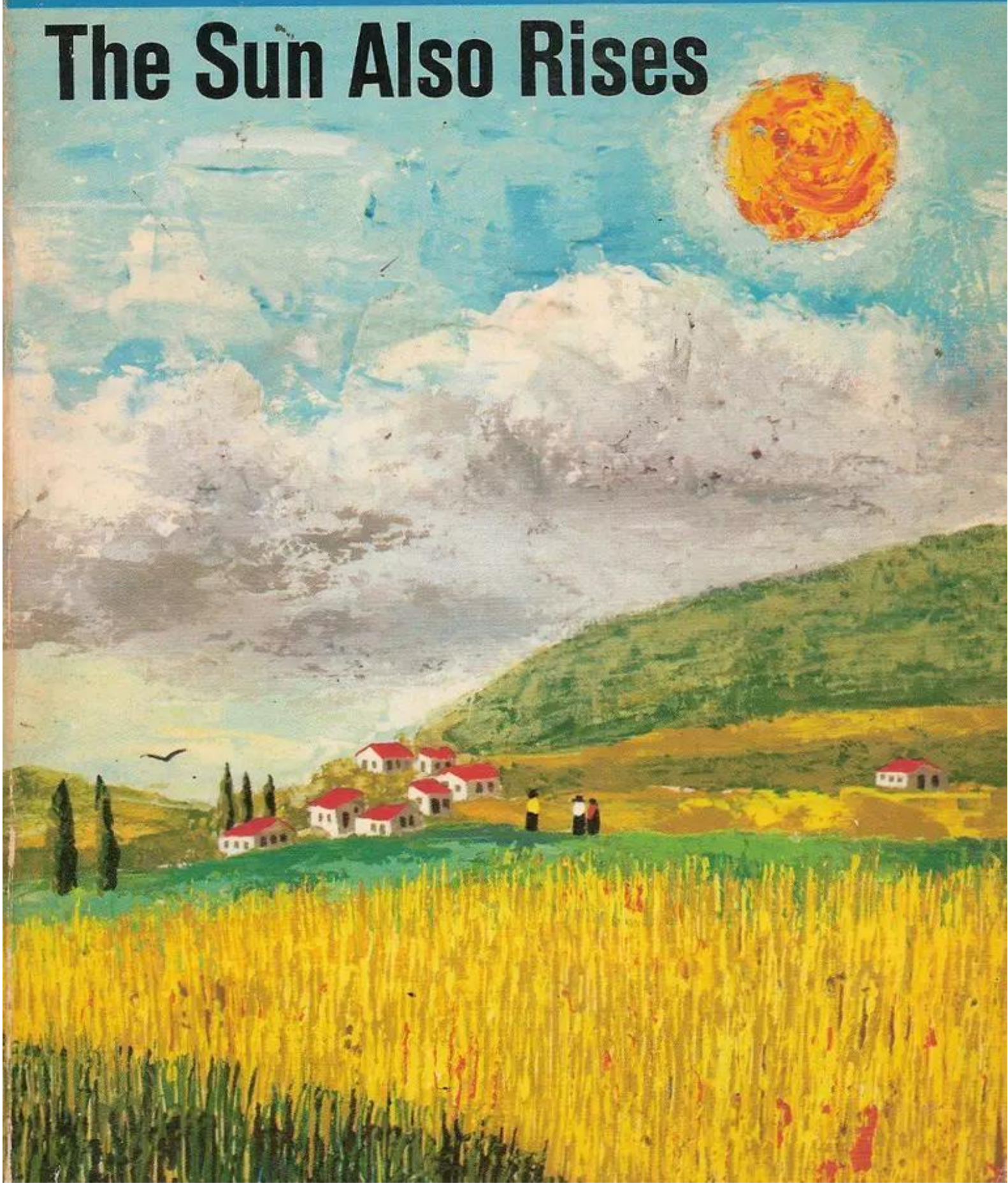


ERNEST HEMINGWAY

The Sun Also Rises



BOOK REVIEW

THE SUN ALSO RISES

The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway explores the complications and lifestyles of a group of American emigrants residing in Paris, France. Set in the post-WW1 era, the story explores the psychological perspective, disillusionment that characterizes this emigrants group, who take refuge by indulging in activities such as eating, drinking, travelling, brawling and lovemaking. Throughout the entire plot, Hemingway accurately manages to capture the background and time period. The characters are portrayed as selfish as they act impulsively, with complete disregard for the possible consequences and they live with the belief that that they are not obligated to anyone.

Ernest Hemingway had acknowledged Gertrude Stein for coming up with the term 'Lost Generation'. Gertrude Stein had made the remark, "You are all a lost generation". The very same phrase was used as an epigraph by Hemingway for the book. The book accurately captures the existential disillusionment that defined the Lost Generation, as coined by Stein. The lead characters of his book, Jake and Brett along with their fellow emigrants are mentally, emotionally and morally lost.

Hemingway's characters lead a life devoid of meaningful foundations and their romantic attachments are also short-lived. Further, as per the plot progresses, the readers can see the characters going out together, but their revelries lack fun and joy. The expatriates, under the influence of alcohol, go bar hopping, fighting meaningless battles over women and sex. All of the characters use alcohol as a medium to deviate themselves from their inner lives and the unpleasant feelings and memories that they are carrying around with them from the war.

Through this book, Hemingway brings to the readers attention the instances of disorientation and distractedness that define the Lost Generation, devoid of sentimentality and flowery language. A peculiarity about this book is that Hemingway has not put in much effort in developing the interior lives of his main characters. He withholds vital details regarding their mental and emotional state of mind. Yet despite the lack of much development in the character sketch of his main characters, Hemingway still manages to successfully convey the emptiness continues to exist in the lives of these expatriates.