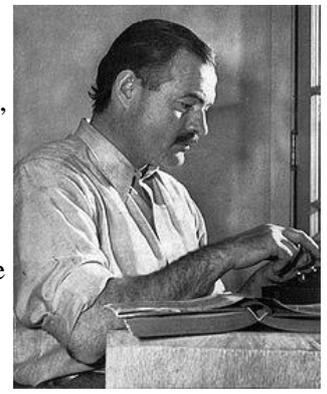




Ernest Hemingway in the Spanish Civil War

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Ernest Miller Hemingway (July 21, 1899 – July 2, 1961) was an American novelist, short story writer, and journalist. His economical and [understated style](#) had a strong influence on [20th-century fiction](#), while his life of adventure and his public image influenced later generations. Hemingway produced most of his work between the mid-1920s and the mid-1950s, and won the [Nobel Prize in Literature](#) in 1954. He published seven novels, six short story collections, and two non-fiction works. Additional works, including three novels, four short story collections, and three non-fiction works, were published posthumously. Many of his works are considered classics of [American literature](#).



Ernest Hemingway working on his book *For Whom the Bell Tolls* at Sun Valley, Idaho in December 1939

In 1937, Hemingway agreed to report on the [Spanish Civil War](#) for the [North American Newspaper Alliance](#). He returned to Key West for a few months, then back to Spain twice in 1938, where he was present at the [Battle of the Ebro](#), the last republican stand, and he was among the British and American journalists who were some of the last to leave the battle as they crossed the river.

For Whom the Bell Tolls is a novel by [Ernest Hemingway](#) published in 1940. It tells the story of Robert Jordan, a young American in the [International Brigades](#) attached to a [republican guerrilla](#) unit during the [Spanish Civil War](#). As a dynamiter, he is assigned to blow up a bridge during an attack on the city of [Segovia](#). The novel is regarded as one of Hemingway's best works, along with [The Sun Also Rises](#), [The Old Man and the Sea](#), and [A Farewell to Arms](#).

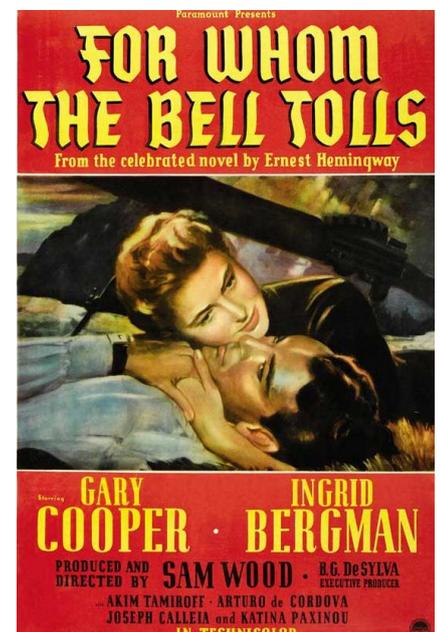
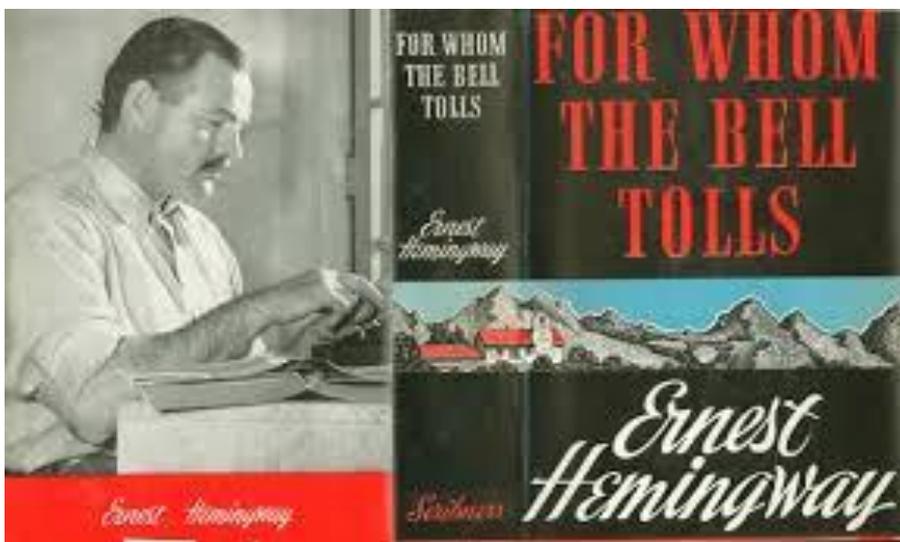
The novel was finished in July 1940 and published in October. It is based on Hemingway's experiences during the [Spanish Civil War](#) and features an American protagonist, named Robert Jordan, who fights with Spanish soldiers for the Republicans. The characters in the novel include those who are purely fictional, those based on real people but fictionalized, and those who were actual figures in the war. Set in the [Sierra de Guadarrama](#) mountain range between [Madrid](#) and Segovia, the action takes place during four days and three nights.

The book's title is taken from the [metaphysical poet John Donne](#)'s series of meditations and prayers on health, pain, and sickness (written while Donne was convalescing from a nearly fatal illness) published in 1624. Hemingway quotes part of the meditation (using Donne's original spelling) in the book's [epigraph](#), which in turn refers to the practice of [funeral tolling](#):

“No man is an *Iland*, intire of it selfe ... any mans *death* diminishes *me*, because I am involved in *Mankinde*; And therefore never send to know for whom the *bell* tolls; It tolls for *thee*.”

The point made by the choice of this title and epigraph is that the [Spanish Civil War](#) of 1936-1939, a major topic of debate in Western intellectual and political circles, is not of importance only to Spaniards; it matters to everyone.

A first [film adaptation](#) of Hemingway's novel, directed by [Sam Wood](#), was released in 1943 starring [Gary Cooper](#) and [Ingrid Bergman](#). It was nominated for nine [Academy Awards](#), including [Best Picture](#), [Best Actor](#) and [Best Actress](#); however, only the Greek actress [Katina Paxinou](#) won an [Oscar](#) for her portrayal of Pilar.



The original book cover of *For Whom the bell tolls* by Ernest Hemingway

The movie poster