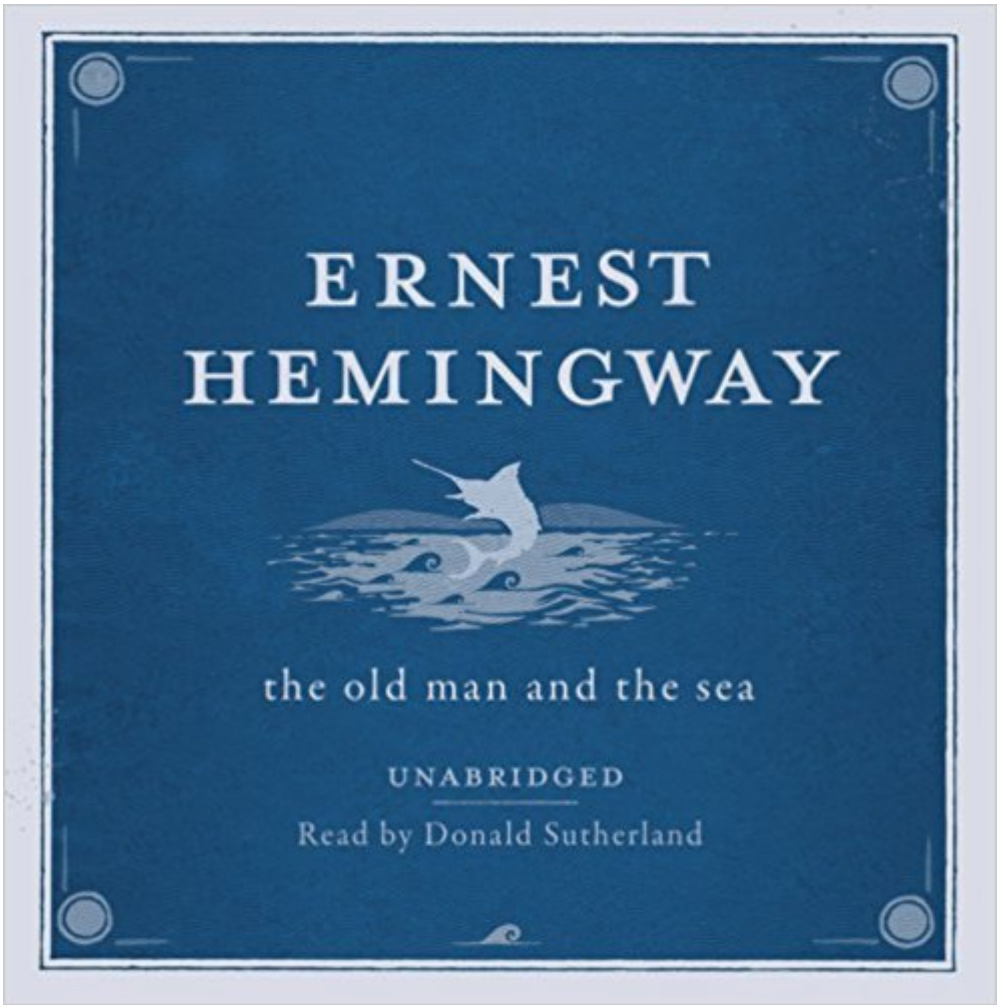
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The Old Man And The Sea Unabridged Audio CD



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Synopsis

The Old Man and the Seais one of Hemingway’s most enduring works. Told in language of great simplicity and power, it is the story of an old Cuban fisherman, down on his luck, and his supreme ordeal -- a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream. Here Hemingway recasts, in strikingly contemporary style, the classic theme of courage in the face of defeat, of personal triumph won from loss. Written in 1952, this hugely successful novella confirmed his power and presence in the literary world and played a large part in his winning the 1954 Nobel Prize for literature.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Here, for a change, is a fish tale that actually does honor to the author. In fact The Old Man and the Sea revived Ernest Hemingway’s career, which was foundering under the weight of such postwar stinkers as Across the River and into the Trees. It also led directly to his receipt of the Nobel Prize in 1954 (an award Hemingway gladly accepted, despite his earlier observation that "no son of a bitch that ever won the Nobel Prize ever wrote anything worth reading afterwards"). A half century later, it’s still easy to see why. This tale of an aged Cuban fisherman going head-to-head (or hand-to-fin) with a magnificent marlin encapsulates Hemingway’s favorite motifs of physical and moral challenge. Yet Santiago is too old and infirm to partake of the gun-toting machismo that disfigured much of the author’s later work: "The brown blotches of the benevolent skin cancer the sun brings from its reflection on the tropic sea were on his cheeks. The blotches ran well down the sides of his face and his hands had the deep-creased scars from handling heavy fish on the cords."

Hemingway’s style, too, reverts to those superb snapshots of perception that won him his initial fame: Just before it was dark, as they passed a great island of Sargasso weed that heaved and swung in the light sea as though the ocean were making love with something under a yellow blanket, his small line was taken by a dolphin. He saw it first when it jumped in the air, true gold in the last of the sun and bending and flapping wildly in the air. If a younger Hemingway had written this novella, Santiago most likely would have towed the enormous fish back to port and posed for a triumphal photograph--just as the author delighted in doing, circa 1935. Instead his prize gets devoured by a school of sharks. Returning with little more than a skeleton, he takes to his bed and, in the very last line, cements his identification with his creator: "The old man was dreaming about the lions." Perhaps there’s some allegory of art and experience floating around in there somewhere--but The Old Man and the Sea was, in any case, the last great catch of Hemingway’s career. --James Marcus --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"It is unsurpassed in Hemingway’s oeuvre. Every word tells and there is not a word too many" --Anthony Burgess "A quite wonderful example of narrative art. The writing is as taut, and at the same time as lithe and cunningly played out, as the line on which the old man plays the fish" Guardian --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I am a writer and I write nautical and historical fiction. I read to learn the craft of fiction. When I write from a ship’s master’s point of view so much of the "action" is actually in the ship master’s mind rather than physical action. "The Old Man and the Sea" is a masterpiece of writing about human introspection and internal dialog. It’s amazing to me because Hemingway’s use of English is terse but exceedingly fine honed. I do fish with a fly rod and enjoy the solitude that provides. I think I am very qualified to say that the use of detail in this novella is absolutely masterful. While Hemingway is not Rita May Brown, "the Old Man and the Sea" leaves you with the feeling that you have shared in the triumph of both the human spirit and its soul.

This is the first and only book I have read from Hemingway, and I thought It was just beautiful. I was intrigued to read this novel because of my love for fishing. This book has sparked my curiosity to explore more of HemingwayÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s works, such as ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“A Farewell to ArmsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• since it is his autobiographical work as an ambulance driver during World War I. I was not the least bit surprised that this work won the Pulitzer Prize since the novella had such a powerful theme while being so simple. The theme of the novella opened my eyes to the

physical decline of growing older but the strength and courage one can still have even in old age. This book has taught me something that I would have never realized until I was an old man.The most intriguing part of the novella is when the Old Man, Santiago, fights off the sharks that came to eat his Marlin. In this scene, Santiago ferociously strikes the sharks with his harpoon but when it gets caught in the sharkÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s head, he doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t give up but instead he pulls out a knife and finally he snaps the knife in half, but in his last effort he uses his oar and club to beat the sharks to death. This example demonstrates the extent of the Old ManÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s internal strength and courage to go through hardship, and his willingness to sacrifice his life for the success of his adventure. This famous quote from this novella, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“man can be destroyed but not defeatedÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• further represents the theme. The following day of his return from this great journey, the little boy asks him if he is going to fishing the next day, and the old man answers of course. This shows his spirit of adventure.The story would be far less interesting if he just got back safe with the marlin intact. There is more dignity in having fought courageously. What he went through is a metaphor for what almost all people with go through weather itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s not coming in first place in a competition or not getting into your college of choice. Just keep being persistent and determined no matter the up and downs, and you will succeed.

I read this book in 90 minutes. My son started it the day I finished, a month ago, and is still plowing through it word by word. :D But he has to finish it by August 17 so he better get on it. Great descriptions, if you are looking for action, you will not find it!I, too, find myself identifying with animals and fish and the frog that I made move over before I plowed over him in my driveway last evening.

The Old Man and the Sea is a great novella for readers who enjoy a quick and simple story line. The book did take a few pages to get going, but once the plot emerged, I was hooked. One of the things I loved about it was its simplicity. I was amazed with the way Hemingway took such a simple thought and made it an exciting adventure. The simplicity of the topic also manifested itself into the main character in the way that the old man is incredibly self-sufficient considering what little he has. This truly sends the positive message that there is always hope and we must never take what we have for granted. The Old Man and the Sea is a classic and a must buy for anyone who wants a positive message delivered!

On the surface this is a very simple story. But there is really a lot of depth in its 85 pages.My wife read this as a kid in school. I'm glad I did not, because reading it now as an adult for myself, I could just enjoy the story without dissecting it too much.One can pick out lots of themes, of course. But the thing that resonated with me the most is how this old man, despite all of his years and experience, still feels the need to prove himself. Its a bit sad that he is not more contented at this stage of life, but that is overshadowed by his never-quit spirit.

The point is man, having intelligence and an excess of will, and perhaps not the ability, nobility, and beauty of other creatures, can go too far, and when he does, nature will humble him, cutting off his excesses and defeating or destroying his temporary successes and triumphs over it. The plot is simple and there is no great critical moment. The story has symmetry. At its center is the fishermanÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s hooking the great and noble fish. The first half is the history of the old man, his relationship with a young boy who aspires to be a fisherman, the old manÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s bad luck which split the boy and man (the old man had taken no fish for 84 days, so the boy was not with the old man during this fishing trip), the old manÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s bad luck that inspires him to take his skiff far out near the Gulf Stream and fish deep for a big fish. In the background is the old manÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s dream, originating from his history and travel to Africa; Lions on the beach, guarding it and playing. The second half is first the endurance and tricks of the old man to outlast and kill the great Marlin, and second, his unsuccessful effort to protect the corpse of the Marlin from a variety of sharks. In the end the old man returns with nothing but the head and skeleton of the Marlin. The book concludes with a remark by the only woman in the book; she asks about the skeleton, and as the waiter answers her to tell her the story of sharks eating the Marlin, she jumps to the silly and false conclusion that the skeleton is that of a beautiful shark. I found that the narrative style smoothly and arrestingly carried the tale; the story was not told in the first person; the narrator was not a part of the cast; the narration peered into the mind of the old man, as did his talking to himself, the young boy, the Marlin.

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