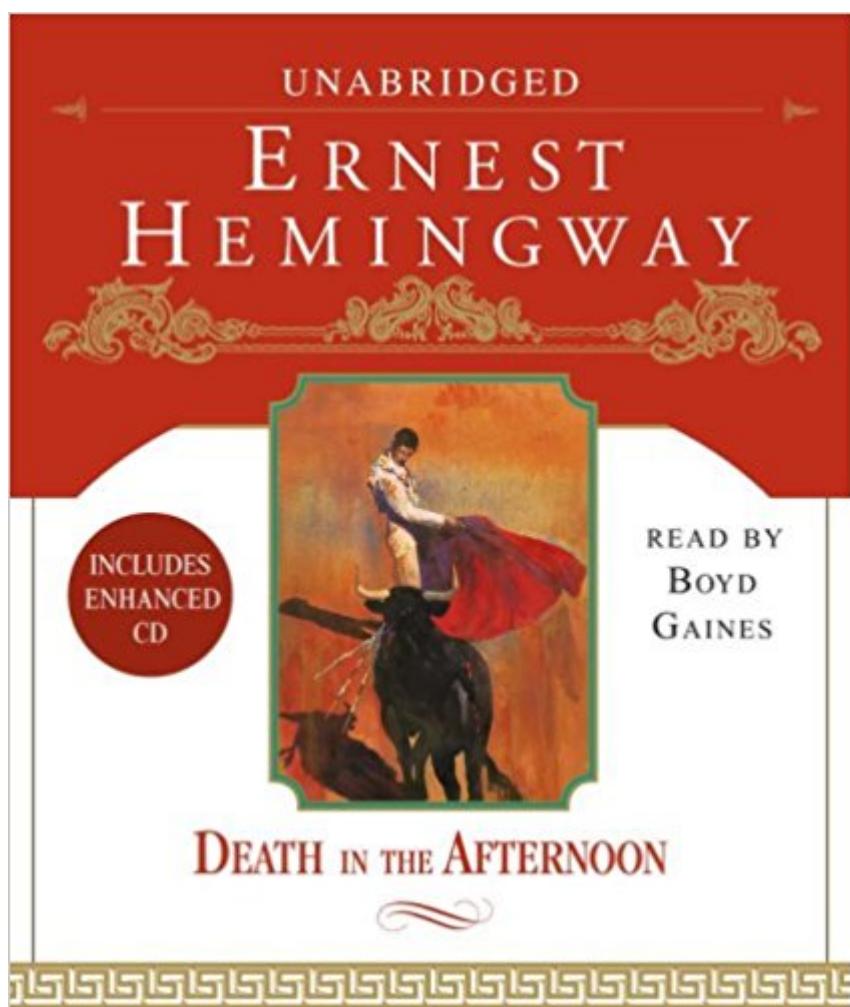


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Death In The Afternoon



Synopsis

A fascinating look at the history and grandeur of bullfighting Death in the Afternoon is an impassioned look at bullfighting by one of its true aficionados. It reflects Hemingway's conviction that bullfighting was more than mere sport and reveals a rich source of inspiration for his art. The unrivaled drama of bullfighting, with its rigorous combination of athleticism and artistry, and its requisite display of grace under pressure, ignited Hemingway's imagination. Seen through his eyes, bullfighting becomes a richly choreographed ballet, with performers who range from awkward amateurs to masters of great elegance and cunning. Death in the Afternoon is also a deeper contemplation of the nature of cowardice and bravery, sport and tragedy, and is enlivened throughout by Hemingway's sharp commentary on life and literature.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Hemingway's style, at its best, is a superb vehicle for revealing tenderness of feeling beneath descriptions of brutality" Guardian --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

8 1.5-hour cassettes --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Death In The Afternoon is one of my favorite books. I have read it now 3 times. This book is expertly written as you would expect from Hemingway. The book is the gold standard by which all other books on the subject of bull fighting is compared to. Most of the men Hemingway writes of were all active in the earlier days of bullfighting. He goes into great depth and detail to explain each part of

the even as well as the different people who are active in each segment and what they do. Hemingway also fully explains all the passes found in the fight and explains in minuet detail the history of the fighting even down to ranches that raised the best fighting bulls. If you have any interest in bull fighting do take the time to read this book. This is Hemingway at his very best.

This book was a genuinely delightful surprise. I love Hemingway, as many people do, and some of his works such as The Sun Also Rises, The Green Hills of Africa and A Moveable Feast, I have read again and again. But I put off reading this book as it just seemed a little hard to swallow a 485 page book that is explaining bullfighting. Wow, was I surprised. First off, we all know Hemingway loved bullfighting and was an aficionado to say the least. But as begins this book his candor and almost gossipy manner is so much looser and just plain funny. It was almost like reading an Anthony Bourdain book. He describes certain types of hack writers as just creating "erectile writing," and as he analyzes things he refers to himself jokingly as Dr. Hemingstein. But the other side of the humor in this book is the wonderful way he describes regions of Spain, talking about how at one location you can purchase the freshest strawberries and fresh asparagus as big around as my finger to sup on before the fights. He describes why you have to go visit Madrid and Ronda, not just because of the bullfights, but because of the culture and beauty. Hemingway was in love with Spain and in this book his passion for Spain oozes out of every page. The stories he tells about the bullfighters are inspiring and interesting, describing an almost subculture of humanity who stare death in the face everyday and are brave in a way that goes beyond normal. If you like Hemingway I would strongly recommend you read this book.

I first read this book in hardcover format over 50 years ago and it has not lost any of it's magic. Much has changed since Hemingway wrote it. My memories of the bulls, corridas and faenas are more recent with names such as Miguel Baez El Litri, Manolo Gonzalez, Antonio Ordonez, El Codobes and others gracing the bull rings, giving both excellent and poor afternoons as they showed courage, and sometimes fear, of the bulls that had been allotted to them. In those years Angel Peralta, the rejondador, who carried out the faena from his beautiful horses, always made a very unique spectacle. After going to many bull fights and novilladas over the years, I experienced ones where the "duende" had entered the ring, and everything went well, and to those where the bullfighters had cushions thrown at them as they failed in their duties. To see the bulls in their corral, at a bull ranch at El Escorial, near Madrid, a few days before they were taken to the fight, one sensed that bulls and man are made for one another to share in the artistry and tragedy that has to

end in death, of one or the other, or both. Hemingway's book is for all those who want to understand this artistry and tragedy, before this unique event passes to history, as it has already done in Barcelona.

If you have ever witnessed a bull fight, this book is for you. If you ever considered going to a bull fight, I would 1. read this book and, 2. go. It is the classic appraisal of the bull fight. It is Hemingway at his passionate best. It is non-fiction. It is calmly written in your face literature. "Viva la corrida" I talked about this book to my friends more than any other book, and I convinced more people to read this book more than any other book.

For a foreigner to tackle the entrenched "aristocracy" of this quintessential Spanish entertainment was unthinkable. I read this book at school in England and hitch-hiked to Spain the following year to see a bullfight and experience Catalonia. I was no fan of bullfighting but the sheer pageant was astounding and Hemingway brings it to life in a manner that is still highly readable.

Love it!!! A classic everyone should own/read!!!

Should have read the product description a little more closely. I did not realize that I was purchasing the book without its normal illustrations, and with numerous typos. The typos interrupted the flow of the text greatly - I would say there were probably three or four significant typos per page. Not just misspelled words, but words that had numbers or other characters in them. The stars I've listed above are for the story and the substance of the book, not for the quality of the particular copy that I bought. I thought the substance of the book itself was fascinating. I'm a little late into the Ernest Hemingway game having never really read him in high school. His writing style takes some getting used to. His knowledge of bullfighting, however, is astounding. I can understand why some people are so adamantly anti-bullfighting, and I do believe that in my lifetime bullfighting as it exists now will be outlawed. But Hemingway really does a good job of relating much more than the gruesome death of the bull, and takes you into the subtleties and intricacies of what makes a bullfight interesting to watch. I highly recommend this book for anyone who is interested in bullfighting. It's fairly involved, however, so if you're just passingly curious about the topic it may not be for you. It is fairly dense, and there are some portions of the book where he strays from the topic entirely, but the book as a whole is incredibly informational. I would recommend that you not buy the General Books OCR Reprint Edition.

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