



The Grand Gesture (Modern Plays)

Deborah McAndrew

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The world was cruel to Simeon Duff

Mad and mired in the deepest slough

Nobody seemed to give a stuff

'bout Simeon, Simeon Duff

Simeon Duff is working class, unemployed and desperate. His wife works. He's lost all self-esteem. He's on the scrap heap and wants to end it all . . . and so begins this brilliantly insane comedy about a man on the edge.

When word gets out that Duff is going to top himself, a host of ne'er-do-wells crawl out of the woodwork, each wanting to claim his grand gesture for their 'noble cause'. Let's face it, why waste a death? But which cause shall it be . . . love, politics, religion, or the rising price of fish?

Will the disillusioned Duff go through with it? Will he really top himself for a dubious cause? Is he worth it?

An adaptation of Nikolai Erdman's *The Suicide* (1928), *The Grand Gesture* is a witty satire of lobbyists seeking political control.

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