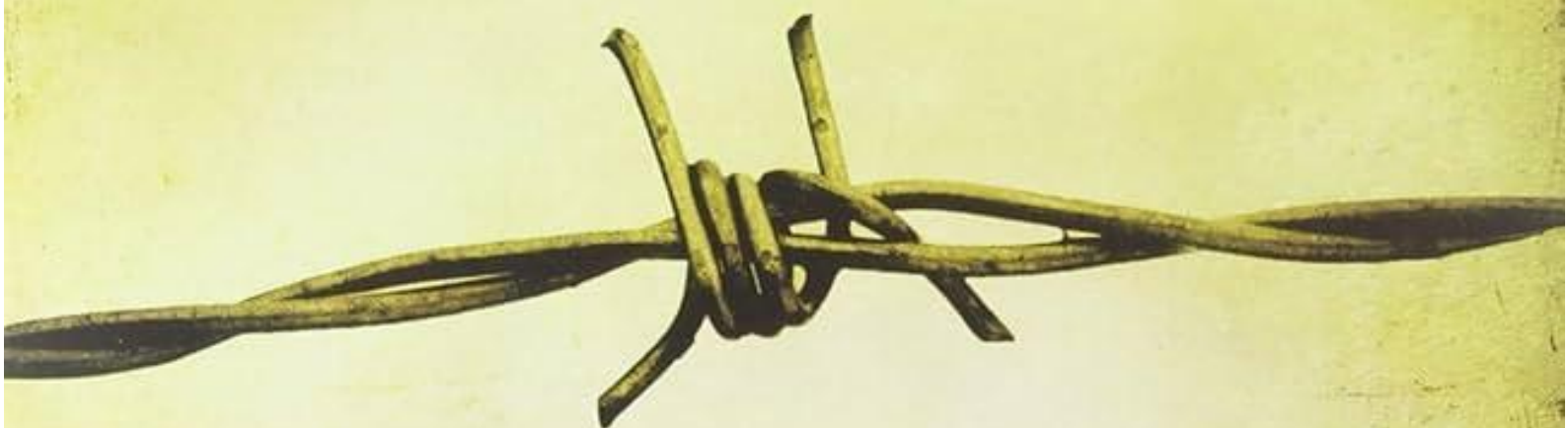


ERNEST  
HEMINGWAY



*A FAREWELL  
TO ARMS*

A NOVEL

## **REVIEW BOOK**

### **A FAREWELL TO ARMS**

Inspired by Ernest Hemingway's personal experiences, he wrote the novel that is set during and after the Italian campaigns of World War-I. Hemingway, like the protagonist Lt. Henry, joined the Red Cross Ambulance Corps during WW-I, during which he was struck with a trench mortar. When he was recovering from his injuries, Hemingway met and fell in love with a nurse Agnes von Kurowsky, the real-life version of Catherine Barkley (the love-interest of Lt. Henry in the novel).

The novel is considered a classic masterpiece owing to Hemingway's distinct and outstanding style of writing, i.e., simple, direct and concise with every single word delivering the context. Further, the author gives an insight into the complexities of human life, especially during difficult times. These complexities dominate the entire novel as all characters dream and imagine fantasies of better lives post-war.

Hemingway paints a picture of harsh reality which always alludes and destroys the dreams that the characters have dreamt of. Both Lt. Henry and Catherine make multiple attempts to escape the war, however despite their best efforts, they get struck with the harsh realities of life which end up destroying their efforts. For example, at the start of the novel, both of them pretended to be in love with each other in order to escape the pain of reality. However, their love faces the first challenge in the form of a mortar shell that strikes Lt. Henry pushing him to the brink of death. Thereafter, the couple once again used love as an excuse to escape the real world, with Lt. Henry deserting the army, to flee to Switzerland. During this time Catherine was pregnant and for a brief time it's almost perfect, but then it's like the calm before the storm.

Henry gets hit by the harsh reality of life when Catherine undergoes labor, during which she gives birth to a stillborn child. Following the birth, she hemorrhages which results in her death. By incorporating these incidents into the plot, he conveys to the readers the bitter reality of life, which even positive traits such as courage, love and hope also cannot withstand.

Through this classic, Hemingway assimilates symbolisms to convey the vital events that are about to happen. For instance, rain not only in the novel but also in real-life also symbolizes death, defeat and darkness. By incorporating rain, Hemingway implies that weather plays an important role in the novel. Catherine's fear of rain and acknowledgment of its relationship with death, is justified when the novel ends with Henry returning back to the hotel, drenched in rain, grieving for Catherine's demise. All these instances are Hemingway's manner of conveying to the readers that tragedies are a part of life and no matter how hard one tries, it is impossible for an individual to avoid or escape these challenges.