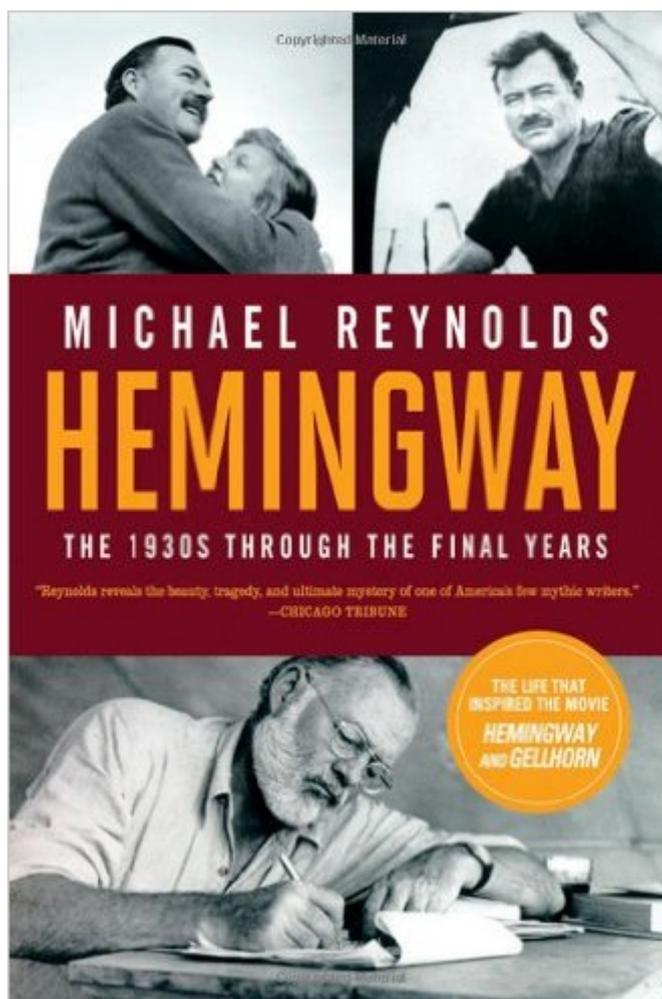


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Hemingway: The 1930s Through The Final Years (Movie Tie-in Edition) (Movie Tie-in Editions)



Synopsis

Published to coincide with the major release of HBO's upcoming film Hemingway and Gellhorn, starring Nicole Kidman and Clive Owen. Michael Reynolds was the supreme biographer of Ernest Hemingway. HBO's film concentrates on Hemingway's years with his third wife, the adventurous journalist Martha Gellhorn. This book brings together Reynolds's Hemingway: The 1930s and Hemingway: The Final Years. 16 pages of photographs

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book combines two volumes by Michael Reynolds: Hemingway in the 30's and Hemingway: The Final Years. These are actually two of my favorite books covering a 30-year period in old Hemingway's amazing and eventful life. Lots of details not found in other biographies and what I like best is the steady, lucid tone of the writing and narrative. The 30's captures the whole Key West period, including the safari to Africa, hunting out west in Wyoming, marlin fishing, right through to the Spanish Civil War. There is the difficult period when Hem's marriage to Pauline was unraveling from '36-'39 which led to the move to Cuba with soon-to-be wife #3 Martha Gellhorn. There is WWII and the liberation of Paris, the plane crashes in Africa in 1954, and the eventual mental collapse in the late '50's. You can't find a better single volume biography that covers so much in so much detail. Highly recommended.

Incredibly intimate chronicle of Hemingway's life from the 1930s until his suicide. With all the details, insights and context on the thoughts and actions of the various characters, it almost reads like a work of fiction at times...and I mean that as a compliment.

The very best part of this biography is the fact that the author puts Hemingway's work in context with the times in which he wrote it. We all know he was a part of the Jazz Age in Paris. We all know that Papa Hemingway hunted big game, small game, anything within hunting season and out, not to mention the marlin and tuna he hauled aboard his boats that outweighed all the fishermen on board. Michael Reynolds allows the reader to see how Hemingway wrote some of the best regarded American novels ever written in the midst of the chaos of his life. The factual, historical and literary research Michael Reynolds puts into this book is amazing. The author references the books Hemingway reads and that Hemingway absorbed what he reads so well that, e.g. Reynolds notes a D. H. Lawrence quote in *The Green Hills of Africa* five years after Hemingway notes he has read the novella *St. Mawr*. We are shown how Hemingway dealt with his editors and agents both as a writer and as a business person. We see that he was contributing to the support of his Mother and sister, swapping manuscripts and insults with friends such as F. Scott Fitzgerald, Owen Wister, and Archibald MacLeish. We are told that his legs were so badly wounded in World War I that he has trouble with them for the rest of his life, and he will not let that bother him. We watch him recover from several accidents, including one in which the nerve in his writing arm is crushed. Remember then man began his career writing with pencils. He simply does not quit. Living with him while he survives is not fun. And through it all he talks of suicide. Although sometimes he does say he will not shoot himself, someone else will have to do it for him. Reynolds does not tell us that Hemingway has problems with women, he shows us in Hemingway's own words. quotes Hemingway as blaming his mother for his father's suicide and referring to his Mother by names not suited to this book review. He is also even-handed in his depiction of Hemingway's many marriages, his wives were not exactly saints and were pretty much able to deal with him. Except maybe Hadley who did not cheat on him but lost some of his works in progress. Well except maybe Pauline who did sleep with Hadley's husband and possibly tried too hard to be all things to Hemingway once he became her husband at the possible detriment to her children. But in Martha, Hemingway met his match. Although Hemingway began an affair with Mary before he was officially divorced from Martha, it was Martha who left first. His marriage to Martha was the shortest of all of his marriage. Hemingway was at the height of his fame and perhaps at a lowpoint in his output of novels if not articles and short stories when he began his affair with her. And it is this period of Hemingway's life and work that

shows the skill of the this biographer. He does not say that Martha thought she was marrying a dashing war correspondent with whom she would travel the world, and that Hemingway thought he was marrying someone who would sit at home and with whom he could discuss his work. He didn't have to. Martha got press credentials from Colliers magazine and reported on war torn Europe without Hemingway, and pushed Hemingway to join her. He eventually did give in and go to Europe also as a reporter for Colliers, and he did his job. If his work on the battlegrounds of Europe were presented as fiction, we would not believe it. Reynolds documents all of it, sometimes day by day. And this is where I enjoyed Reynolds scholarship the most. Martha Gellhorn, who was and would continue for fifty years to be one of the best war correspondents in the world, wrote that Hemingway stole her right to report on the forward battles because Colliers could have only one correspondent in the forward lines and they chose the famous Hemingway over her. Reynolds quotes army regulations in part, word for word concerning women in combat zones of World War II. No female, including female military personnel were allowed in those zones. If a woman broke those regulations they were placed on troop ships and not released until all of the people who followed the rules were already filing reports. Martha Gellhorn who is one of the best war correspondents for fifty years let her anger get the better of her, whether or not she believed Hemingway stole her opportunity or not. Reynolds writes this so well that this portion of the book is worth the purchase price all by itself and the rest of the book is stellar. It is no wonder that this portion of the book has been made into a movie. The rest of the book is just as good.

I now have read all of Reynolds books about Hemingway, this one being the best. He presents Hemingway in a way that so revealing. Ernest was not just a great writer, he was a curious, sensitive and loving man. At one time he was supporting 16 people who all needed his help. His oldest son graduated from the USNA. His friends and family visited him constantly including his ex-wife Pauline and through it all he continued to stay focused on his writing everyday. I hope the future generations will continue to learn what he was really all about.

When I saw it was 800 pages I thought - oh no I will never finish it. Wrong, I could not put it down. Stayed up late just to read it.

Just getting into it, but immediately see it is a better bio than the others, and on a par with "Hemingway's Boat"---the other of 'the best bios of Papa'

A book I didn't want to lay down, so well documented, well written. Having just returned from Cuba last week all comes to live. Anyone who ever reads a Hemingway book should read this one too!

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