

***A Farewell to Arms* - Ernest Hemingway**

A Farewell to Arms, published in 1929, was one of the most widely read war novels of the 20th century.

Henry, an American volunteer in the Italian Ambulance Service during the First World War, falls in love with Catherine Barkley, an English nurse.

Theirs is an intense, tender and passionate love affair overshadowed by the war.

Hemingway was inspired by his own wartime experience.

During the First World War, Hemingway worked as an ambulance driver for the American Red Cross.

He was struck by fragments of an Austrian mortar shell and he was wounded and taken to a Red Cross hospital in Milan, where he met and fell in love with a nurse named Agnes von Kurowsky.

Hemingway provided a realistic account of war and its realism has often been attributed to personal experience.

All the descriptions of life at the front and in the hospitals are natural, Hemingway replicated the way soldiers speak in times of war.

He used a simple writing style and plain language to render the violence of the Italian front.

In Italy it was not published until 1948, because the fascist regime under Benito Mussolini banned the novel.