

a farewell to arms
by Ernest Hemingway

**An Adaptation via Thinking Processes Affording
Joy in Learning and Logical Analysis**

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Ernest Hemingway
A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY



A Brief Background

Ernest Hemingway was born in 1899, and grew up in Oak Park, Illinois.

Hemingway's father and grandfather both went to Oberlin College.

Hemingway was encouraged to follow in their footsteps.

Hemingway wanted to be a writer in an exciting town.

In 1917, he came to Kansas City - a jazz center - and worked for the KC Star.

World War I

Austrian Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated by Serbs in Sarajevo in 1914.

Tensions between Austria and Serbia was high.

Austria declared war on Serbia.

Countries had signed alliance treaties with one another.

Russia, Germany, France, and Britain quickly entered the war.

Why were tensions high between Austria and Serbia?

Hemingway Joins ...

Hemingway was declared unfit for the war because of poor eyesight.

A coworker had already been driving ambulances in the war front in Italy.

Hemingway volunteered with the Red Cross to drive an ambulance for the Italian Army in WWI.

He was seriously wounded in 1918, and taken to a hospital in Milan, Italy.

Hemingway sought recovery in a hospital in Milan, Italy.

War and Love

At the hospital, Hemingway fell in love with an Italian nurse.

As Hemingway's health improved, the two took time to see the city.

Though their relationship flourished, Hemingway had to return to America.

The distance between Italy and America was great, particularly in 1919.

She broke off the relationship, and instead married an Italian lieutenant.

An "autobiography"

Romeo and Juliet is a romantic tragedy about two lovers unable to wed because of family.

Hemingway and his Italian fiancée are unable to wed because of distance and ethnicity.

Hemingway wanted to write a "Romeo and Juliet" for war.

Though retired from the battlefield, one can still pledge allegiance to the country.

"Romeo and Juliet", via a war metaphor, became "A Farewell to Arms".

George Peele wrote "A Farewell to Arms" to Queen Elizabeth in 1590. The time has come for an aging knight to retire from the field of battle. His once-golden hair is now gray, and the strength of his youth is gone. But his readiness to serve the queen dutifully and lovingly remains strong.

The Book

A Volunteer in Italy

Frederic Henry is an American attached to an Italian ambulance unit in Italy in 1916.

The motorized vehicle has really just been invented.

Roads and cars are intermixed with donkeys and horses.

Winter and water impurities in Italy result "in only 7,000 soldiers" dying.

War is an awful, dirty, miserable thing - as it should be.

The Battlefield in Italy

After his leave,
Frederic Henry
returns to his unit in
Gorizia, Italy.

Gorizia, Italy is on the
border with Austria,
with whom Italy is
fighting.

Frederic Henry is on
the battlefield of the
war.

Henry and a friend,
Rinaldi, pass time
frequenting bordellos
(prostitute-houses).

Even in war, men
seek companionship!

A British Nurse

Henry and a friend, Rinaldi, enjoy female companionship.

A British hospital has been established nearby, with British nurses.

While Henry is gone, Rinaldi comes to like a beautiful British nurse, Catherine Barkley.

While Henry and Rinaldi visit the hospital, Rinaldi falls out of favor with Barkley.

Frederic Henry and Catherine Barkley start to flirt with one another.

Hostilities Increase

Henry moves towards the battlefield in anticipation of an attack.

On the way, Henry stops at the hospital to inform his new love, Catherine Barkley.

The worried Barkley gives Henry a Saint Anthony medal to wear for good luck.

Despite the good luck charm, Henry suffers leg injuries in an artillery attack.

Narrowly missing having his leg amputated, Henry still needs his knee operated on.

An American Hospital

Frederic Henry needs his knee operated on.

America has declared War on Germany (1917).

Henry is transferred to an American hospital in Milan, Italy.

Catherine Barkley visits Henry at the American hospital.

Henry realizes he really is in love with Catherine!

Some Unexpected News

The operation is successful, but the recovery period is several months.

Henry and Catherine have several months to take romantic trips to the countryside.

Catherine gets pregnant, but keeps the news secret from Frederic.

Frederic Henry needs to return to ambulance duty on the front.

Henry proposes and though she requests they wait, their bond is secure.

Back to the Front

The Germans have reinforced the Austrian troops at the front.

The Italian army is overwhelmed.

The Italian army engages in the infamous retreat from Caporetto.

Henry's jeep, trying to take medical supplies to Udine, gets stuck.

Henry shoots one of the jeep-riders who refuses to help unstuck the jeep.

A "Farewell to Arms"

Henry and others take cover in a barn, near the Tagliamento River.

Italian Military Police don't want a mass retreat to take place across the river bridge.

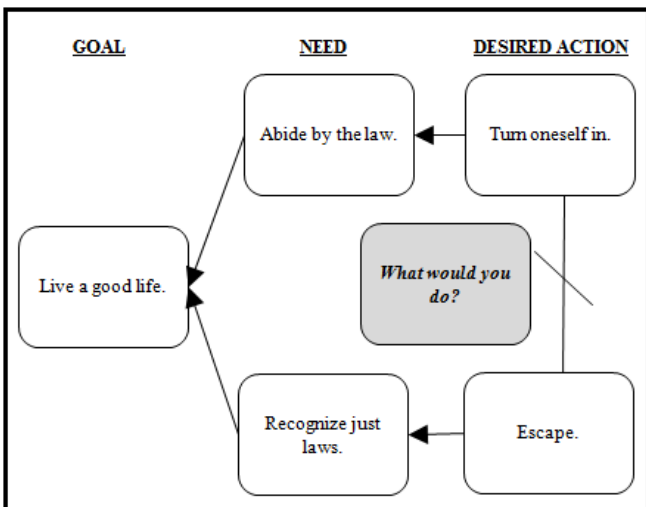
Italian Military Police, stationed at the bridge, arrest Henry.

Henry escapes and jumps in the river, realizing "This isn't even my army or my war".

Henry thinks this is my "Farewell to Arms".

Note: Hemingway's use of "A Farewell to Arms" is much different than George Peele's! In fact, there's no evidence Hemingway ever heard of Peele!

The Law?



Frederic Henry gets wind he's going to be arrested for being a deserter. What should he do? After all, "the law is the law", and since he broke it, he should be arrested. However, is the law just? Is it appropriate - to his circumstances?

Back to Catherine

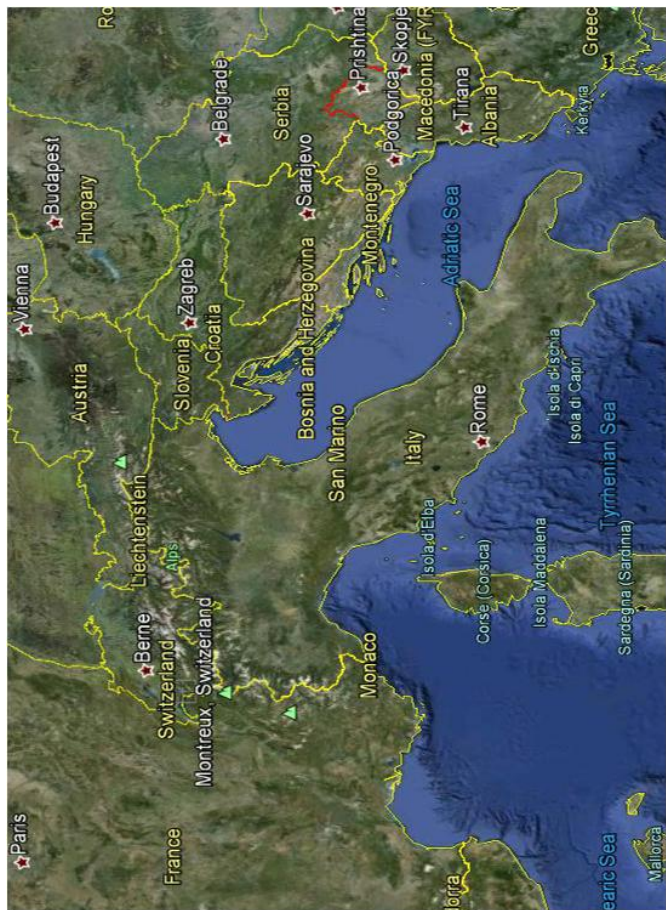
Frederic Henry has had enough of war, and makes his way back to Milan, Italy.

Once in Milan, he finds out Catherine is in Stresa in northern Italy.

Frederic Henry takes a train to Stresa, and meets up with Catherine.

Frederic Henry is a deserter.

Alerted to his pending arrest for deserting, he and Catherine use a rowboat to get to Switzerland.



To Switzerland

Having reached the Swiss shore, Catherine and Frederic are detained by Swiss police.

Catherine and Frederic produce passposts and money and convince police they are tourists.

Catherine and Frederic are free!

The two take up quarters in a small Inn near Montreaux, Switzerland.

Frederic and Catherine plan to marry and have a happy life.

A Prelude ...

Montreaux does not have a fully-equipped hospital for the delivery.

Nearby Lausanne, Switzerland has a fully-equipped hospital.

Frederic and Catherine move to Lausanne for the delivery.

Catherine is worried about the delivery because of her narrow hips.

Catherine, worried about her health, is hesitant to marry Frederic.

Death

Catherine loses the baby during delivery.

Catherine hemorrhages, and believes herself about to die.

Having lost his child, Frederic tries to comfort his dying love.

Catherine hemorrhages and also dies.

Having lost everything he loves, he leaves the hospital and walks back to the hotel in the rain.

Quotes and Metaphors

the metaphor

The Explanation Irony

SPECIFIC CONTEXT

In "A Farewell to Arms", Catherine is trying to figure out how American Frederic Henry came to be in the Italian Army during WWI.

GENERAL IDEA

Odd circumstances are likely to have an explanation, but the irony is lost on many.

There isn't always an explanation for everything

GENERAL MESSAGE

the metaphor

The Barkley Mantra

SPECIFIC CONTEXT

In "A Farewell to Arms", the injured Frederic Henry asks his love where they should go, and she says, basically, anywhere - anytime - I'm ready, because having lost her true love, she's not going to miss out on anything.

GENERAL IDEA

It takes a crisis to realize how small the obstacles really are that once seemed so big.

**Life isn't hard to manage
when you've nothing to
lose.**

GENERAL MESSAGE

the metaphor

A Cowardly Fallacy

SPECIFIC CONTEXT

In "A Farewell to Arms",
Catherine Barkley and
Frederic Henry are talking
about love and society and
society changing people, for
the worse.

GENERAL IDEA

Life is a constant onslaught
of mini-battles to be fought -
and won.

The man who said "The
coward dies a thousand
deaths, the brave but one"
knew an awful lot about
being a coward.

GENERAL MESSAGE

