in romantic relationships.

Plot Summary and Key Events

Story Structure and Point of View

The plot of “A Telephone Call” centers on a single scene: a woman waiting by her telephone, desperate for a call that may or may not come. The entire narrative is filtered through her internal monologue, providing the reader with a direct window into her thoughts. Parker employs a first-person point of view, immersing the audience in the protagonist’s emotional landscape.

Sequence of Events

- The protagonist checks the time repeatedly, growing increasingly anxious as each minute passes.
- She rationalizes the man’s silence, recalling their conversation and trying to convince herself he will call.
- Her desperation intensifies, leading to prayers, bargaining with fate, and obsessive thoughts.

- The story ends ambiguously, with the woman still waiting, her hope and anxiety unresolved.

Characterization and Emotional Depth

Parker's characterization is central to the story's effectiveness. The protagonist's vulnerability, self-doubt, and hope are rendered with extraordinary detail, making her relatable and deeply human. The emotional tension is palpable throughout, as Parker masterfully captures the agony of waiting and the irrational thoughts that accompany it.

Themes and Symbolism in "A Telephone Call"

Anxiety and Uncertainty

Anxiety is the dominant theme in "A Telephone Call." The protagonist's obsessive thoughts and emotional turmoil reflect universal feelings of insecurity in romantic relationships. Her desperation to receive a call highlights the uncertainty and helplessness that often accompany love and longing.

Power Dynamics in Relationships

Parker examines the imbalance of power in romantic relationships, as the woman's emotional state is entirely dependent on the actions of another. This dynamic exposes vulnerabilities and raises questions about autonomy, dependency, and self-worth.

Symbolism of the Telephone

The telephone itself serves as a powerful symbol throughout the story. It represents connection, hope, and anticipation, but also isolation and frustration. The protagonist's fixation on the phone underscores

the tension between communication and silence, presence and absence.

Prayer and Bargaining

The protagonist's prayers and bargains with fate illustrate a deep need for control in an uncontrollable situation. These moments highlight themes of faith, superstition, and the human tendency to seek patterns or meaning in random events.

Dorothy Parker's Literary Style and Techniques

Stream-of-Consciousness Narrative

Parker's use of stream-of-consciousness is central to the story's impact. The narrative flows seamlessly from one thought to another, mirroring the protagonist's restless mind. This technique creates intimacy and immediacy, drawing readers into the character's experience.

Sharp Wit and Irony

Dorothy Parker is known for her biting wit and ironic humor. Even in moments of distress, the protagonist's thoughts contain flashes of humor and self-awareness, reflecting Parker's trademark style. The irony serves to heighten the emotional tension and illuminate the absurdity of the situation.

Dialogue and Interior Monologue

Although the story contains little spoken dialogue, the protagonist's interior monologue functions as a conversation with herself, the absent man, and even with fate. Parker's skillful use of language and rhythm captures the repetitive, obsessive nature of anxious thinking.

Historical and Social Context

Women's Roles in the Early 20th Century

"A Telephone Call" was written during a time when social norms around gender and relationships were rapidly evolving. The protagonist's emotional dependency reflects societal expectations of women in the early 20th century, when romantic fulfillment was often linked to self-worth.

Communication Technology in the 1930s

The prominence of the telephone in the story mirrors its growing significance in everyday life during the 1930s. As a relatively new technology, the telephone became a symbol of modernity and changed how people communicated, introducing new forms of anxiety and anticipation.

Dorothy Parker and the Algonquin Round Table

As a member of the renowned Algonquin Round Table, Parker was part of a vibrant literary and social scene in New York. Her work reflects the intellectual and cultural currents of her time, including shifting attitudes toward love, gender roles, and personal autonomy.

Reception and Legacy of the Story

Critical Acclaim

Since its publication, "A Telephone Call" has been praised for its psychological insight and stylistic innovation. Critics have lauded Parker's ability to capture the nuances of human emotion with precision and wit. The story is frequently cited in literary studies for its mastery of tone and narrative technique.

Influence on Modern Literature

Parker's approach in "A Telephone Call" has influenced generations of writers exploring interiority and emotional realism. The story's focus on psychological depth and everyday experiences resonates with contemporary audiences and remains a touchstone for literary analysis.

Adaptations and Cultural Impact

The story has inspired adaptations in theater, radio, and film, underscoring its lasting appeal. Its themes of longing and uncertainty are universally recognizable, making it a favorite among readers and scholars alike.

Why "A Telephone Call" Remains Relevant Today

Enduring Themes of Love and Anxiety

The emotional experiences depicted in "A Telephone Call" are timeless. Modern readers continue to relate to the protagonist's struggle with uncertainty, hope, and self-doubt. The story's exploration of communication, dependency, and vulnerability remains pertinent in the age of smartphones and instant messaging.

Dorothy Parker's Continued Influence

Parker's unique voice and literary innovations have ensured her place in the canon of American literature. "A Telephone Call" is frequently included in anthologies and academic curricula, reflecting its ongoing relevance and significance.

Universal Human Experiences

At its core, “A Telephone Call” speaks to universal human experiences: waiting, hoping, and grappling with uncertainty. These themes resonate across generations and cultures, contributing to the story’s continued popularity and impact.

Trending and Relevant Questions and Answers about “A Telephone Call” by Dorothy Parker

Q: What is the main theme of “A Telephone Call” by Dorothy Parker?

A: The main theme of “A Telephone Call” is anxiety and uncertainty in romantic relationships, focusing on emotional vulnerability and the power dynamics between people.

Q: How does Dorothy Parker use stream-of-consciousness in the story?

A: Parker uses a stream-of-consciousness narrative to immerse readers in the protagonist’s thoughts, highlighting her obsessive, repetitive thinking and emotional turmoil.

Q: Why is the telephone a key symbol in the story?

A: The telephone symbolizes hope, connection, anticipation, and frustration, reflecting the protagonist’s longing for communication and the pain of waiting.

Q: What literary techniques are prominent in “A Telephone Call”?

A: Key literary techniques include stream-of-consciousness, irony, interior monologue, and precise characterization, all contributing to the story’s emotional intensity.

Q: How does the story reflect Dorothy Parker’s writing style?

A: The story showcases Parker’s sharp wit, irony, and psychological insight, hallmarks of her literary style and approach to exploring complex emotions.

Q: What is the historical context of “A Telephone Call”?

A: The story was written in the early 20th century, a period of changing gender roles and new communication technologies, which influence its themes and setting.

Q: Why does the protagonist pray and bargain with fate?

A: The protagonist prays and bargains as a way to cope with her lack of control, seeking comfort and hoping to influence the outcome of her situation.

Q: Is “A Telephone Call” still relevant for modern readers?

A: Yes, the story’s exploration of love, anxiety, and waiting remains relevant, especially in today’s world of instant communication and relationship uncertainty.

Q: What impact has “A Telephone Call” had on literature?

A: The story has influenced writers interested in psychological realism and interiority, and it continues to be studied for its innovative narrative style.

Q: How does Dorothy Parker portray emotional vulnerability in the story?

A: Parker portrays emotional vulnerability through the protagonist's internal monologue, capturing her hopes, fears, and desperation with nuanced detail and empathy.

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A Telephone Call: Dorothy Parker's Wit and Wisdom in Miniature

Dorothy Parker, the celebrated wit of the Algonquin Round Table, left behind a legacy far beyond her sharp epigrams and scathing reviews. Her short stories, often infused with a poignant blend of humor and heartbreak, offer glimpses into the complexities of human relationships. One such gem, "A Telephone Call," stands as a testament to Parker's ability to capture the nuances of unspoken emotion and the agonizing wait for a longed-for connection. This post delves into the intricacies of this short story, analyzing its themes, literary devices, and lasting impact, all while providing valuable context for understanding its enduring appeal. We'll explore the story's subtle power and how it continues to resonate with readers today.

The Setup: A Masterclass in Anticipation and Anxiety

"A Telephone Call" unfolds with a deceptively simple premise: a woman anxiously awaits a phone call from a man. Parker masterfully builds suspense without resorting to dramatic action. Instead, she focuses on the internal turmoil of the protagonist, an unnamed woman grappling with a mixture of hope and dread. The story's brevity—a hallmark of Parker's style—is crucial to its effectiveness. Every word is laden with meaning, contributing to the overall atmosphere of nervous anticipation. There's no grand narrative, no sweeping plot; just the raw, unfiltered emotions of a woman waiting for a call that might change everything.

Unpacking the Protagonist: Vulnerability and Restraint

Parker's protagonist is not a caricature; she's a relatable figure whose vulnerability is both her strength and her weakness. Her internal monologue reveals a woman wrestling with her feelings, caught between a desire for connection and the fear of rejection. The restraint in her actions, the subtle gestures and internal anxieties, are far more powerful than any overt emotional display. This restraint, typical of Parker's style, allows the reader to inhabit the protagonist's experience fully, sharing her silent agony and quiet hope. The lack of a name further enhances the sense of universality, allowing readers to project their own experiences onto this anonymous figure.

Masterful Use of Literary Devices: Show, Don't Tell

Parker demonstrates exceptional skill in using indirect characterization. We learn about the protagonist not through explicit descriptions but through her actions, thoughts, and interactions with the world around her. The use of imagery, particularly the descriptions of her surroundings and her fidgeting, creates a palpable sense of unease. The constant ringing of the telephone – or rather, the lack of ringing – becomes a powerful symbol of her mounting anxiety and the passage of agonizing time. Her repetitive actions – looking at the clock, pacing, arranging flowers – highlight her desperate need for distraction, further emphasizing her emotional state.

Themes of Love, Hope, and Despair: A Timeless Resonance

"A Telephone Call" explores universal themes that continue to resonate with readers across generations. The story delves into the anxieties of romantic love, the bittersweet ache of longing, and the fear of vulnerability. The protagonist's internal struggle is a timeless portrayal of human experience; the hope for connection juxtaposed with the potential for rejection is a deeply human condition. The ambiguity of the ending – the call never comes – leaves the reader with a lingering sense of uncertainty, mirroring the uncertainties inherent in human relationships. This ambiguity is precisely what gives the story its enduring power.

Legacy and Influence: A Miniature Masterpiece

Despite its brevity, "A Telephone Call" is a powerful and poignant piece of literature. It showcases Parker's mastery of concise storytelling, her ability to evoke deep emotion with minimal words, and her understanding of the human condition. The story's influence can be seen in contemporary literature and film, where understated narratives and introspective characters are often employed to create a powerful emotional impact. Its lasting appeal lies in its capacity to capture the essence of human experience – the quiet desperation, the unspoken anxieties, and the enduring hope for

connection – within a framework of remarkable artistic economy.

Conclusion:

Dorothy Parker's "A Telephone Call" remains a powerful example of her literary genius. Its enduring appeal lies in its simple yet profound exploration of human emotions. The story's brevity belies its depth, offering a profound meditation on love, anticipation, and the fragility of human connection. It stands as a miniature masterpiece, a testament to Parker's unmatched skill in creating lasting literary impact with minimal words.

FAQs:

1. Is "A Telephone Call" autobiographical? While we can't definitively say it's autobiographical, it's widely believed that Parker drew inspiration from her own experiences with love and relationships, imbuing the story with a sense of authenticity.
2. What is the significance of the unanswered telephone? The unanswered phone symbolizes the uncertainty and potential for rejection inherent in romantic relationships. It leaves the reader with a sense of ambiguity and unresolved tension, mirroring the complexities of human experience.
3. How does the story's brevity contribute to its impact? The brevity forces the reader to focus intently on the nuances of the protagonist's internal world. Every word is carefully chosen, maximizing the emotional impact.
4. What are the key themes explored in "A Telephone Call"? The key themes include anticipation, anxiety, hope, despair, love, rejection, and the complexities of human relationships.
5. Where can I find "A Telephone Call" to read it in its entirety? You can find "A Telephone Call" in various anthologies of Dorothy Parker's short stories, and likely online through various literary websites and archives. Many online libraries offer free access.

a telephone call dorothy parker: *"A Study Guide for Dorothy Parker's 'A Telephone Call'"*
Gale, Cengage, 2018-12-13 A Study Guide for Dorothy Parker's A Telephone Call, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Short Stories for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Short Stories for Students for all of your research needs.

a telephone call dorothy parker: Here We are ; A Telephone Call Dorothy Parker, 1998
Stories in the Travelman Short Stories series take the reader to places of mystery, fantasy, horror, romance, and corners of the universe yet unexplored. In turn, readers take them on the bus or subway, slip them into briefcases and lunchboxes, and send them from Jersey to Juneau. Each classic or original short story is printed on one sheet of paper and folded like a map. This makes it simple to

read while commuting, convenient to carry when not, and easy to give or send to a friend. A paper envelope is provided for mailing or gift-giving, and both are packaged in a clear plastic envelope for display. The cost is not much more than a greeting card.

a telephone call dorothy parker: The Portable Dorothy Parker Dorothy Parker, 1977

a telephone call dorothy parker: 22 Minutes of Unconditional Love Daphne Merkin, 2020-07-07 "Daphne Merkin meets the formidable challenge of describing female lust and romantic obsession with all the desired daring, candor, and skill. The result is a bracingly honest, keenly insightful, utterly compelling book." —Sigrid Nunez, author of *The Friend* A harrowing, compulsively readable novel about breaking free of sexual obsession A novel of unsurpassed candor, punctuated by bold ruminations on love, marriage, family, sex, gender, and relationships, *22 Minutes of Unconditional Love* depicts one woman's psychological descent into sexual captivity. This is the story of the extremes to which she will go to achieve erotic bliss—and of her struggle to regain her soul. As Daphne Merkin's audacious new novel opens, a wife and mother looks back at the moment when her life as a young book editor is upended by a casual encounter with an intriguing man who seems to intuit her every thought. Convinced she's found the one, Judith Stone succumbs to the push and pull of her sexual entanglement with Howard Rose, constantly seeking his attention and approval. That is, until she realizes that beneath his erotic obsession with her, Howard is intent on obliterating any sense of self she possesses. As Merkin writes, his was "the allure of remoteness, affection edged in ice." Escaping Howard's grasp—and her own perverse enjoyment of being under his control—will test the limits of Judith's capacity to resist the siren call of submission. Narrated by Judith in a time before the #MeToo movement, *22 Minutes of Unconditional Love* charts the persistent hold the past has on us and the way it shapes our present.

a telephone call dorothy parker: *Big Blonde* Dorothy Parker, 2021-11-08T14:41:00Z Short story, winner of the 1929 O. Henry Award. The big blonde in question is Hazel Morse, who, when we meet her, is a model in a wholesale dress establishment, whose thoughts are largely devoted to men. Then she meets Herbie Morse, an attractive man and a heavy drinker. Where will events now take her?

a telephone call dorothy parker: *A Journey Into Dorothy Parker's New York* Kevin C. Fitzpatrick, 2010-07-30 Taking the reader through the New York that inspired, and was in turn inspired by, the formidable Mrs. Parker, this guide uses rarely seen archival photographs from her life to illustrate Dorothy Parker's development as a writer, a formidable wit, and a public persona. Her favorite bars and salons as well as her homes and offices, most of which ...

a telephone call dorothy parker: *Under the Table* Kevin C. Fitzpatrick, 2013-11-05 I love a martini— But two at the most. Three, I'm under the table; Four, I'm under the host. Raise a glass to Dorothy Parker's wit and wisdom. Kevin C. Fitzpatrick, founder and president of the Dorothy Parker Society, gives us an intoxicating new look at the doyenne of the ripping riposte through the lens she most preferred: the bottom of a glass. A bar book for Parker enthusiasts and literary tipplers alike, *Under the Table* offers a unique take on Mrs. Parker, the Algonquin Round Table, and the Jazz Age by celebrating the cocktails that she, her bitter friends, and sweetest enemies enjoyed. Each entry of this delicious compendium offers a fascinating and lively history of a period cocktail, a complete recipe, and the characters associated with it. The book also features a special selection of twenty first-century speakeasy-style recipes from the country's top mixologists. Topping it off are excerpts from Parker's poems, stories, and other writings that will allow you to enjoy her world from the speakeasies of New York City to the watering holes of Hollywood.

a telephone call dorothy parker: *Enough Rope* Dorothy Parker, 2022-01-25 Now available as a stand-alone edition, the famous humorist's debut collection—a runaway bestseller in 1926—ranges from lighthearted self-deprecation to acid-tongued satire, all the while gleefully puncturing sentimental clichés about relations between men and women. Known as the wittiest woman in America and a founder of the fabled Algonquin Round Table, Dorothy Parker was also one of the Jazz Age's most beloved poets. Her verbal dexterity and cynical humor were on full display in the many poems she published in *Vanity Fair*, *The New Yorker*, and *Life* and collected in her first book in

1926. The poems in *Enough Rope* range from lighthearted self-deprecation to acid-tongued satire, all the while gleefully puncturing sentimental clichés about the relations between men and women. *Unfortunate Coincidence* By the time you swear you're his, Shivering and sighing, And he vows his passion is Infinite, undying— Lady, make a note of this: One of you is lying.

a telephone call dorothy parker: *Dorothy Parker* Marion Meade, 1989-03-03 Marion Meade's engrossing and comprehensive biography of one of the twentieth century's most captivating women. In this lively, absorbing biography, Marion Meade illuminates both the charm and the dark side of Dorothy Parker, exploring her days of wicked wittiness at the Algonquin Round Table with the likes of Robert Benchley, George Kaufman, and Harold Ross, and in Hollywood with S. J. Perelman, William Faulkner, and Lillian Hellman. At the dazzling center of it all, Meade gives us the flamboyant, self-destructive, and brilliant Dorothy Parker. This edition features a new afterword by Marion Meade.

a telephone call dorothy parker: *The Critical Waltz* Rhonda S. Pettit, 2005 This is the first collection of critical essays devoted to the writing of Dorothy Parker. Its four part organisation reflects a necessary shift away from her identity as primarily a humorist or Jazz Age literary celebrity.

a telephone call dorothy parker: Hidden Hand Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte Southworth, 2020-08-13 Reproduction of the original: *Hidden Hand* by Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte Southworth

a telephone call dorothy parker: *Cathedral* Raymond Carver, 2015-05-25 PULITZER PRIZE FINALIST • Twelve short stories that mark a turning point in the work of "one of the true American masters (The New York Review of Books). "A writer of astonishing compassion and honesty ... His eye is so clear, it almost breaks your heart." —The Washington Post Book World A remarkable collection that includes the canonical titular story about blindness and learning to enter the very different world of another. These twelve stories "overflow with the danger, excitement, mystery and possibility of life." —The Washington Post Book World

a telephone call dorothy parker: *Bullshit Jobs* David Graeber, 2019-05-07 From David Graeber, the bestselling author of *The Dawn of Everything* and *Debt*—"a master of opening up thought and stimulating debate" (Slate)—a powerful argument against the rise of meaningless, unfulfilling jobs...and their consequences. Does your job make a meaningful contribution to the world? In the spring of 2013, David Graeber asked this question in a playful, provocative essay titled "On the Phenomenon of Bullshit Jobs." It went viral. After one million online views in seventeen different languages, people all over the world are still debating the answer. There are hordes of people—HR consultants, communication coordinators, telemarketing researchers, corporate lawyers—whose jobs are useless, and, tragically, they know it. These people are caught in bullshit jobs. Graeber explores one of society's most vexing and deeply felt concerns, indicting among other villains a particular strain of finance capitalism that betrays ideals shared by thinkers ranging from Keynes to Lincoln. "Clever and charismatic" (The New Yorker), *Bullshit Jobs* gives individuals, corporations, and societies permission to undergo a shift in values, placing creative and caring work at the center of our culture. This book is for everyone who wants to turn their vocation back into an avocation and "a thought-provoking examination of our working lives" (Financial Times).

a telephone call dorothy parker: Constant Reader Dorothy Parker, 2024-11-05 Dorothy Parker's complete weekly New Yorker column about books and people and the rigors of reviewing. When, in 1927, Dorothy Parker became a book critic for the New Yorker, she was already a legendary wit, a much-quoted member of the Algonquin Round Table, and an arbiter of literary taste. In the year that she spent as a weekly reviewer, under the rubric "Constant Reader," she created what is still the most entertaining book column ever written. Parker's hot takes have lost none of their heat, whether she's taking aim at the evangelist Aimee Semple MacPherson ("She can go on like that for hours. Can, hell—does"), praising Hemingway's latest collection ("He discards detail with magnificent lavishness"), or dissenting from the Tao of Pooh ("And it is that word 'hummy,' my darlings, that marks the first place in The House at Pooh Corner at which Tconstant Weader Fwowed up"). Introduced with characteristic wit and sympathy by Sloane Crosley, *Constant Reader* gathers

the complete weekly New Yorker reviews that Parker published from October 1927 through November 1928, with gimlet-eyed appreciations of the high and low, from Isadora Duncan to Al Smith, Charles Lindbergh to Little Orphan Annie, Mussolini to Emily Post

a telephone call dorothy parker: The Unpleasantness at the Bellona Club: A Lord Peter Wimsey Mystery Dorothy L. Sayers, 2024-08-22 The Unpleasantness at the Bellona Club by Dorothy L. Sayers is a captivating and intricately plotted detective novel that showcases the brilliance of Lord Peter Wimsey as he navigates the complexities of a puzzling case. Set against the backdrop of post-World War I London, Sayers skillfully weaves together elements of mystery, suspense, and social commentary to create a compelling narrative that keeps readers on the edge of their seats. The novel introduces readers to the enigmatic Lord Peter Wimsey, a charming and witty aristocrat with a keen intellect and a passion for solving mysteries. When General Fentiman is found dead in his chair at the Bellona Club, Lord Peter is called upon to investigate the circumstances surrounding his death. As Lord Peter delves deeper into the case, he uncovers a web of family secrets, financial intrigues, and long-held grudges that lead him down unexpected paths. One of the standout features of The Unpleasantness at the Bellona Club is Sayers' skillful character development, as she brings to life a diverse cast of characters, each with their own motivations and hidden agendas. From the stoic General Fentiman to the eccentric members of the Bellona Club, Sayers creates a rich tapestry of personalities that adds depth and complexity to the story. Furthermore, Sayers' meticulous attention to detail and clever plotting make The Unpleasantness at the Bellona Club a masterclass in detective fiction. The novel is filled with twists and turns, red herrings, and unexpected revelations that keep readers guessing until the very end. Sayers' sharp wit and elegant prose style further enhance the reading experience, making this novel a true delight for fans of classic British mystery. The Unpleasantness at the Bellona Club is a timeless classic that continues to captivate readers with its engaging plot, memorable characters, and clever storytelling. Dorothy L. Sayers' masterful blend of mystery, humor, and social commentary ensures that this novel remains a standout in the genre of detective fiction and a must-read for fans of the genre.

a telephone call dorothy parker: The Night of the Iguana Tennessee Williams, 2009-10-30 Now published for the first time as a trade paperback with a new introduction and the short story on which it was based. Williams wrote: "This is a play about love in its purest terms." It is also Williams's robust and persuasive plea for endurance and resistance in the face of human suffering. The earthy widow Maxine Faulk is proprietress of a rundown hotel at the edge of a Mexican cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean where the defrocked Rev. Shannon, his tour group of ladies from a West Texas women's college, the self-described New England spinster Hannah Jelkes and her ninety-seven-year-old grandfather, Jonathan Coffin ("the world's oldest living and practicing poet"), a family of grotesque Nazi vacationers, and an iguana tied by its throat to the veranda, all find themselves assembled for a rainy and turbulent night. This is the first trade paperback edition of The Night of the Iguana and comes with an Introduction by award-winning playwright Doug Wright, the author's original Foreword, the short story "The Night of the Iguana" which was the germ for the play, plus an essay by noted Tennessee Williams scholar, Kenneth Holditch. "I'm tired of conducting services in praise and worship of a senile delinquent—yeah, that's what I said, I shouted! All your Western theologies, the whole mythology of them, are based on the concept of God as a senile delinquent and, by God, I will not and cannot continue to conduct services in praise and worship of this...this...this angry, petulant old man." —The Rev. T. Lawrence Shannon, from The Night of the Iguana

a telephone call dorothy parker: Here Lies Dorothy Parker, 1980 Contents: ARRANGEMENT IN BLACK AND WHITE; SEXES, THE; WONDERFUL OLD GENTLEMAN, THE; TELEPHONE CALL, A; HERE WE ARE; LADY WITH A LAMP; TOO BAD; MR. DURANT; JUST A LITTLE ONE; HORSIE; CLOTHE THE NAKED; WALTZ, THE; LITTLE CURTIS; LITTLE HOURS, THE; BIG BLONDE; FROM THE DIARY OF A NEW YORK LADY; SOLDIERS OF THE REPUBLIC; DUSK BEFORE FIREWORKS; NEW YORK TO DETROIT; GLORY IN THE DAYTIME; LAST TEA, THE; SENTIMENT; YOU WERE PERFECTLY FINE; and CUSTARD HEART, THE.

a telephone call dorothy parker: Saving Meghan D.J. Palmer, 2019-04-09 Saving Meghan is a riveting new thriller full of secrets and lies from author D.J. Palmer. Can you love someone to death? Some would say Becky Gerard is a devoted mother and would do anything for her only child. Others, including her husband Carl, claim she's obsessed and can't stop the vicious circle of finding a cure at her daughter's expense. Fifteen-year-old Meghan has been in and out of hospitals with a plague of unexplained illnesses. But when the ailments take a sharp turn, clashing medical opinions begin to raise questions about the puzzling nature of Meghan's illness. Doctors suspect Munchausen syndrome by proxy, a rare behavioral disorder where the primary caretaker seeks medical help for made-up symptoms of a child. Is this what's going on? Or is there something even more sinister at hand? As the Gerards grow more and more suspicious of each other and their medical team, Becky must race against time to prove her daughter has a deadly disease. But first, she must confront her darkest fears and family secrets that threaten to not only upend her once-ordered life...but to destroy it. Praise for Saving Meghan: Plenty of twists...will keep you turning the pages as you guess...and guess again. —Lisa Scottoline, New York Times bestselling author of After Anna An acute, sensitive portrayal of family love under extreme stress...[with] a touch of Hitchcock. —William Landay, New York Times bestselling author of Defending Jacob

a telephone call dorothy parker: *How About Never—Is Never Good for You?* Bob Mankoff, 2014-03-25 Memoir in cartoons by the longtime cartoon editor of The New Yorker People tell Bob Mankoff that as the cartoon editor of The New Yorker he has the best job in the world. Never one to beat around the bush, he explains to us, in the opening of this singular, delightfully eccentric book, that because he is also a cartoonist at the magazine he actually has two of the best jobs in the world. With the help of myriad images and his funniest, most beloved cartoons, he traces his love of the craft all the way back to his childhood, when he started doing funny drawings at the age of eight. After meeting his mother, we follow his unlikely stints as a high-school basketball star, draft dodger, and sociology grad student. Though Mankoff abandoned the study of psychology in the seventies to become a cartoonist, he recently realized that the field he abandoned could help him better understand the field he was in, and here he takes up the psychology of cartooning, analyzing why some cartoons make us laugh and others don't. He allows us into the hallowed halls of The New Yorker to show us the soup-to-nuts process of cartoon creation, giving us a detailed look not only at his own work, but that of the other talented cartoonists who keep us laughing week after week. For desert, he reveals the secrets to winning the magazine's caption contest. Throughout *How About Never—Is Never Good for You?*, we see his commitment to the motto Anything worth saying is worth saying funny.

a telephone call dorothy parker: Secrets of a Telephone Psychic Frederick Woodruff, 1998 New Age rabble rouser Frederick Woodruff pulls back the curtain & gives a funny, irreverent, & spellbinding peek at one of America's favorite pastimes: consulting with telephone psychics. In over twenty fast chapters he zig zags from comedy to pathos as he recounts his audial adventures with a wild cross section of Americans--& their larger-than-life fantasies & dilemmas. Who calls psychics? Who answers the calls? What does our culture's fascination with magic & divination symbolize? Does astrology really work? And how did the author transmogrify from a 14-year-old teenage pagan into one of America's most talked to & beleaguered psychics? Includes *How to Call a Telephone Psychic* & *not go Broke*.

a telephone call dorothy parker: These Precious Days Ann Patchett, 2021-11-23 The beloved New York Times bestselling author reflects on home, family, friendships and writing in this deeply personal collection of essays. The elegance of Patchett's prose is seductive and inviting: with Patchett as a guide, readers will really get to grips with the power of struggles, failures, and triumphs alike. —Publisher's Weekly "Any story that starts will also end." As a writer, Ann Patchett knows what the outcome of her fiction will be. Life, however, often takes turns we do not see coming. Patchett ponders this truth in these wise essays that afford a fresh and intimate look into her mind and heart. At the center of *These Precious Days* is the title essay, a surprising and moving meditation on an unexpected friendship that explores "what it means to be seen, to find someone

with whom you can be your best and most complete self.” When Patchett chose an early galley of actor and producer Tom Hanks’ short story collection to read one night before bed, she had no idea that this single choice would be life changing. It would introduce her to a remarkable woman—Tom’s brilliant assistant Sooki—with whom she would form a profound bond that held monumental consequences for them both. A literary alchemist, Patchett plumbs the depths of her experiences to create gold: engaging and moving pieces that are both self-portrait and landscape, each vibrant with emotion and rich in insight. Turning her writer’s eye on her own experiences, she transforms the private into the universal, providing us all a way to look at our own worlds anew, and reminds how fleeting and enigmatic life can be. From the enchantments of Kate DiCamillo’s children’s books (author of *The Beatryce Prophecy*) to youthful memories of Paris; the cherished life gifts given by her three fathers to the unexpected influence of Charles Schultz’s Snoopy; the expansive vision of Eudora Welty to the importance of knitting, Patchett connects life and art as she illuminates what matters most. Infused with the author’s grace, wit, and warmth, the pieces in *These Precious Days* resonate deep in the soul, leaving an indelible mark—and demonstrate why Ann Patchett is one of the most celebrated writers of our time.

a telephone call dorothy parker: *Golden Gulag* Ruth Wilson Gilmore, 2007-01-08 Since 1980, the number of people in U.S. prisons has increased more than 450%. Despite a crime rate that has been falling steadily for decades, California has led the way in this explosion, with what a state analyst called the biggest prison building project in the history of the world. *Golden Gulag* provides the first detailed explanation for that buildup by looking at how political and economic forces, ranging from global to local, conjoined to produce the prison boom. In an informed and impassioned account, Ruth Wilson Gilmore examines this issue through statewide, rural, and urban perspectives to explain how the expansion developed from surpluses of finance capital, labor, land, and state capacity. Detailing crises that hit California’s economy with particular ferocity, she argues that defeats of radical struggles, weakening of labor, and shifting patterns of capital investment have been key conditions for prison growth. The results—a vast and expensive prison system, a huge number of incarcerated young people of color, and the increase in punitive justice such as the three strikes law—pose profound and troubling questions for the future of California, the United States, and the world. *Golden Gulag* provides a rich context for this complex dilemma, and at the same time challenges many cherished assumptions about who benefits and who suffers from the state’s commitment to prison expansion.

a telephone call dorothy parker: *Little Worlds* Peter Guthrie, Mary Paige, 1985-12

a telephone call dorothy parker: *The Real Lolita* Sarah Weinman, 2018-09-11 Vladimir Nabokov’s *Lolita* is one of the most beloved and notorious novels of all time. And yet, very few of its readers know that the subject of the novel was inspired by a real-life case: the 1948 abduction of eleven-year-old Sally Horner. Weaving together suspenseful crime narrative, cultural and social history, and literary investigation, *The Real Lolita* restores Sally Horner to her rightful place in the lore of the novel’s creation. Drawing upon extensive investigations, legal documents, public records, and interviews with remaining relatives, Sarah Weinman casts a new light on the dark inspiration for a modern classic.

a telephone call dorothy parker: *The Listerdale Mystery* Agatha Christie, 2023-05-13 A bankrupt upper-class family rents a wonderful mansion for a ridiculously low price. The house belongs to Lord Listerdale, who has supposedly gone on a trip but no one knows where. Rupert, the son of Mrs. San Vicente, the tenant, believes that the man is dead and that his body is hidden somewhere in the house. A series of coincidences will help the young man discover the mystery behind the former owner.

a telephone call dorothy parker: *Farewell, Dorothy Parker* Ellen Meister, 2013-02-21 When it comes to movie reviews, critic Violet Epps is a powerhouse voice. But that’s only because she’s learned to channel her literary hero Dorothy Parker, the most celebrated and scathing wit of the twentieth century. If only Violet could summon that kind of strength in her personal life. Violet visits the Algonquin Hotel in an attempt to find inspiration from the hallowed dining room where Dorothy

Parker and so many other famous writers of the 1920s traded barbs, but she gets more than she bargained for when Parker's feisty spirit rematerializes. An irreverent ghost with problems of her own—including a refusal to cross over to the afterlife—Mrs. Parker helps Violet face her fears, becoming in turn mentor and tormentor...and ultimately, friend. READERS GUIDE INSIDE

a telephone call dorothy parker: Points of View James Moffett, 1995 Since its original publication in 1966, this volume has attained classic status. Now its contents have been updated and its cultural framework enlarged by the original editors. Many of the 44 stories come from a new writing generation with a contemporary consciousness, and this brilliant blending of masters of the past and the brightest talents of the present achieves the goal of making a great collection even greater. Copyright © Libri GmbH. All rights reserved.

a telephone call dorothy parker: The Sexes Dorothy Parker, 2011 Dorothy Parker captured early twentieth century American society like no one else could. She was a masterful observer of character, a witty, sharply exact composer of dialogue and a poignant reader of the subtleties of relationship. In these five stories, of relationships strained by ill-will, social distance or circumstance, all her strengths are clear.

a telephone call dorothy parker: The Ladies of the Corridor Dorothy Parker, Arnaud d'Usseau, 2008-04-29 The blackly comic play about the oppressed lives of women in 1950s New York One of literature's leading humorists, Dorothy Parker drew from the dark side of her imagination to pen *The Ladies of the Corridor*, a searing drama about women living on their own in a New York residence hotel. Loosely based on Parker's life, and co-written with famed Hollywood playwright Arnaud d'Usseau, *The Ladies of the Corridor* exposes the limitations of a woman's life in a drama teeming with Parker's signature wit. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

a telephone call dorothy parker: Best Dorothy Parker Quotes Crombie Jardine, 2016-02-09 Dorothy Parker (1893-1967) was an American author, poet, screenwriter, critic, satirist and civil rights activist noted for her wit and cutting repartee. This collection of over 100 quotes is designed to showcase her famous humour.

a telephone call dorothy parker: The Collected Dorothy Parker Dorothy Parker, 2001 With a biting wit and perceptive insight, Dorothy Parker examines the social mores of her day and exposes the darkness beneath the dazzle. -- Provided by publisher.

a telephone call dorothy parker: Men I'm Not Married To Dorothy Parker, 2020-10-09 In *Men I'm Not Married To* Dorothy Parker's famous wit is on full display as she describes nine men that she did not marry. Some of the descriptions are long and involved others are but a single line such as "Lloyd wears washable neckties." Delightful and funny!

a telephone call dorothy parker: Allelujah! Alan Bennett, 2018-08-09 - What were you in life?- In life, as you put it, I was a schoolmaster. The Beth, an old fashioned cradle-to-grave hospital serving a town on the edge of the Pennines, is threatened with closure as part of an NHS efficiency drive. As Dr Valentine and Sister Gilchrist attend to the patients, a documentary crew, eager to capture its fight for survival, follows the daily struggle to find beds on the Dusty Springfield Geriatric Ward. Meanwhile, the old people's choir, in readiness for next week's concert, is in full swing, augmented by the arrival of Mrs Maudsley, aka Pudsey Nightingale. Alan Bennett's *Allelujah!* opened at the Bridge Theatre, London, in July 2018. With an introduction by Alan Bennett.

a telephone call dorothy parker: The Letters of Cole Porter Cole Porter, 2019-11-25 The first comprehensive collection of the letters of one of the most successful American songwriters of the twentieth century From *Anything Goes* to *Kiss Me, Kate*, Cole Porter left a lasting legacy of iconic songs including *You're the Top*, *Love For Sale*, and *Night and Day*. Yet, alongside his professional success, Porter led an eclectic personal life which featured exuberant parties, scandalous affairs,

and chronic health problems. This extensive collection of letters (most of which are published here for the first time) dates from the first decade of the twentieth century to the early 1960s and features correspondence with stars such as Irving Berlin, Ethel Merman, and Orson Welles, as well as his friends and lovers. Cliff Eisen and Dominic McHugh complement these letters with lively commentaries that draw together the loose threads of Porter's life and highlight the distinctions between Porter's public and private existence. This book reveals surprising insights into his attitudes toward Hollywood and Broadway, and toward money, love, and dazzling success.

a telephone call dorothy parker: Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, 2010-07-08 The first collection of letters between the two leading figures of the Beat movement Writers and cultural icons Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg are the most celebrated names of the Beat Generation, linked together not only by their shared artistic sensibility but also by a deep and abiding friendship, one that colored their lives and greatly influenced their writing. Editors Bill Morgan and David Stanford shed new light on this intimate and influential friendship in this fascinating exchange of letters between Kerouac and Ginsberg, two thirds of which have never been published before. Commencing in 1944 while Ginsberg was a student at Columbia University and continuing until shortly before Kerouac's death in 1969, the two hundred letters included in this book provide astonishing insight into their lives and their writing. While not always in agreement, Ginsberg and Kerouac inspired each other spiritually and creatively, and their letters became a vital workshop for their art. Vivid, engaging, and enthralling, Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg: The Letters provides an unparalleled portrait of the two men who led the cultural and artistic movement that defined their generation.

a telephone call dorothy parker: The Collected Stories of Dorothy Parker Dorothy Parker, 2022-08-16 DigiCat Publishing presents to you this special edition of The Collected Stories of Dorothy Parker by Dorothy Parker. DigiCat Publishing considers every written word to be a legacy of humankind. Every DigiCat book has been carefully reproduced for republishing in a new modern format. The books are available in print, as well as ebooks. DigiCat hopes you will treat this work with the acknowledgment and passion it deserves as a classic of world literature.

a telephone call dorothy parker: And I Don't Want to Live This Life Deborah Spungen, 2011-10-12 "Honest and moving . . . Her painful tale is engrossing."—Washington Post Book World For most of us, it was just another horrible headline. But for Deborah Spungen, the mother of Nancy, who was stabbed to death at the Chelsea Hotel, it was both a relief and a tragedy. Here is the incredible story of an infant who never stopped screaming, a toddler who attacked people, a teenager addicted to drugs, violence, and easy sex, a daughter completely out of control—who almost destroyed her parents' marriage and the happiness of the rest of her family.

a telephone call dorothy parker: Bela Lugosi's Dead Robert Guffey, 2021-04-06 It's the late 1980s, and Michael Fenton, editor of Ramboona (a magazine dedicated to forgotten films), is attempting to track down the lost test footage from the 1931 *Frankenstein* produced by Universal Studios. It's the holy grail of horror film aficionados: the twenty-minute reel in which Bela Lugosi portrays *Frankenstein's Monster* instead of Boris Karloff, who would go on to make cinematic history with his portrayal of Mary Shelley's creation. In his attempt to locate this fifty-year-old film canister, Mike is led down a labyrinth of blind alleys amidst the topsy-turvy wonderland of Los Angeles and environs. When we first encounter Mike, he's making a pilgrimage to Lugosi's final resting place at Holy Cross Cemetery. This is where he meets Lucy Szilagyi, a struggling young actress who happens to be visiting Sharon Tate's grave (located only a few tombstones away from Lugosi's). Lucy, a film buff herself, joins Mike in his quixotic search, helping him track down such curious, real-life characters as Maila Nurmi (an out-of-work actress known more famously as "Vampira"), Bela Lugosi, Jr., science fiction novelist Curt Siodmak, and Manly P. Hall (master hypnotist, mystic, Lugosi confidant, and author of a strange occult encyclopedia entitled *The Secret Teachings of All Ages*). All of these individuals have valuable pieces of information that could lead Mike to the hidden location of the lost test reel. Lugosi's grave is also where Mike encounters a mysterious old man who promises him the footage he so desperately desires. But the man offers the item only at a most

unusual price.... Bela Lugosi's *Dead* is one-third detective story, one-third Hollywood ghost story, and one-third pulp adventure tale.... ***** "In Robert Guffey's latest and greatest novel, dreams of old movies and nightmares of classic horror rack into sharp focus through the lens of a brave film historian, one determined to squint clearly at fleeting grains of film through the shifting sands of time. Never has the truth of Hollywood been so well revealed through fiction. As a result, Bela Lugosi's *Dead* delightfully and definitively proves that Bela Lugosi isn't dead." --Gary D. Rhodes, author of *LUGOSI* and *TOD BROWNING'S DRACULA*

a telephone call dorothy parker: Asylum Judy Bolton-Fasman, 2021-08-24 How much do we really know about the lives of our parents and the secrets lodged in their past? Judy Bolton-Fasman's fascinating saga, *Asylum: A Memoir of Family Secrets*, recounts the search for answers to the mysteries embedded in the lives of her Cuban-born mother, Matilde Alboukrek Bolton and her elusive, Yale-educated father, K. Harold Bolton. In the prefatory chapter, *Burn This*, Judy receives a thick letter from her father and conjectures that the contents will reveal the long hidden explanations, confessions, and secrets that will unlock her father's cryptic past. Just as she is about to open the portal to her father's *transtien*das, his dark hidden secrets, Harold Bolton phones Judy and instructs her to burn the still unopened letter. With the flick of a match, Judy ignites her father's unread documents, effectively destroying the answers to long held questions that surround her parents' improbable marriage and their even more secretive lives. Judy Bolton, girl detective, embarks on the life-long exploration of her bifurcated ancestry; Judy inherits a Sephardic, Spanish/Ladino-speaking culture from her mother and an Ashkenazi, English-only, old-fashioned American patriotism from her father. Amid the Bolton household's cultural, political, and psychological confusion, Judy is mystified by her father's impenetrable silence; and, similarly confounded by her mother's fabrications, not the least of which involve rumors of a dowry pay-off and multiple wedding ceremonies for the oddly mismatched 40-year-old groom and the 24-year-old bride. Contacting former associates, relatives, and friends; accessing records through the Freedom of Information Act; traveling to Cuba to search for clues, and even reciting the Mourner's Kaddish for a year to gain spiritual insight into her father; these decades-long endeavors do not always yield the answers Judy wanted and sometimes the answers themselves lead her to ask new questions. Among *Asylum*'s most astonishing, unsolved mysteries is Ana Hernandez's appearance at the family home on *Asylum Avenue* in West Hartford, Connecticut. Ana is an exchange student from Guatemala whom Judy comes to presume to be her paternal half-sister. In seeking information about Ana, Judy's investigations prove to be much like her entire enterprise--both enticing and frustrating. Was Ana just a misconstrued memory, or is she a still living piece of the puzzle that Judy has spent her adult life trying to solve? Readers will relish every step and stage of Judy's investigations and will begin to share in her obsession to obtain answers to the mysteries that have haunted her life. The suspense, the clairvoyant prophecies, the discoveries, the new leads, the dead-ends, the paths not taken--all capture our attention in this absorbing and fascinating memoir.

a telephone call dorothy parker: *The Custard Heart* Dorothy Parker, 2018 Noveller. These tales of women on the edge show the darkness beneath the surface of the Jazz Age

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