

Our Town (2)
Thornton Wilder

EMILY
GEORGE

Sitting in a soda shop, Emily and George discuss George going away to college next year. George tries to tell Emily about his feelings for her.

GEORGE. Emily, if I go away to State Agriculture College next year, will you write me a letter once in a while?

EMILY. I certainly will. I certainly will, George . . .

(Pause. They start sipping the sodas through the straws)

EMILY. It certainly seems like being away three years you'd get out of touch with things. Maybe letters from Grover's Corners wouldn't be so interesting after a while. Grover's Corners isn't a very important place when you think of all — New Hampshire; but I think it's a very nice town.

GEORGE. The day wouldn't come when I wouldn't want to everything that's happening here. I know *that's* true, Emily.

EMILY. Well, I'll try to make my letters interesting.

(Pause)

GEORGE. Y'know. Emily. Whenever I meet a farmer I ask him if he thinks it's important to go to Agriculture School to be a good farmer.

EMILY. Why, George —

GEORGE. Yeah, and some of them say that it's even a waste of time. You can get all those things, anyway, out of the pamphlets the

government sends out. And Uncle Luke's getting old, — he's about ready for me to start in taking over his farm tomorrow, if I could.

EMILY. My!

GEORGE. And, like you say, being gone all that time . . . in other places and meeting other people . . . Gosh, if anything like that can happen I don't want to go away. I guess new people aren't any better than old ones. I'll bet they almost never are. Emily . . . I feel that you're as good a friend as I've got. I don't need to go and meet the people in other towns.

EMILY. But, George, maybe it's very important for you to go and learn all that about — cattle and soils and those things . . . of course, I don't know.

GEORGE. *(After a pause, very seriously)* Emily, I'm going to make up my mind right now. I won't go. I'll tell Pa about it tonight.

EMILY. Why, George, I don't see why you have to decide right now. It's a whole year away.

GEORGE. Emily, what you said was right, but there was *one* thing wrong in it, and that was when you said that for a year I wasn't noticing people, and . . . you, for instance. *(Pause)* I always thought about you as one of the chief people I think about.

EMILY. George! . . . Life's awful funny! How could I have known that? Why, I thought —

GEORGE. Listen, Emily, I'm going to tell you why I'm not going to Agriculture School. I think once you've found a person that you're very fond of . . . Well, I think that's just as important as college is, and even more so. That's what I think.

EMILY. I think it's awfully important, too.

GEORGE. Emily.

EMILY. Y-yes, George?

GEORGE. Emily, if I *do* improve and make a big change . . . would you be . . . I mean: *could* you be . . .

EMILY. I . . . I am now; I always have been.

GEORGE. (*Pause*) So I guess this is an important talk we've been having.

EMILY. Yes . . . yes.