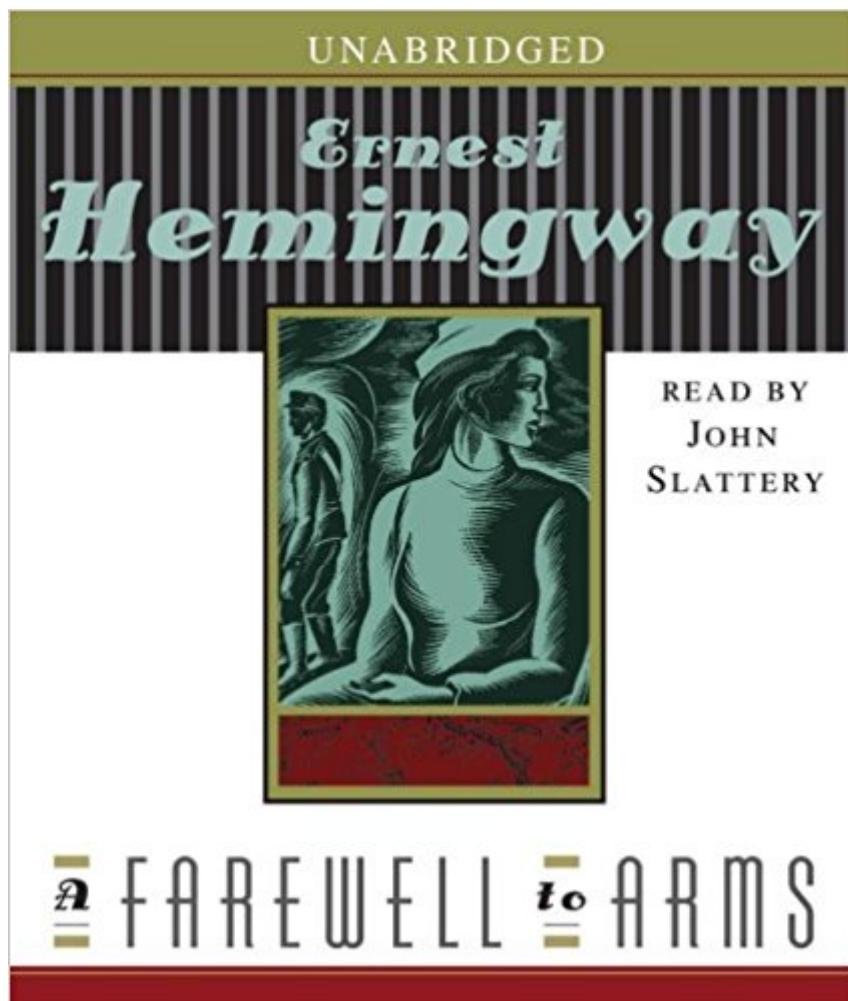


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# A Farewell To Arms



## Synopsis

Hemingway's classic novel of the First World War The best American novel to emerge from World War I, *A Farewell to Arms* is the unforgettable story of an American ambulance driver on the Italian front and his passion for a beautiful English nurse. Hemingway's frank portrayal of the love between Lieutenant Henry and Catherine Barkley, caught in the inexorable sweep of war, glows with an intensity unrivaled in modern literature, while his description of the German attack on Caporetto -- of lines of fired men marching in the rain, hungry, weary, and demoralized -- is one of the greatest moments in literary history. A story of love and pain, of loyalty and desertion, *A Farewell to Arms*, written when he was 30 years old, represents a new romanticism for Hemingway. Ernest Hemingway did more to change the style of English prose than any other writer in the twentieth century, and for his efforts he was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1954. Hemingway wrote in short, declarative sentences and was known for his tough, terse prose. Publication of *The Sun Also Rises* and *A Farewell to Arms* immediately established Ernest Hemingway as one of the greatest literary lights of the twentieth century. As part of the expatriate community in 1920s Paris, the former journalist and World War I ambulance driver began a career that lead to international fame. Hemingway was an aficionado of bullfighting and big-game hunting, and his main protagonists were always men and women of courage and conviction, who suffered unseen scars, both physical and emotional. He covered the Spanish Civil War, portraying it in fiction in his brilliant novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, and he subsequently covered World War II. His classic novella *The Old Man and the Sea* won the Pulitzer Prize in 1953. He died in 1961.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a youth of 18, Ernest Hemingway was eager to fight in the Great War. Poor vision kept him out of the army, so he joined the ambulance corps instead and was sent to France. Then he transferred to Italy where he became the first American wounded in that country during World War I. Hemingway came out of the European battlefields with a medal for valor and a wealth of experience that he would, 10 years later, spin into literary gold with *A Farewell to Arms*. This is the story of Lieutenant Henry, an American, and Catherine Barkley, a British nurse. The two meet in Italy, and almost immediately Hemingway sets up the central tension of the novel: the tenuous nature of love in a time of war. During their first encounter, Catherine tells Henry about her fiancÃƒÂ© of eight years who had been killed the year before in the Somme. Explaining why she hadn't married him, she says she was afraid marriage would be bad for him, then admits: I wanted to do something for him. You see, I didn't care about the other thing and he could have had it all. He could have had anything he wanted if I would have known. I would have married him or anything. I know all about it now. But then he wanted to go to war and I didn't know. The two begin an affair, with Henry quite convinced that he "did not love Catherine Barkley nor had any idea of loving her. This was a game, like bridge, in which you said things instead of playing cards." Soon enough, however, the game turns serious for both of them and ultimately Henry ends up deserting to be with Catherine. Hemingway was not known for either unbridled optimism or happy endings, and *A Farewell to Arms*, like his other novels (*For Whom the Bell Tolls*, *The Sun Also Rises*, and *To Have and Have Not*), offers neither. What it does provide is an unblinking portrayal of men and women behaving with grace under pressure, both physical and psychological, and somehow finding the courage to go on in the face of certain loss. --Alix Wilber --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

These dual Hemingways are the latest volumes in the Scribner Paperback Fiction series (Classic Returns, February 15, p. 187). They offer quality trade size editions, featuring attractive covers and easily readable type size. Two of the greats. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is an extraordinary book that packs a whopping emotional punch. It'll grab you by the gut and squeeze until tears stream out of your eyeballs. I've recommended this book to a few friends and they've all reported back with "meh" reviews, some not even finishing it. Here's why: this isn't f\*\*\*ing cocktail hour, this is all business, and like all of Hemingway's books it takes a few hundred pages of build up to get to the real meat and potatoes, to the good stuff. *A Farewell To Arms* demands the

reader's patience, and then rewards it ten-fold. For example, there is a specific passage toward the end of the book which F. Scott Fitzgerald praised as "the finest passage ever written in the history of the English language." (or something to that effect, \*not a direct quote\*, but you get the idea). Special note: this Library Edition is a beautiful book that contains all kinds of goodies (see product description) -- a must for writers and serious readers.

What can you say about the mature Hemingway? You like his writing or you don't. The amazing thing is that you remember his stories more than most although at the time of reading you have doubts. One can forget how evocative he is of some things and how poor at others, like drawing believable women. This is very atutobiographical and I for one am glad I re-read it after many years. It is an ode to love and an indictment of war.

This is a typical Hemingway novel: simple language, clear description, insightful comments on human nature. What isn't typical is that most of the action is presented as memories of a retired US Army colonel who returns to the area of Italy where he was involved in a memorable (to him, at least) military action in World War I. It opens with references to an upcoming duck hunt, returning to it later to bring things "full circle." There are interesting reunions with former Army buddies, some local friends, and a young woman who holds a mysterious, but clearly significant, place in his heart. If you like Hemingway's writing style, especially his reflections on human nature, you'll probably like this one.

This is true EH in his early career clear images that are actually palpable. Knowing about his Italian war injuries and his ability to exaggerate and fictionalize a lot of his experiences does actually add appreciation for his creativity in fiction with a faint basis in his life. Well worth a read or ever a reread or two as your personal perspectives may have altered. Cactus Ken

Haven't really had much exposure to Hemingway in the past. This was ordered for my English class. I found much of the dialogue to be a bit tedious. I kept thinking, did people really talk to each other like this? I can away somewhat less impressed than I had hoped. The book itself is well made of good quality paper. As required texts go, this has to be one of the better bargains I've had. It also has a bunch of authors notes and alternate versions of some events and of the ending.

Ernest Hemingway's name has always been synonymous with classic American literature, so I

wanted to view his particular writing style first hand. Indeed, A Farewell To Arms did not disappoint. It is a tragic love story for all times! I fell in love with the story when I saw the movie version—starring Rock Hudson and Jennifer Jones, with my mother when I was a teenager. Hemingway's narrative prose style of writing tells a gripping tale of love and romance and the horrors of war. I discovered in the author's introduction to this edition that Hemingway had quite a dry sense of humor when it came to his personal viewpoint about the evils of war. I found myself laughing out loud! Ernest Hemingway was 30 years old when he wrote A Farewell To Arms. He rewrote the ending 39 times in order to get the words just right. This edition collects all of the alternate endings, giving insight to his craft and creative process. His book is a masterpiece of literary craftsmanship. It achieves what only great art can do—it brings the reader into the experience. The realities and tragedies of war he describes are as relevant today as they were 86 years ago when the book was first published. However, Hemingway's non religious belief that life is a tragedy, where we all die in the end and there is nothing else to hope for, comes through loud and clear. And to me, his cynical, skewed viewpoint is the real tragedy of his love story. "The world breaks everyone and afterward many are strong at the broken places. But those that will not break it kills." ~ Ernest Hemingway, A Farewell To Arms "Love is ... [not] passion and lust. When you love you wish to do things for. You wish to sacrifice for. We wish to serve. ... You cannot know about it unless you have it." ~ Ernest Hemingway, A Farewell To Arms

I really liked reading this book. It is about a man who has spent all of his adult life in the service. He has survived wars, both on the battlefield and on personal levels. This story takes place during a car ride when the main character, Richard, is under a great deal of stress and in pain from a heart condition. He is recalling the previous days that he spent with a young woman that he loves. He shares his thoughts and feelings, memories of how the weekend events occurred with the reader. Richard is the only point of view the reader has, and he is in pain, fearing his impending death, so the reader has a pointed (and restricted) view. He is facing the idea that the chronic heart problems he has will probably end his life, and he is recalling many of his regrets, both professional and personal, to the female character and the reader. The reader gets more information than does his lover because we have some insight into what he thinks, but isn't saying. The female character seems flat, but really I think that is just because she is seen through his eyes, and he is under a lot of stress. I really liked this book. It is Hemingway, his writing is emotional and detailed. It provokes thought about myself and how do I affect the people around me. What are they going through that I'm not aware of? The Kindle edition of this book is formatted without issue and all the chapter links

work.

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