

# **The Sun Also Rises**

**By Ernest Hemingway**

# Hemingway's Generation

Hemingway wished to enlist in the military, but his parent's objections and his poor eyesight prevented him from attempting to join up. In 1918, Hemingway served as an ambulance driver in Italy. After only a short time serving, he was injured by mortar shrapnel and was not able to return to duty.



Hemingway moved to Paris in 1921 with his wife Hadley. By 1926 he had divorced Hadley and married his second wife, Pauline.



He met and befriended several authors there, including Ezra Pound, Gertrude Stein, and F. Scott Fitzgerald, who had just published *The Great Gatsby*, and was already considered a success. These authors and other Americans who chose to live in Europe at the time were called “expatriates.” Gertrude Stein is credited with naming this group a “lost generation”

# Why “lost?”

Imagine that you dream to serve.....



...to fight for your country and come home a hero...

...and the reality of war is not exactly what you expected?

A horse-drawn ambulance destroyed in an airstrike.



A young man burned by mustard gas, a new weapon faced by WWI soldiers

Hemingway served in the war, but spent the majority of his time in an army hospital.



The WWI era was a time of great social change in America. Hemingway and many soldiers returning to the U.S. had a difficult time readjusting to life in the states.

Picture waving goodbye  
to your mom and dad  
in 1915, and they look  
like this:



By the time you get back in  
1919, they look like this.



Seriously. Is a guy who grew up expecting the dating scene to look like this...



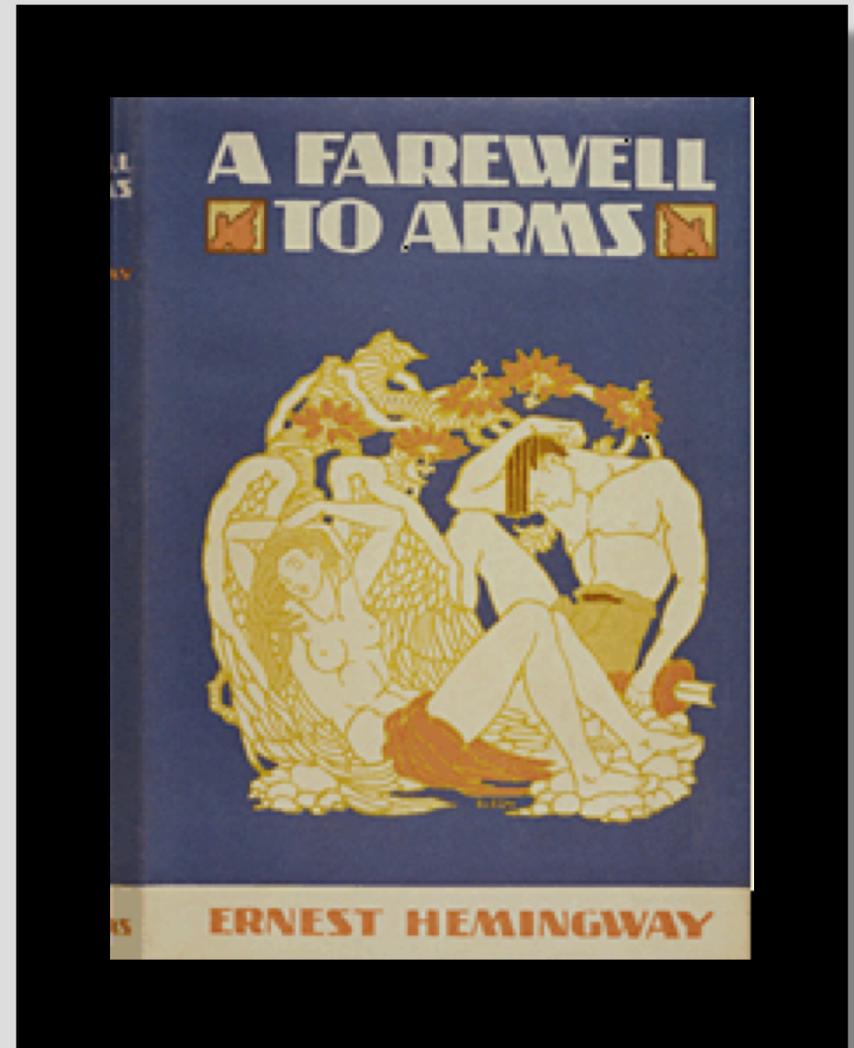
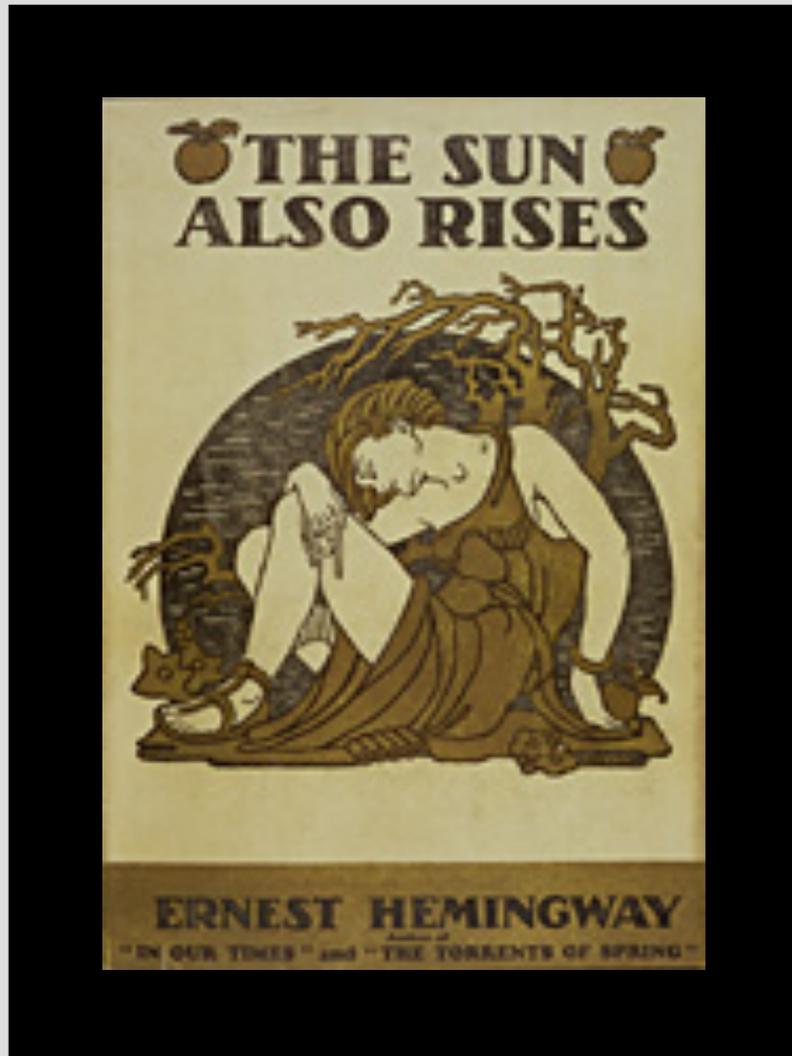
...supposed to know how to deal with women like this?



In 1923, Hemingway witnessed his first bull fight in Pamplona, Spain. He was fascinated with this ancient blood sport, and even began learning the craft himself. He used these experiences to write *The Sun Also Rises*.



Hemingway published *The Sun Also Rises* in 1926, and *A Farewell to Arms* in 1929. Critics loved his crisp, bold style, which derived from his experience as a reporter.



# Style Comparison– Fitzgerald vs. Hemingway

*The Great Gatsby*

*The Sun Also Rises*

When I came home to West Egg that night I was afraid for a moment that my house was on fire. Two o'clock and the whole corner of the peninsula was blazing with light, which fell unreal on the shrubbery and made thin elongating glints upon the roadside wires. Turning a corner, I saw that it was Gatsby's house, lit from tower to cellar.

At first I thought it was another party, a wild rout that had resolved itself into "hide-and-go-seek" or "sardines-in-the-box" with all the house thrown open to the game. But there wasn't a sound. Only wind in the trees, which blew the wires and made the lights go off and on again as if the house had winked into the darkness.

In the morning, I walked down the Boulevard to the Rue Soufflot for coffee and brioche. It was a fine morning. The horse-chestnut trees in the Luxembourg gardens were in bloom. There was the pleasant early-morning feeling of a hot day. I read the papers with the coffee and then smoked a cigarette. The flower-women were coming up from the market and arranging their daily stock.

Do you see the differences between their styles? One of the tenets of Modernism is that authors had the freedom to create their unique style.

**The first six sentences of Chapter 5 in each novel**

# Hemingway's style:

- Direct, simple statements such as “It was a fine morning.” Hemingway didn't think any more detail was necessary.
- Extensive use of Irony and Sarcasm
- Understatement or the Principle of the Iceberg – What's on the page (above the water line) is tiny compared to what's underneath or what is called the subtext.  
**Don't make the mistake of thinking Hemingway's writing is simplistic.**

Hemingway created what is now called the “Hemingway Code” to describe a hero who lives by the following criteria. The hero must:

- Live passionately—Eat well, drink much and often, have many romantic encounters
- Not be controlled by anyone (especially women)
- Maintain self control and discipline
- Be honest
- Take risks and have courage
- Be Persistence
- Have no self pity—endure life and accept fate without being overly sentimental or emotional
- Accept death / disappointment (“nada”) on one’s own terms and with dignity.

Ernest Hemingway's rugged, good looks set female fans "aquiver," according to Dorothy Parker (one of his contemporaries).

Hemingway remains an intriguing, romantic figure in American literature. His passion for hunting, boxing, and bull fighting, and life itself suggests that he lived by his own code.

