

# my dinner with andre analysis

My Dinner with Andre Analysis: A Deep Dive into the Film's Philosophical Conversation

**my dinner with andre analysis** naturally begins with an appreciation for the film's unique format—a nearly two-hour conversation between two old friends, Wallace Shawn and Andre Gregory, that takes place over dinner. Unlike most movies that rely on narrative action, “My Dinner with Andre” thrives on dialogue, intellectual exploration, and philosophical debates. This makes it a fascinating subject for anyone interested in film analysis, theater, or the nature of human connection.

In this article, we'll unpack the layers of meaning behind this cinematic gem, exploring its themes, character dynamics, and the broader implications of their discussion. Along the way, we'll touch on relevant filmmaking techniques, the cultural context of the late 1970s, and how the film remains relevant today.

## Setting the Scene: Why “My Dinner with Andre” Is Different

The film's premise is deceptively simple: two men meet for dinner at a restaurant in New York City and engage in a lengthy conversation. However, what unfolds is a profound examination of life, art, and experience.

Unlike traditional films that focus on plot-driven storytelling, “My Dinner with Andre” is essentially a filmed play. The camera work is minimalistic, often framing the two actors in close-ups or medium shots that emphasize their faces and gestures, drawing the viewer's attention to the nuances of their dialogue.

This minimalist approach is crucial in understanding the film's impact. It challenges the viewer to engage actively, to listen carefully, and to reflect on the ideas presented. The film's pacing, tone, and setting all serve to create an intimate atmosphere where intellectual exchange feels natural and immersive.

## Exploring the Characters: Andre and Wallace as Philosophical Foils

At the heart of the film are the contrasting personalities of Andre Gregory and Wallace Shawn, playing versions of themselves. Understanding their dynamic is essential for any meaningful my dinner with andre analysis.

## **Andre Gregory: The Seeker of Experience**

Andre represents the archetype of the spiritual adventurer. Throughout the dinner, he recounts vivid stories of his travels, experiments with theater, and attempts to break free from conventional life. His narratives often focus on moments of transcendence, existential questioning, and a desire to live fully.

His perspective challenges societal norms and materialism, pushing Wallace—and the audience—to consider what it means to truly experience life beyond routine and safety.

## **Wallace Shawn: The Rational Observer**

In contrast, Wallace serves as the grounded, pragmatic voice. He is skeptical of some of Andre's more radical ideas and often represents the everyday person who values reason, comfort, and social convention.

However, Wallace is not dismissive; instead, his questions and reflections help balance the conversation, making the film feel like a genuine exchange rather than a monologue.

## **Key Themes in My Dinner with Andre Analysis**

This film is a treasure trove of themes that resonate on multiple levels. Let's delve into some of the most prominent ones.

### **The Search for Meaning and Authenticity**

One of the central motifs is the quest for authenticity. Andre recounts his attempts to experience life directly, unmediated by societal expectations. Whether it's through experimental theater or living off the grid, he seeks moments of genuine revelation.

Wallace's responses highlight the difficulty of this pursuit in a world structured by routine and fear. This tension invites viewers to reflect on their own lives: How much do we conform? What does it mean to live authentically?

### **Art and Its Role in Life**

Art, particularly theater, is a recurring topic. Andre's experiences in avant-garde theater challenge traditional forms, aiming to provoke deeper emotional and spiritual responses.

The film suggests that art is not just entertainment but a vital medium for exploring and expressing the human condition. Through their discussion, the audience gains insight into different philosophies of art-making and its transformative potential.

## Isolation vs. Connection

Despite their differing viewpoints, both men reveal a deep yearning for connection—whether it's with other people, nature, or the self. The very setting of the film, a shared meal, becomes a metaphor for this human need.

The dialogue touches on loneliness, community, and the ways people can isolate themselves, either intentionally or through societal structures.

## Filmmaking Techniques and Their Impact

From a technical perspective, “My Dinner with Andre” uses simplicity to its advantage. Here’s how the filmmaking choices enhance the viewing experience:

- **Single Location Setting:** The restaurant environment creates intimacy and focuses attention on the dialogue.
- **Close-Up Shots:** Emphasize facial expressions and subtle emotional shifts, making the conversation more engaging.
- **Naturalistic Lighting:** Avoids dramatic contrasts, supporting the realistic tone of the film.
- **Minimal Editing:** The long takes allow conversations to flow organically, mirroring real-life discussions.

These elements work together to make the audience feel like a participant at the table rather than a detached observer.

## Why “My Dinner with Andre” Still Matters Today

Despite being released in 1981, the film’s themes are timeless. In an age of digital distraction and fast-paced living, the slow, thoughtful conversation between Andre and Wallace stands out as a reminder of the value of deep dialogue.

Moreover, the film’s exploration of authenticity, art, and human connection continues to inspire viewers and artists alike. It encourages questions about how we live, what we value, and how we relate to others in an increasingly fragmented world.

For students of film, theater, philosophy, or even psychology, “My Dinner with Andre” offers rich material for reflection and discussion. Its enduring relevance lies in its ability to provoke thought without prescribing answers.

# Tips for Engaging with “My Dinner with Andre” on a Deeper Level

If you're interested in exploring the film beyond a casual viewing, consider these approaches:

1. **Watch with a Friend:** The film's conversational nature makes it ideal for shared viewing followed by discussion.
2. **Take Notes:** Jot down key ideas or quotes that resonate, then reflect on their personal significance.
3. **Research the Backgrounds:** Learning about Andre Gregory's and Wallace Shawn's real lives and careers adds depth to the experience.
4. **Explore Related Works:** Check out avant-garde theater or philosophical essays on authenticity and art to broaden your understanding.

Approaching the film with curiosity and an open mind will unlock its full potential as a work of art and philosophy.

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“My Dinner with Andre” is more than just a movie—it's an invitation to slow down, listen, and engage in meaningful exchange. Through this my dinner with andre analysis, it becomes clear that the film's power lies in its ability to challenge viewers to think differently about life and connection. Whether you're a cinephile, a thinker, or simply someone who enjoys a good conversation, this film offers something profoundly rewarding.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the main theme of 'My Dinner with Andre'?

The main theme of 'My Dinner with Andre' revolves around the exploration of life, meaning, and human connection through a deep conversation between two friends over dinner.

### How does the film use dialogue to convey its message?

The film relies heavily on naturalistic and philosophical dialogue between the two characters, using their conversation to explore complex ideas about existence, art, and personal experience without traditional cinematic action.

## **What is the significance of the setting in 'My Dinner with Andre'?**

The setting, primarily a single restaurant table, creates an intimate atmosphere that focuses attention on the characters' dialogue and emphasizes the personal and introspective nature of their discussion.

## **How do the characters Andre and Wally represent different worldviews?**

Andre represents a more spiritual and experiential approach to life, seeking profound meaning through unusual experiences, while Wally embodies a more pragmatic and skeptical perspective, valuing everyday reality and caution.

## **Why is 'My Dinner with Andre' considered a cult classic?**

It is considered a cult classic due to its unconventional narrative style, reliance on philosophical conversation rather than plot, and its ability to provoke deep thought about life and human connection, resonating with audiences seeking intellectual cinema.

## **Additional Resources**

My Dinner with Andre Analysis: An In-Depth Exploration of Dialogue and Existential Inquiry

**My dinner with andre analysis** invites viewers and readers alike to delve into the unique cinematic experience crafted by director Louis Malle and writers Wallace Shawn and Andre Gregory. This film, released in 1981, defies traditional storytelling by focusing almost exclusively on a conversation between two old friends over dinner. The simplicity of the setting contrasts sharply with the complexity of the ideas exchanged, making it a rich subject for comprehensive analysis.

At its core, My Dinner with Andre is less a conventional narrative film and more a profound philosophical dialogue. The film's structure, character dynamics, and thematic concerns offer fertile ground for critical examination, particularly in how it challenges typical cinematic norms and engages with ideas about life, art, and human experience.

## **Structural and Cinematic Approach**

One of the most intriguing aspects of My Dinner with Andre is its minimalist approach to filmmaking. The entire movie takes place in a single restaurant setting, and the camera work is intentionally restrained, focusing primarily on close-ups and medium shots of the two protagonists, Andre (played by Andre Gregory) and Wallace (played by Wallace Shawn). This limited visual scope directs the audience's attention to the dialogue itself, emphasizing the intellectual and emotional exchanges rather than action or plot development.

This structural choice reflects a deliberate departure from mainstream cinema's emphasis

on spectacle. Instead, the film invites viewers to engage with the spoken word as the primary vehicle for storytelling. The conversational format resembles a theatrical play or a philosophical symposium, where ideas unfold through personal anecdote and reflection.

## Dialogue as Narrative Engine

Central to any analysis of *My Dinner with Andre* is the nature of its dialogue. The script, co-written by the two lead actors, is dense with philosophical inquiries and personal revelations. Andre recounts his unconventional travels and spiritual quests, often touching on themes of human connection, alienation, and the search for meaning. Wallace, in contrast, represents a more skeptical and grounded viewpoint, questioning the practicality and authenticity of Andre's experiences.

This dynamic creates a dialectic that drives the film forward. Through their conversation, viewers are exposed to contrasting worldviews—existential exploration versus pragmatic realism—that encourage reflection on one's own beliefs and values. The pacing of the dialogue, which shifts from casual banter to serious philosophical debate, mirrors the ebb and flow of a genuine dinner conversation, enhancing its realism.

## Thematic Depth and Philosophical Undertones

*My Dinner with Andre*'s thematic richness is what makes it a standout film for analysis. The discussion touches on several weighty topics:

- **Existentialism and the Search for Meaning:** Andre's narrative is imbued with existential questions about the nature of life and the pursuit of authentic experience.
- **Art and Creativity:** Both characters contemplate the role of art in society, exploring tensions between commercial success and artistic integrity.
- **Human Connection and Isolation:** The film probes the paradox of modern life—how individuals can feel profoundly isolated despite being surrounded by others.
- **Reality and Illusion:** Andre's stories often blur the lines between reality and fantasy, challenging viewers to consider how perception shapes experience.

These themes are woven seamlessly into the conversation, allowing the film to function both as entertainment and as an intellectual exercise. The philosophical undertones align closely with the works of existential thinkers like Sartre and Camus, positioning the film within a broader cultural and intellectual context.

## Character Study: Andre and Wallace

Analyzing the characters themselves reveals much about the film's message. Andre is portrayed as an eccentric, almost mystical figure who has embarked on a series of radical life experiments. His experiences range from theater workshops to spiritual retreats in remote locations. Wallace, in contrast, serves as the everyman—cautious, analytical, and somewhat cynical.

This contrast is crucial. Wallace's skepticism grounds Andre's flights of fancy, providing a counterbalance that prevents the dialogue from becoming didactic or preachy. The film thus avoids glorifying one viewpoint, instead presenting a nuanced exploration of differing approaches to life. Their friendship, framed by genuine affection and respect, highlights the possibility of meaningful dialogue across ideological divides.

## Comparisons and Cultural Impact

When comparing *My Dinner with Andre* to other films of its era, its uniqueness becomes apparent. Unlike the action-driven or plot-heavy films that dominated the 1980s, this film foregrounds conversation and introspection. It shares some kinship with other dialogue-centric films like Richard Linklater's *Before Sunrise* series, which similarly explore human connection through extended conversations.

Moreover, *My Dinner with Andre* has influenced both filmmakers and audiences interested in philosophical cinema. Its enduring appeal lies in its ability to provoke thought without the need for conventional narrative devices. It challenges viewers to reconsider the nature of film as a medium for intellectual engagement rather than mere entertainment.

## Pros and Cons of the Film's Approach

- **Pros:**

- Innovative use of dialogue as the primary narrative mechanism.
- Deep philosophical exploration that encourages active viewer participation.
- Strong performances by the lead actors, lending authenticity to the conversation.
- Minimalist setting focuses attention on ideas rather than visual distractions.

- **Cons:**

- The slow pace and limited action may not appeal to all audiences.

- The heavy philosophical content requires attentive viewing and prior interest in such topics.
- Some viewers may find the dialogue overly abstract or self-indulgent.

## Legacy and Relevance Today

The continued relevance of *My Dinner with Andre* is a testament to its timeless themes and innovative style. In an age dominated by fast-paced media and visual spectacle, the film's focus on conversation and existential inquiry offers a refreshing contrast. It challenges contemporary audiences to slow down and engage deeply with ideas and interpersonal connection.

Additionally, the film's exploration of authenticity and the search for meaning resonates with modern concerns about identity, purpose, and the nature of human relationships. Its relevance extends beyond cinema, influencing discussions in philosophy, psychology, and the arts.

In sum, *My Dinner with Andre* remains a landmark in independent filmmaking and intellectual cinema. Its commitment to exploring profound questions through the simple act of a dinner conversation continues to inspire and provoke thought among viewers, making it a compelling subject for ongoing analysis.

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**my dinner with andre analysis: The ^AOxford Handbook of Qualitative Research** Patricia



Leavy, 2020-09-07 The Oxford Handbook of Qualitative Research, Second Edition presents a comprehensive, interdisciplinary overview of the field of qualitative research. Divided into eight parts, the forty chapters address key topics in the field such as approaches to qualitative research (philosophical perspectives), narrative inquiry, field research, and interview methods, text, arts-based, and internet methods, analysis and interpretation of findings, and representation and evaluation. The handbook is intended for students of all levels, faculty, and researchers across the disciplines, with a contributor list that represents some of the most influential and innovative researchers as well as emerging scholars.

**my dinner with andre analysis: Writing to Make an Impact** Sandra Murphy, Mary Ann Smith, 2020 Through ideas and practices straight from the classrooms of outstanding teachers, this lively resource illustrates writing that makes an impact on a reader, a writer, or a cause—writing that everyone wants to read. The book is rich with student work that shows how writing can make things happen in the world. The authors provide ready-to-use lessons that include a full range of writing, including poetry, narrative, petitions, proposals, emails, self-reflections, long-term projects, and critical analyses. “Young people yearn to have an impact on the world but often lack the tools to make change. This book demonstrates how shifting the focus and purposes for writing can turn students' frustration with the status quo into action. There’s no time to waste. The need for change—both in school and in society—is urgent.” —Carol Jago, past president, National Council of Teachers of English and associate director, California Reading and Literature Project at UCLA “In true National Writing Project style, Sandy Murphy and Mary Ann Smith take us inside the classrooms of remarkable teachers to see how they create contexts for young writers to pursue writing they care about for purposes that matter. Readers will find lots to take back to their own settings to engage this remarkable generation of young people in our classrooms.” —Elyse Eidman-Aadahl, Executive Director, National Writing Project

**my dinner with andre analysis: Autism in Film and Television** Murray Pomerance, R. Barton Palmer, 2022-03-29 Global awareness of autism has skyrocketed since the 1980s, and popular culture has caught on, with film and television producers developing ever more material featuring autistic characters. Autism in Film and Television brings together more than a dozen essays on depictions of autism, exploring how autistic characters are signified in media and how the reception of these characters informs societal understandings of autism. Editors Murray Pomerance and R. Barton Palmer have assembled a pioneering examination of autism’s portrayal in film and television. Contributors consider the various means by which autism has been expressed in films such as Phantom Thread, Mercury Rising, and Life Animated and in television and streaming programs including Atypical, The Bridge, Stranger Things, Star Trek: The Next Generation, and Community. Across media, the figure of the brilliant, accomplished, and “quirky” autistic has proven especially appealing. Film and television have thus staked out a progressive position on neurodiversity by insisting on screen time for autism but have done so while frequently ignoring the true diversity of autistic experience. As a result, this volume is a welcome celebration of nonjudgmental approaches to disability, albeit one that is still freighted with stereotypes and elisions.

**my dinner with andre analysis: Fictional Games** Stefano Gualeni, Riccardo Fassone, 2022-12-15 What roles do imaginary games have in story-telling? Why do fiction authors outline the rules of a game that the audience will never play? Combining perspectives from philosophy, literary theory and game studies, this book provides the first in-depth investigation into the significance of fictional games within fictional worlds. Drawing from contemporary cinema and literature, from The Hunger Games to the science fiction of Iain M. Banks, Stefano Gualeni and Riccardo Fassone introduce five key functions that different types of imaginary games have in worldbuilding. First, fictional games can emphasize the dominant values and ideologies of the fictional society they belong to. Second, some imaginary games function in fictional worlds as critical, utopian tools, inspiring shifts in the thinking and political orientation of the fictional characters. Third, a few fictional games are conducive to the transcendence of a particular form of being, such as the overcoming of human corporeality. Fourth, imaginary games within works of fiction can deceptively

blur the boundaries between the contingency of play and the irrevocable seriousness of “real life”, either camouflaging life as a game or disguising a game as something with more permanent consequences. And fifth, they can function as meta-reflexive tools, suggesting critical and/or satirical perspectives on how actual games are designed, played, sold, manipulated, experienced, understood and utilized as part of our culture. With illustrations in every chapter bringing the imaginary games to life, Gualeni and Fassone creatively inspire us to consider fictional games anew: not as moments of playful reprieve in a storyline, but as significant and multi-layered expressive devices.

**my dinner with andre analysis: Christopher Nolan** Robbie B. H. Goh, 2021-11-04

Christopher Nolan is the writer and director of Hollywood blockbusters like *The Dark Knight* and *The Dark Knight Rises*, and also of arthouse films like *Memento* and *Inception*. Underlying his staggering commercial success however, is a darker sensibility that questions the veracity of human knowledge, the allure of appearance over reality and the latent disorder in contemporary society. This appreciation of the sinister owes a huge debt to philosophy and especially modern thinkers like Friedrich Nietzsche, Sigmund Freud and Jacques Derrida. Taking a thematic approach to Nolan's oeuvre, Robbie Goh examines how the director's postmodern inclinations manifest themselves in non-linearity, causal agnosticism, the threat of social anarchy and the frequent use of the *mise en abyme*, while running counter to these are narratives of heroism, moral responsibility and the dignity of human choice. For Goh, Nolan is a 'reluctant postmodernist'. His films reflect the cynicism of the modern world, but with their representation of heroic moral triumphs, they also resist it.

**my dinner with andre analysis: Drama and Theatre Studies** Sally Mackey, Simon Cooper, 2000 Revised and expanded edition for use with all Drama and Theatre Studies A & AS specifications.

**my dinner with andre analysis: *Existential America*** George Cotkin, 2003 As Cotkin shows, not only did Americans readily take to existentialism, but they were already heirs to a rich tradition of thinkers - from Jonathan Edwards and Herman Melville to Emily Dickinson and William James - who had wrestled with the problems of existence and the contingency of the world long before Sartre and his colleagues. After introducing the concept of an American existential tradition, Cotkin examines how formal existentialism first arrived in America in the 1930s through discussion of Kierkegaard and the early vogue among New York intellectuals for the works of Sartre, Beauvoir, and Camus.

**my dinner with andre analysis: *Theatre on the Edge*** Mel Gussow, 1998 (Applause Books). Compiled by Mel Gussow, this collection of sideshow American and international theatre includes: *Deeply American Roots* (Sam Shepard) \* *The Man Who Made Theatre Ridiculous* (Charles Ludlam) \* *From the City Streets, a Poet of the Stage* (Miguel Pinero) \* *The Clark Kent of Modern Theatre* (Robert Wilson) \* *Speaks the Language of Illusion* (Martha Clarke) \* *The Lonely World of Displaced Persons* (Lanford Wilson) \* *A Virtuoso Who Specializes in Everything* (Michael Gambon) \* *Actress, Clown, and Social Critic* (Whoopi Goldberg) \* *Comedy, Tragedy and Mystical Fantasy* (Peter Brook) \* *Celebrating the Fallen World* (Richard Foreman).

**my dinner with andre analysis: *Mind and Media*** Patricia M. Greenfield, 2014-11-20 Patricia M. Greenfield was one of the first psychologists to present new research on how various media can be used to promote social growth and thinking skills. In this now classic, she argues that each medium can make a contribution to development, that each has strengths and weaknesses, and that the ideal childhood environment includes a multimedia approach to learning. In the Introduction to the Classic Edition, Greenfield shows how the original edition set themes that have extended into contemporary research on media and child development, and includes an explanation of how the new media landscape has changed her own research and thinking.

**my dinner with andre analysis: *Media Review Digest*** C. Edward Wall, 1984

**my dinner with andre analysis: *A Sense of Community*** Ann-Gee Lee, 2014-05-28 Television's *Community* follows the shenanigans of a diverse group of traditional and nontraditional community college students: Jeff Winger, a former lawyer; Britta Perry, a feminist; Abed Nadir, a pop culture enthusiast; Shirley Bennett, a mother; Troy Barnes, a former jock; Annie Edison, a naive overachiever; and Pierce Hawthorne, an old-fashioned elderly man. There are also Benjamin Chang,

the maniacal Spanish teacher, and Craig Pelton, the eccentric dean of Greendale Community College, along with well-known guest stars who play troublemaking students, nutty professors and frightening administrators. This collection of fresh essays familiarizes readers not only with particular characters and popular episodes, but behind-the-scenes aspects such as screenwriting and production techniques. The essayists explore narrative theme, hyperreality, masculinity, feminism, color blindness, civic discourse, pastiche, intertextuality, media consciousness, how Community is influenced by other shows and films, and how fans have contributed to the show.

**my dinner with andre analysis: Sex, Religion, Media** Dane S. Claussen, 2002-10-16 Each chapter in this unique volume explores intersections of sex, religion, and media in our society. An interdisciplinary cast of contributors examines a wide variety of themes, including entertainment producers' roles in disseminating sexual and religious content; news coverage of stories about sex and religion; religious conservatives' efforts to influence media coverage of sex and 'values;' and how religious consumers are influenced by and react to sexual content in media.

**my dinner with andre analysis: A Teaching Subject** Joseph Harris, 2012 Reviewing the last 50 years of the development of writing studies as a discipline through five key ideas, Harris unfolds a set of issues and tensions that continue to shape the teaching of writing today-- Provided by publisher.

**my dinner with andre analysis: Landmark Essays on Contemporary Rhetoric** Thomas B. Farrell, 2020-10-28 This work brings together the pivotal, scholarly essays responsible for the present resurgence in rhetorical studies. Assembled by one of the most respected senior scholars in the field of rhetoric, the essays chart a course from tradition-based theory of civic rhetoric to ongoing issues of figuration, power, and gender. Together with a lucid introductory essay, these studies help to integrate the still-volatile questions at the core of humanities scholarship in rhetoric. The introductory student as well as the seasoned scholar will gain familiarity and footing in this oldest--and still new--liberal art.

**my dinner with andre analysis: Theatre Through the Camera Eye** Sava Laura Sava, 2019-06-24 How do we experience theatre through film? Laura Sava critically engages with the filmic representation of theatre, focusing on a selection of art house and independent films which provide a sophisticated commentary on the interaction between the two media. Through an in-depth analysis of films such as Jacques Rivette's *L'Amour fou*, Pedro Almodvar's *All About My Mother* and Charlie Kaufman's *Synecdoche, New York*, this book analyses the embedment of theatre in film and the notion of spectatorial address. Using textual analysis in conjunction with concepts derived from narratology, performance philosophy, and film and theatre phenomenology, it explores the mechanisms of representation involved in the intermedial diegetisation of theatre in film.

**my dinner with andre analysis: Public Relations Theory III** Carl Botan, Erich Sommerfeldt, 2023-02-22 This important book chronicles, responds to, and advances the leading theories in the public relations discipline. Taking up the work begun by the books *Public Relations Theory* and *Public Relations Theory II*, this volume offers completely original material reflecting public relations as practiced today. It features contributions by leading public relations researchers from around the world who write about new developments in the field. Important subjects include: a turn to more humanistic, social, dialogic, and cocreational perspectives on public relations; changes in the capacity and use of new information technologies; a greater emphasis on non-Western international and intercultural public relations that considers an increasingly politically polarized culture; and issues of ethics that look beyond how clients and the traditional mass media are treated and into much broader questions of voice, agency, race, identity, and the economic and political status of publics. This book is a touchstone for advanced undergraduate and graduate courses in public relations theory and a key reference for researchers.

**my dinner with andre analysis: The Drama of Everyday Life** Karl Scheibe, 2002-03-15 Psychologists, says the old joke, know everything there is to know about the college sophomore and the white rat. But what about the rest of us, older than the former, bigger than the latter, with lives more labyrinthine than either? In this ambitious book, Karl E. Scheibe aims to take psychology out of

its rut and bring it into contact with the complex lives that most people quietly live. Drama, Scheibe reminds us, is no more confined to the theater than religion is to the church or education to the schoolroom. Accordingly, he brings to his reflection on psychology the drama of literature, poetry, philosophy, history, music, and theater. The essence of drama is transformation: the transformation of the quotidian world into something that commands interest and stimulates conversation. It is this dramatic transformation that Scheibe seeks in psychology as he pursues a series of suggestive questions, such as: Why is boredom the central motivational issue of our time? Why are eating and sex the biological foundations of all human dramas? Why is indifference a natural condition, caring a dramatic achievement? Why is schizophrenia disappearing? Why does gambling have cosmic significance? Writing with elegance and passion, Scheibe asks us to take note of the self-representation, performance, and scripts of the drama that is our everyday life. In doing so, he challenges our dispirited senses and awakens psychology to a new realm of dramatic possibility.

**my dinner with andre analysis: Self, Logic, and Figurative Thinking** Harwood Fisher, 2008-12-31 Harwood Fisher argues against neuroscientific and cognitive scientific explanations of mental states, for they fail to account for the gaps between actions in the brain, cognitive operations, linguistic mapping, and an individual's account of experience. Fisher probes a rich array of thought from the primitive and the dream to the artistic figure of speech, and extending to the scientific metaphor. He draws on first-person methodologies to restore the conscious self to a primary function in the generation of figurative thinking. How does the individual originate and organize terms and ideas? How can we differentiate between different types of thought and account for their origins? Fisher depicts the self as mediator between trope and logical form. Conversely, he explicates the creation and articulation of the self through interplay between logic and icon. Fisher explains how the I can step out of scripted roles. The self is neither a discursive agent of postmodern linguistics nor a socially determined entity. Rather, it is a historically situated, dynamically constituted place at the crossroads of conscious agency and unconscious actions and evolving contextual logics and figures.

**my dinner with andre analysis: The Southern Quarterly** , 1991

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