



Hemingway: A Biography

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Distinguished by its precision, its graceful use of language, and its resonant depth, the innovative style of Nobel Prize-winning author Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) radically altered literary conventions and influenced generations of writers. In *The Sun Also Rises*, *A Farewell to Arms*, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, *The Old Man and the Sea*, and numerous short stories, he explored such universal themes as stoicism in adversity, as well as our futile struggles against nature and mortality. This evocative, sympathetic biography illuminates the events that informed Hemingway's vigorous life: an accident-prone youth and early rivalry with his father; his experiences in World War I, the Spanish Civil War, and World War II; his stormy relationships with writers and women; his sudden fame, slow decline, and suicide. Based on previously unavailable information and exclusive interviews, *Hemingway* enriches anyone's understanding and appreciation of America's most important twentieth-century writer.

Hemingway: A Biography Details

Date : Published May 7th 1999 by Da Capo Press (first published 1982)

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Lee Kofman says

I really enjoyed this book. It offers a comprehensive account of the writer's life interspersed with astute psychological and literary analyses. I also really loved the broad perspective of the biographer, how well he contextualized Hemingway's life within the broader historical context. I learned a lot from this book – about Hemingway's creative process, about Cuban history, Spanish war, human nature and more and more.

Anita says

This was a really good read on Hemingway. Personally, a little more than I really was looking for, but interesting none the less.

Wilson Hines says

Absolutely adding more light to the subject than Baker's bio, this fantastic book talks about the family in a more retrospective way with more distance than the honorable Baker. Sometimes it takes forty years to really understand the history of a man, and distance to see his greatness. No matter how great Baker's bio is, and it is great, Meyers seems to take the distance of time and the distance from the family that Baker didn't enjoy and use it for his advantage. Read it!

Diane Rashid says

lots of detail. Lots of Papa

Annette says

This is reference to Jeffrey Meyers book: An exhaustive presentation of the life of Hemingway and those who he surrounded himself with in his lifetime. Filled with references and explanations of his work and quotes from friends and colleagues, this book is the definitive guide of the novelist's life and work. For anyone seeking a deeper understanding of the Lost Generation, the politics of the mid-century, and the psychology of an author, will find this work gratifying, gripping, and historic.

Jane says

Wow. Hemingway was a bigger jack off than I'd ever imagined. Other than that, the writing is great, the reporting of events seems fair and as unbiased as possible, and I was greatly entertained by Hemingway's

train wreck of a life. I will definitely check out Meyers' biography on Fitzgerald next!

Ian Williams says

As a writer, Hemingway is a giant of 20th century literature. His novel, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, is the only novel that I read as a teenager to which I keep returning again and again and the magic does not fade. His two “African” stories – *The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber* and *The Snows of Kilimanjaro* – are the most perfect short stories that I at least have ever read. When he wrote well, he wrote beautifully. A style of writing that he learnt as a journalist – straight clear language with no adverbs and no adjectives, - coupled with a perceptive insight into human psychology.

As a human being, however, he was less than perfect. In fact he was often a complete shit. He was mean to his wives, turned against all his family and friends, including Scott Fitzgerald and John Dos Passos, physically assaulted critics, and on several occasions, offered people an opportunity to spar with him in the ring, then take that opportunity to beat them up. He had a positive side. He was handsome, a charismatic raconteur, courageous, and could be generous with money. Above all, he was a man of action. He took part in World War 1 and the Spanish Civil War, hunted big game in Africa, fished off the coast of Cuba, and boxed. He never went to university but was extraordinarily well read. He was a voracious reader. His library had 9000 books.

Meyers does a good job in bringing to life this complex man, who was easy to admire but difficult to like.

Charlotte says

What an unbelievable life he lead!

Al says

A fascinating biography in which the author reveals many little known aspects of Hemingway's life and relates how so much of his writing was drawn directly from incidents which occurred during his own life. If you have read and enjoyed Hemingway's novels and short stories, you should definitely read this book.

Stephen Roycroft says

A thorough and honest portrayal of a giant man's strengths as well as his weaknesses. Meyers' reflections on Hemingway's life reflected in his art is a lucid prism with which to view the man and the history. I rarely award 5 stars. Nearly did this time...
