

Ernest Hemingway

The Short Happy Life of
Francis Macomber

and Other Stories



PENGUIN MODERN CLASSICS



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THE SHORT HAPPY LIFE OF FRANCIS MACOMBER
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ERNEST HEMINGWAY

Ernest Miller Hemingway was born in 1898 at Oak Park, a highly respectable suburb of Chicago, where his father, a keen sportsman, was a doctor. He was the second of six children. The family spent holidays in a lakeside hunting lodge in Michigan, near Indian settlements. Although energetic and successful in all school activities, Ernest twice ran away from home before joining the *Kansas City Star* as a cub reporter in 1917. Next year he volunteered as an ambulance driver on the Italian front and was badly wounded, but served for the last few weeks of the war in the Italian infantry. Returning to America he began to write features for the *Toronto Star Weekly* in 1919 and was married in 1921. That year he came to Europe as a roving correspondent and covered several large conferences. In France he came into contact with Gertrude Stein – later they quarrelled – Ezra Pound, and James Joyce. He covered the Greco-Turkish War in 1922. *Three Stories and Ten Poems* was given a limited publication in Paris in 1923. Thereafter he gradually took to a life of bull-fighting, big-game hunting, and deep-sea fishing. He visited Spain during the Civil War. Latterly he lived mostly in Cuba and died in July 1961. He early established himself as the master of a new, tough, and peculiarly American style of writing and became a legend during his lifetime. But, as John Wain wrote in the *Observer* after his death, 'Though there were many imitators there was never truly a "School of Hemingway"', because the standard he set was too severe.' His best-known books are *A Farewell to Arms* (1929), *Death in the Afternoon* (1932), *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (1940), and *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952). In 1954 he was awarded a Nobel Prize for Literature. Ernest Hemingway had three sons.

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