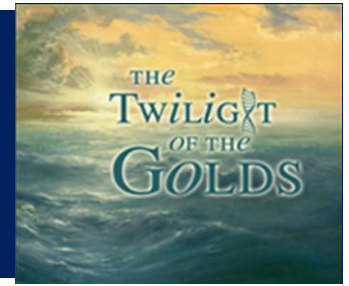


Character and Plot Summary for

Twilight of the Golds



All characters are Jewish, not that they have stereotypical accents, and all hail from and live in New York City.

Phyllis Gold	<i>mid 50's to mid 60's</i>	Wife to Walter, mother of David and Susan. A nice Jewish lady, looking forward to retirement and grandchildren. Critical, but good natured. Mildly meddling. Chatty. Elegant. Smarter than she sometimes lets on. Perpetually worried about her children.
Walter Gold	<i>mid 50's to mid 60's</i>	Husband to Phyllis, father of David and Susan A good but somewhat hands off father, impressed by material and financial success, labels, connections. A sometimes gruff NY businessman. Far more sensitive than he often appears.
Suzanne Gold Stein	<i>early to mid 30's</i>	Daughter of Phyllis and Walter, brother to David, wife of Rob. Bright, attractive, positive. Feels as if she never lived up to her own potential or parents expectations. Works as a buyer for Bloomingdale's department store. Dropped out of med school. Somewhat dependent on approval from others. Likes to keep life simple, easy, and have everyone happy.
Rob Stein	<i>early to late 30s</i>	Husband to Suzanne. A doctor working in genetic research. Handsome, decent, man of the house. Still feels a bit like an outsider to the close knit Gold family. Confident, influenced by society, protective of his wife.
David Gold	<i>early to mid 30's</i>	Son of Phyllis & Walter, younger brother to Suzanne. Charming, sensitive, gay, aspiring scenic designer for Opera. Living his own life yet still somewhat constrained and conformant to his close knit family. Currently a fervent Wagner fan.

Twilight of the Golds gets its title from a twist on one of Wagner's operas – *Twilight of the Gods* – the final chapter of his *Ring Cycle*. It plays into David's association with opera and alludes to some of the themes found therein. Twilight is that in-between time of day – merging day into night and night into day. It is both beginning and end. A time when the perspective is different. When shadows are long or light just breaking through.

The story of the Golds is told from David's perspective. Much of the plot revolves around the announcement of Suzanne's pregnancy and her journey of decision making based on new and controversial genetic testing results provided by husband Rob's company. While appearing to be a happy family, comfortable with the life decisions all have made, the discovery that Rob & Suzanne's child will most likely be "like David" (*homosexual*) unravels facades and reveals deeper truths about the family's attitudes and feelings toward each other – and themselves. Starting out as what could be seen as a light family comedy, the play shifts course as more serious issues are touched on, such as genetic engineering, homosexuality and abortion. Decisions lead to actions which have consequences. While it appears that at the end the family will no longer be a happily united group, the underscoring of the play supports that truth and knowledge are dependent on current circumstances – allowing for a glimmer of hope, albeit in a more distant future.

The play is structured to allow for each character to share a monologue between scenes revealing their perspective on the family, their role in it, and their own reflections on life choices.