

The Paris Wife: A Novel Study Guide

The Paris Wife: A Novel by Paula McLain

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



Contents

The Paris Wife: A Novel Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Chapters 1 through 4.....	5
Chapters 5 through 8.....	8
Chapters 9 through 12.....	11
Chapters 13 through 16.....	13
Chapters 17 through 20.....	16
Chapters 21 through 24.....	18
Chapters 25 through 28.....	21
Chapters 29 through 32.....	24
Chapters 33 through 36.....	28
Chapters 37 through 40.....	32
Chapters 41 through 44.....	35
Chapters 45 through 47 and Epilogue.....	37
Characters.....	39
Objects/Places.....	42
Themes.....	44
Style.....	47
Quotes.....	50
Topics for Discussion.....	52



Plot Summary

"The Paris Wife," by Paula McLain, is the story of Hadley Richardson and Ernest Hemingway during the years between 1920 and 1927. The story begins in Chicago where Hadley had come to visit her friends Kate and Kelsey Smith (sister and brother) who had a large apartment and rented out rooms to friends. One of the friends staying there was budding writer Ernest Hemingway. Hadley was from St. Louis and made the trip to Chicago to get away from her life there. She had just lost her mother to a long-term illness and she was "stuck" living in the family home with her mean-spirited sister and her husband who had taken over the house.

Hadley had a great time the first night that she was there. The young, handsome Ernest Hemingway charmed her and danced with her to all hours. She was taken with Ernest even though at 21, he was nearly eight years younger than she. Kate warned Hadley that the young man was quite a womanizer and to stay away from him. But she took no heed and got to know Ernest quite well in the short time she was there. She learned that he was writing copy for a tire company but wrote poetry and fiction on the side. He wanted to do some important writing some day. After staying two weeks, Hadley was heading home. Ernest took her to the train station and kissed her goodbye. He said he would write.

Back home, things were just as dreary as when Hadley left. She was stunned when her sister handed her a letter from Chicago - the return address told her it was from Hemingway. She was elated and soon planned a trip back to Chicago to spend time with her friends - but she hoped that Ernest would take up most of her time. After returning to St. Louis again, the letters from Ernest dropped off. She feared he had lost interest. But those fears were all behind her when she received a letter from Ernest asking her to marry him and go to Rome with him. Hadley readily agreed and didn't look back.

After they married, they rented a small apartment and saved their money so they could go to Rome. But a literary contact told Ernest that most American artists were in Paris—it was that city where all the artistic magic was happening. That's all Ernest had to hear and it was off to Paris. Ernest was given letters of introduction to some famous American literary giants living in Paris. Gertrude Stein took the young writer under her wing and became his mentor. Ezra Pound was impressed with his poetic abilities and submitted some of Ernest's work to his contacts.

Eventually the couple made their way around Europe. In Spain, Ernest became enraptured with bullfighting and rounded up his friends to attend the bull run in Pablona and the bullfights in Madrid. Hemingway's first blockbuster, "The Sun Also Rises," was based on characters in his own life and took place in Spain and in the world of bullfighting.

There were splinters in their marriage most of which Hadley tried to explain away or ignore. She saw his interest in other women and his self-centered attitude about his



career, not to mention his over-indulgence in alcohol. When all of the manuscripts he had written over the years were stolen from her on a train she was taking to join him, it turned out to be a turning point in their relationship. He didn't trust Hadley after that and, in fact, lost his ability to trust women in general. Driving the stake in the heart of the marriage even deeper was when Hadley became pregnant. He was not ready for fatherhood and felt she tricked him into it.

Pauline Pfeifer, one of Hadley's best friends, set her heart on stealing Ernest away and eventually she did just that. Hadley tried to stay on and fight for her man but she only lost stature in his eyes and made herself miserable. Once she finally decided she did not want to continue living with a man who was in love with someone else, she realized that divorce was the only answer.

In the end, Hadley did not regret her time with Ernest. He was a fascinating man with whom she had a cherished son. Life was never the same after she met Ernest Hemingway. Although he broke her heart, she realized years later that she became a better and stronger person because of him. Ernest was bigger than life. Everyone associated with Ernest Hemingway was impacted by him for the rest of their days.



Chapters 1 through 4

Chapters 1 through 4 Summary

Chapter One

Hadley Richardson was at a small party in Chicago in October 1920 at the home of her dear friends, sister and brother Kate and Kenley Smith. There were other friends she knew to varying degrees but she was fascinated by another young man at the party who she didn't know. She wound up dancing with him a few times. He was a budding writer and his name was Ernest Hemingway. He was handsome and charming and everyone seemed to gather around him.

Chapter Two

Hadley was in mourning. Her mother had just recently suffered through a terrible illness which took her life. Hadley looked forward to seeing her old friend, Kate, and dancing a drinking a little to take her mind off her grief. Hadley was hoping to dance with Ernest again but she suddenly realized that he was gone. She felt disappointment and didn't know if she'd ever see him again. When she asked Kate about Ernest, she noticed that Kate seemed annoyed and didn't want to discuss him. She suspected that Kate may have been involved with him at one time.

Chapter Three

Hadley asked more about the handsome, dark-eyed Ernest and found that he was young and just twenty-one years old compared to her twenty-eight years. Hadley was staying at Kate's apartment for a while and was stunned the next morning when she walked into the kitchen and found Ernest sitting there. As it turned out, he was staying at the apartment for the time being. He explained that he was writing copy for Firestone Tires but hoped one day to write an important novel or even a book of poetry. He asked her if she would read something he wrote. She readily agreed and found the short story he wrote very well-written. Ernest invited her to dinner and she accepted. As they left the apartment, she could feel the cold stare of Kate's eyes on her back.

After dinner, Ernest and Hadley walked by Lake Michigan. He told her that he had been an ambulance driver and delivery boy in Italy during the war. He had sustained serious injuries during one of his deliveries. The next day, Kate rushed into Hadley's room and warned her not to get involved with Ernest. He was a womanizer. Hadley had a number of boyfriends but had been in love only once. His name was Harrison Williams but the relationship never developed and the feelings she had for him apparently were not returned.

Hadley stayed several more weeks in Chicago and saw Ernest quite often but always in a group setting. When she was ready to return to St. Louis, Ernest volunteered to drive



her to the station. He kissed her good-bye and told her he'd write. Hadley was being drawn in by the charming young man.

Chapter 4

In 1904, Hadley was thirteen and her home town, St. Louis, was host to the World's Fair. She attended the fair with her sister, Fannie who didn't want to stay and try ice cream or cotton candy or iced tea or the other new novelties that had been invented for the fair. She wanted to participate in the suffragette meeting that their mother, Florence, was holding that day. Hadley didn't see that appeal of the meetings - all the women did was complain about men and inferred that marriage was the worst thing that could happen to a girl. Her mother was always the loudest and most emphatic. But her mother's marriage was over. Hadley's father had been dead just two weeks at the time.

Hadley's father, James, had been a civic and business leader. He had established the St. Louis Public Library and had founded the Richardson Drug Company which eventually became the largest pharmaceutical company in the Midwest. James was a closet alcoholic who spent more time at work than at home in order to spend less time with his demanding and domineering wife. Fannie was their mother's favorite. She was obedient as opposed to Hadley who was curious and questioned everything.

As a young girl, Hadley accidentally fell out of an upstairs window and was flat on her back for months recovering. During that time, she came to love reading. Her father's alcoholism worsened as did his depression which led to his suicide. He shot himself in the head in his study. The house was in chaos and Hadley grieved the loss wishing she had known him better. Hadley became depressed making her family fear that she may be at risk for suicide herself.

Hadley decided to enroll in Bryn Mawr. The sister that Hadley had been closest to, Dorthea, died from burns she suffered in an accident. Around that time, Hadley was stuck out in the middle of a lake during a terrible storm. She made it to shore, but the memories of the incident stayed with her long afterward. Hadley couldn't focus at school and did terribly in her freshman year. At home, she was having nightmares about her dead sister.

The summer of 1920, Florence's condition - she suffered with Bright's disease for years - worsened. Right before she died, Florence told Hadley that she had contacted Dorthea through a psychic. Dorthea, dead nine years by then, refused to speak. Hadley wondered whether her future was that horrible. Hadley's mother passed away and soon after Hadley made plans to go to Chicago.

Chapters 1 through 4 Analysis

Chapter 1



In this first chapter, the author sets the stage with a chance meeting between Hadley Richardson and Ernest Hemingway. The meeting was before Ernest had become an accomplished and successful writer.

Chapter 2

The reader learns from Hadley, who narrates the story, that she was vulnerable when she met the charming Ernest Hemingway. She was in mourning over the death of her mother and was looking for someone or something that would distract her and bring happiness into her life. The author foreshadows that a relationship may have existed between Ernest and Hadley's best friend, Kate, which could cause a conflict between the friends and a barrier to a relationship between Hadley and Ernest.

Chapter 3

The author puts the reader in the room with Hadley when she is asked by unknown writer Ernest Hemingway if she will read his short story. His under-confidence about his writing is charming. His comment that he's writing copy for a business makes one wonder what his bosses at the company thought when he became a world-famous writer.

Hadley's vulnerability is further underscored when she reveals that in all her twenty-eight years she had never been in a real relationship with a man. She indicates that she was in love only once—but it appears she was in love by herself and that she suffered an unrequited love for the man.

Chapter 4

As it turns out, Ernest Hemingway was not the only dysfunctional character in this story. There were many problems in Hadley's family. The domineering and demanding Florence drove James to alcoholism and then finally to suicide. It was touching when Hadley said that she wished she would have known her father better after he passed away. It was apparent that Hadley dealt with a degree of guilt over her relationship with her father.

Florence was a feminist before it was fashionable and was obsessed with women's rights. It was no wonder that Hadley suffered from lack of self-esteem - her mother favored Fannie, her sister who was a few years old than she, and paid little attention to Hadley. Hadley reeled from the death of another older sister, Dorthea, with whom she had her closest familial relationship. On her death bed, her mother inflicted a final measure of unworthiness upon Hadley. She told her that she contacted Dorthea in a séance. Dorthea evidently saw into the Hadley's future and it was so horrid that she refused to tell Florence what she saw.

The author is foreshadowing the possibility that Hadley's vulnerability and lack of self-worth could be a barrier to her future happiness.



Chapters 5 through 8

Chapters 5 through 8 Summary

Chapter 5

Hadley didn't mention Ernest to Fannie when she returned. Hadley was stunned when Fannie handed her a special delivery letter from Ernest. He wrote that life was emptier without her. She wrote him back immediately and kissed the envelope on impulse.

Chapter 6

The letters were coming from Ernest - sometimes two or three a day. His letters were full of tenderness, romance, and warmth. A few things about Hemingway's family problems emerged in his letters. He adored his father who was a practicing obstetrician and outdoorsman who engendered in his son a love for hunting and fishing. He referred to his mother as "that bitch." She was the dominant one in the marriage and was unbendable in her ideas about life. Hadley, of course, had problems with her own mother but she had always kept her feelings repressed. She admired Ernest's ability to speak his mind about his mother.

The next January, Hadley traveled alone to Chicago to see Ernest. He was down because an article he wrote had been rejected by the Saturday Evening Post—the third one, in fact. She encouraged him about his writing. Her stomach fell when he told her that he might move to Rome. It was cheaper and he could devote more time to writing. She told him to go if that would be good for his career but that she would miss him. They began to discuss the feelings that were beginning to have for each other.

Hadley had fun with Ernest and her other friends—except Kate who stayed away. Hadley felt guilty about Kate but she wasn't going to end her friendship with Ernest. He confessed that he had been in love with a nurse, Agnes, in Italy and wanted to marry her. But Agnes wrote later and told him she'd married someone else. He was still trying to get over it. Hadley was crushed that Ernest was still hopelessly in love with another woman.

Chapter 7

Fannie had all kinds of questions and warnings for Hadley when she returned. Who was this Ernest Hemingway? What could he offer her? Does he know about her nervous spells and weaknesses? Hadley had felt strong and confident when she was with Ernest but away from him she felt powerless. His letters to her became less frequent. He wrote that he was saving his money for Rome.

Hadley began to question the potential for a relationship with Ernest. He was so much younger than she but he had lived a much more exciting life. After a dry spell, Hadley received two long letters from Ernest. He was making his plans for traveling to Rome.



He asked if she would consider coming along as "wife." She wrote back that she was ready to make the mad dash to Rome with him as "wife."

Chapter 8

In two weeks, Hadley was in Chicago to meet the Hemingway clan. Hadley saw Kate who was enraged that Hadley was being so foolish to marry Ernest. Hadley confronted Kate, wanting to know what had gone on between her and Ernest and why she detested him so. Kate refused to tell her. Hadley asked Ernest about him and Kate. Ernest said what mattered was that he loved her more than anyone he had ever known and refused to discuss the issue. Ernest took Hadley to the Hemingway family home in suburban Chicago. As expected, Grace Hemingway dominated the conversation and Dr. Hemingway was more retiring. To Ernest's great dismay, Grace insisted on boring everyone with a huge family photo album.

Hadley was still a virgin but Ernest was not. One evening, he took Hadley up on the roof of Kenley's apartment where they were both staying. He had a tent and a pile of blankets set up to keep warm. It was there that Ernest and Hadley first had sex. She was surprised at how relaxed she was and how she gave herself fully to him. When she was a teenager, her mother had her read a magazine article that said that a wife who liked sex was the same as a prostitute.

Ernest told Hadley that Kenley thought they were rushing things and another friend, Horney, thought he would be ruining his career. Kate wasn't speaking to either one of them. But despite his friend's concerns, Ernest said he needed Hadley and wanted to grow old with her. Hadley loved him so, she told him, that she wanted to know and be a part of everything he was. She would find out that this was her biggest mistake. Ernest wanted his writing separate from everyone - he wanted to get lost in it.

Chapters 5 through 8 Analysis

Chapter 5

The unhappiness of the Richardson family carries over to Fonnies who is in an unhappy marriage. She privately hopes that Hadley remains a spinster and never finds love. The hateful attitude of her sister is yet another factor that may drive Hadley into Ernest's arms. When Hadley gets the letter from Ernest, she is elated. Perhaps a relationship with Ernest will be her way out of her sister's house.

Chapter 6

Hadley was impressed with Ernest's ability to vocalize how much he hated his mother. She had problems of her own with her mother but she kept them to herself. Hadley is establishing Ernest as the dominant one in their relationship. She admires him, allows him to discuss his old love and the possibility that he may move to Italy despite the fact that it's killing her to hear it. She is the passive one in the relationship and Ernest is the assertive one despite the fact that he's eight years younger than she. Hadley is hanging



onto the hope that their friendship may develop into more but she's allowing Ernest to make that decision and either way, she will live with what he decides.

Chapter 7

After a drop off in his letters to her, Ernest writes and invites Hadley to come with him to Rome as his wife. She is stunned but readily accepts. Perhaps the greeting she got from her sister when she returned home helped propel her to make this snap decision. Her sister was negative about Ernest Hemingway and reminded Hadley in no subtle manner that she had emotional and physical problems. Who wouldn't want to get out of there and go to Rome with Ernest Hemingway?! Her comment that she feels powerless away from Ernest shows the power imbalance in their relationship.

Chapter 8

Hadley continues to disregard the warning signs about a future with Ernest Hemingway. Some friends thought their relationship would ruin his career. No one seemed too concerned about Hadley but that was probably the charm of Hemingway—he took up all the oxygen in the room. But Hadley was making a big mistake when she discounted how important Ernest's writing was to him. She wanted to be part of it and he was protective and possessive of it. The author foreshadows that this misunderstanding by Hadley of Ernest could point to their downfall.



Chapters 9 through 12

Chapters 9 through 12 Summary

Chapter 9

Ernest recalled the incident with Kate. They had been swimming with other friends when Kate had come on to him and exposed her breast to him, urging him to caress it. Now the friends, including Kate, were just a mile from that spot and the next day Ernest would be marrying Hadley. She didn't realize how frightened he was of getting married but that he was more frightened of being alone.

Chapter 10

September 3, 1921, was the wedding day. The ceremony was set to take place at a little church on Horton Bay. Hadley had finally been able to break through to Kate who admitted that she had been in love with Ernest and it had been difficult for her to see him fall for Hadley. She was escorted down the aisle by a family friend. She was a little sad that she had so few family members in attendance. Ernest's knees were visibly shaking as Hadley approached the altar. After the ceremony, the couple traveled to Windemere which was the Hemingway's family summer cottage.

Chapter 11

The couple's first place was a cramped apartment on Chicago's North Side. They were living on a trust and some inheritance money. Ernest had quit his job at the small newspaper he worked for when accusations swirled that the paper was involved in unethical activities. Ernest was still struggling with his career, receiving rejection after rejection.

Since she'd known Ernest, she had seen him depressed before. But now he was having episodes in which he would sob uncontrollably. He was having nightmares and flashbacks about the war. Was he sorry he married? He didn't answer directly, confessing only to feeling lost. A chill went through Hadley as she saw the same expression in his eyes as she had seen in her father's. Later, Ernest apologized for his behavior telling Hadley that those spells just come over him from time to time with no warning.

A dinner guest, Sherwood Anderson, recommended that Ernest go to Paris to work at his craft. All serious artists went there and not to Rome. Anderson wrote letters of introduction for Ernest to Ezra Pound, James Joyce, and Gertrude Stein. On December 8, 1921, Hadley and Ernest sailed for Europe.

Chapter 12



In Paris, Ernest and Hadley got an apartment above a dance hall that was open all day and night. They could not afford the high-tone neighborhoods where all the exclusive shops and restaurants were located. They lived in a shabby, working class area that Ernest immediately loved and Hadley hated. She became very depressed and homesick. To cheer her up, Ernest suggested they go shopping for Christmas stockings. They went shopping and then drinking and both drank a little too much wine. They decided to make the best of their time in Paris. Ernest assured her that they would go home someday.

Ernest could not stand the distractions of working at home and rented a small office. He would spend the entire day there. She missed him but he didn't seem to miss her. He was entrenched in his writing and struggled with it long hours each day. She busied herself with cleaning their small apartment and shopping for food and bargains. Her trips to the market had been uplifting until she saw the large rat population that inhabited it.

Chapters 9 through 12 Analysis

Chapter 9

The reader learns that while Ernest is afraid of marrying, he is more afraid of being alone. This aspect of his psyche contributes to Ernest's relationship problems.

Chapter 10

It is finally revealed that Kate was in love with Ernest and she was jealous of Hadley's relationship with him. The tragedy of her own family is underscored when Hadley observes that so many members of her family are not at her wedding. Ernest is saying all the right words but his reputation and youth will surely challenge their marriage. He mentions the severe head wound he suffered in Italy. What kind of permanent damage did it cause and how might it impact their relationship?

Chapter 11

Fate stepped in and kept Ernest and Hadley from going to Rome. A dinner guest suggested that Ernest go to Paris because that's where all the artists are. Hadley was excited to leave probably since her life as the wife of a writer had become quite uneventful. Ernest showed his first serious bouts with depression, certainly a foreshadowing of a man who, the world knows, eventually committed suicide.

Chapter 12

A serious disparity in their marriage is beginning to emerge. It is obvious that Ernest is most concerned with his writing. She misses him each day but he doesn't miss her. She is lonely and has little to keep her busy. She is trying to hold on for the sake of love but it is a struggle.



Chapters 13 through 16

Chapters 13 through 16 Summary

Chapter 13

Hadley was becoming accustomed to Paris but Ernest was totally in love with it. Ernest was working on a story called "Up in Michigan" which he had started when they first arrived. He was completely obsessed with his writing. They had spotted James Joyce on the street several times. Ernest had read some passages of his "Ulysses" and found it great. A friend, Lewis Galantiere encouraged Ernest to send off his letters of introduction after which he received an invitation from Ezra Pound to meet with him.

When they visited the Pounds, Hadley took to Dorothy Pound immediately. She was a lovely woman and an artist. She was an odd match to her husband, Ezra, who looked like Satan himself. Ezra trapped Ernest in the corner all evening and lectured the much younger man on the art of writing and everything other topic. Pound agreed to send some of Ernest's poetry along to some contacts. Hadley found it quite dismaying to learn that Dorothy and Ezra Pound had an open marriage and both took on other lovers. She wondered if all artists lived that way in Paris.

Their visit with Gertrude Stein was unusual. The "wives" visited together while Stein and Ernest conversed. Stein was in a long-time lesbian relationship with Alice Toklas. On a visit to their flat, Stein read an excerpt of his novel and some of his poems. She liked the poems. They were simple and clear. His style in the novel didn't appeal to her. She recommended that he stick with clear, simple language like that in his poems.

Chapter 14

Ernest took Gertrude's advice, scrapped his entire novel and began writing it again in the simpler style that Stein favored. Ernest was pleased with the new style as was Hadley. Ernest was able to borrow classic works from Sylvia Beach's Shakespeare and Company on the Left Bank. He pored over these works that included Ovid, Homer, Dante, Flaubert, T.S Elliot, and James Joyce among others.

Ernest got a reporting job at an economic conference in Genoa. Hadley stayed behind and at first enjoyed her solitude. But it wasn't long before she missed him. He was gone for three weeks and she was joyful at their reunion. They decided to splurge on a trip to Switzerland with the money he earned as a reporter. They did a lot of hiking and talked about the war with an old friend of Ernest who he called Chink. They decided to hike on the Great St. Bernard pass into Italy. Ernest was anxious to show Hadley the beautiful country he had grown to love. Hadley wore a pair of slim oxfords instead of boots which was not good for trudging through the the thigh-high snow. By the time their trek was over, her feet were swollen and her shoes were destroyed.

Chapter 15



Hadley and Ernest went by train to Milan which was where he was taken after he was severely wounded. He recalled the horror of that night. After he was under attack he remembered carrying another wounded man across the street. He was hit by machine gun blasts across his legs and collapsed. The next thing he knew he was on a train to Milan. Ernest confessed he had thoughts of Agnes, but they were fading.

Ernest arranged to interview Benito Mussolini who was rising in the Italian ranks. Ernest found the "monster" to be large but not very bright. The couple took a bus to visit Schio, a town where Ernest had hung out. The town was smaller and dingier than Ernest recalled and he grew morose when comparing it to his memories. The next day they visited Fossalta where he had been shot.

Chapter 16

One night after making love, Ernest got into a low mood and confessed that after making love, he always felt lonely and empty. The comment, of course, disturbed Hadley. Their second year in Paris was much the same as their first with Ernest away and working most days. Hadley relished the days he stayed home and didn't write at all.

They spent time with Gertrude and Alice and Ernest seemed to relish Gertrude's advice. Hadley would play piano for them which Ernest referred to as her "work" as if she were an artist. But it was clear to Hadley, that Ernest was part of the creative world and she was not.

Chapters 13 through 16 Analysis

Chapter 13

Ernest was into his writing more than ever. When he began visiting with other writers and artists in Paris, Hadley was not included in their conversations. Although their relationship on a personal level seemed to be going well, he shut her out of his artistry something that could cause a huge schism in their marriage. Gertrude Stein advised Ernest to keep his writing simple and not describe the sky in three ways - just one way was sufficient. He must have taken heart because his writing is known for its simplicity.

Chapter 14

Ernest changed his writing style to the simpler one favored by Stein. He became more and more engrossed in his work and though he suggested that Hadley study and read the classics like he was, it was obvious that his work was his number one priority. Accused by her mother and sister years before that she was weak and had no stamina, Hadley was proud that she was able to keep up with Ernest and a friend on a hike from Switzerland to Italy. She probably did it as much for her own self-esteem as she did it to please Ernest.

Chapter 15



On their trip to Italy, Ernest's memories of his injury and of Agnes were recalled. Although Hadley urges Ernest speak of Agnes, she really doesn't want him to remember. She feels Ernest loves her but wishes he could have Agnes, too.

Chapter 16

Ernest refers to Hadley's piano playing as her art. She is not an accomplished pianist. Perhaps Ernest feels slightly embarrassed when he is among other artists that his wife was not really one of them.



Chapters 17 through 20

Chapters 17 through 20 Summary

Chapter 17

There was news of increased conflicts in Turkey where the Greco-Turkish war had been raging for three years. Ernest who was working for the Toronto Star was sent to Turkey to cover the war. Hadley told him not to go. It was too far away. Ernest said it was his job - he had to go. They got into a bitter fight and didn't talk for the three days before he left. When he departed, he was angry and hurt.

Chapter 18

Ernest arrived on the war front in Turkey. It was his first exposure to war since the Italian conflict in which he was injured. He spent his days talking to refugees and citizens and his nights sending dispatches to the Star. Ernest got in a fight in a bar with a British soldier over a girl. The girl left with Ernest, went to her room and had sex. Ernest knew what he did would kill Hadley but he put Paris and Hadley out of his mind for the time being.

Chapter 19

Hadley was lonely and miserable while Ernest was away. She had only received two brief notes from him. When he returned, Ernest was weak and exhausted. He had malaria and had lost twenty pounds. Hadley cut his hair and picked the lice out of his head. Hadley apologized for her behavior before his departure. All was forgiven.

Chapter 20

Hadley and Ernest went drinking with Ezra and Dorothy Pound. Hadley was getting very drunk on absinthe. Ezra excoriated the Midwest in the States, swearing he'd never return there, a place where no one appreciated poetry. Ernest wrote to Agnes to tell her he'd been thinking of her but that he was happy in his personal life and doing well in his career. Hadley felt jealous but let it pass. Ernest confronted Hadley accusing her of not supporting his writing. She wanted him to write but didn't like being alone. He told her he had to be alone to write.

Chapters 17 through 20 Analysis

Chapter 17

Ernest's career and Hadley's insecurity are causing a serious rift in the marriage. Hadley is finally honest with Ernest that she doesn't want him to be away. He doesn't understand because in his mind his career is of ultimate importance - more important



than she is to him. She doesn't understand that because he's the most important thing in the world to her.

Chapter 18

Perhaps the fight that Hadley and Ernest had before he left for Turkey contributed to his infidelity but he may have just used it to justify his actions. The warning that Kate gave Hadley that Ernest was a womanizer is beginning to emerge. Ernest acted out of more than lust. There is a deep need and hurt that continues to nag at him.

Chapter 19

Ernest returns and is sick with malaria which made Hadley feel all the more guilty about their argument and her behavior. As usual, she allows him the upperhand, apologizing for her behavior. He brought her a gift from Turkey probably out of guilt for his infidelity which of course he didn't mention to her.

Chapter 20

Ernest's career and Hadley's loneliness are again at odds. Hadley's lack of self-worth makes her dependent on Ernest for her happiness. She realizes deep down that he must write but she passively discourages him from doing so by her behavior. But perhaps is Ernest using his writing as an excuse to be away from her.



Chapters 21 through 24

Chapters 21 through 24 Summary

Chapter 21

On Thanksgiving in 1922, the Star sent Ernest to cover the Lusanne peace conference. To avoid an argument, Ernest insisted that Hadley go with him. But she was very ill and planned to join him later. A reporter had offered to send some of Ernest's work to Cosmopolitan. Hadley decided to bring along all of Ernest's manuscripts with her. She boarded the train and stuck her valise with the manuscripts under her seat. She went off to buy snacks before departure and when she returned, the valise was gone. The train officials interviewed her about the theft and promised to try to track the guilty party down but there was little hope that they would retrieve the bag. Through her tears, she told another passenger that what she lost was priceless.

Chapter 22

Ernest met a weeping Hadley the next morning at the train station. Ernest tried to remain calm when she told him that she lost all his work. Surely she didn't bring it all. Ernest insisted on going back to Paris to see if some of his works were still in their apartment. She knew he would find nothing.

Chapter 23

Hadley was growing tired of Paris. She told Ernest she wanted to return home to the states. He could not return. They spent some off time in Chamby where they vowed to put the lost manuscripts behind them. His friend, Chink, came for Christmas and the day was fun until the evening when Ernest brought up the lost transcripts. Ernest had made enough money for almost a year and vowed to take enough time off to re-write his work.

Hadley left her diaphragm in Paris and Ernest was furious when he found out. A baby wouldn't be a bad idea, she told him which made him all the more angry. They had agreed to discuss having children. He felt she was trying to trick him into it. He refused to have sex with her and slept in another room. The next day, Ernest bought a tin of condoms.

Although Ernest vowed to rewrite the missing work, he was finding it difficult to start. They spent some time in Rapallo where Hadley began having bouts of dizziness in the mornings. Soon, she was sure she was pregnant. Ernest was very upset when she told him and a palpable tension emerged between them.

Ezra Pound arranged for a meeting between Ernest and Edward O'Brien, an editor looking for stories for a collection he wanted to publish. Ernest gave him a copy of his story, "My Old Man," for his consideration. After Pound and O'Brien left, Ernest made an angry comparison between the loss of his manuscripts and the arrival of a baby. Ernest



told her that a friend felt that she had lost the manuscripts purposely. O'Brien chose Ernest's story for the collection and which buoyed his spirits.

Chapter 24

Ernest and Hadley returned to Paris in early April. Hadley found an ally in Gertrude Stein who assured Ernest that he'd be a fine father. Gertrude even told him that he was lucky to have lost the work. It freed him. Jane Heap, editor of the Little Review magazine, asked Ernest to contribute to her publication. He re-wrote his Paris Vignettes and Gertrude was impressed. She said they were exceptional. Ernest suggested they go to Toronto to have the baby. The Star was located there and the Canadian hospitals were reportedly very good.

Ernest wanted to write about bullfighting and wanted to see it up close so he planned a trip to Spain with several other colleagues. They went to some bullfights and Ernest came back enthused about the sport. Hadley wanted to see a bullfight so they made plans to return. Ernest told her not everyone had the stomach for bullfighting due to its violence. They went to Pamplona to witness the running of the bulls. It was exciting and Hadley shouted over the noise that it was the danger that excited the people. At the bullfight, Hadley saw six bulls killed which didn't seem to faze her. Ernest was surprised. Hadley told Ernest she was very strong as a youngster but that her family and tragedies made her weak. Hadley assured Ernest that their baby would be strong and know everything. They'd be honest with him and he wouldn't be underestimated.

Chapters 21 through 24 Analysis

Chapter 21

Hadley lost something more valuable than diamonds or gold. What would Ernest say? Telling him that all his writing was gone forever would be like telling him he had to have all four limbs amputated. Would he think she was trying to sabotage his writing?

Chapter 22

It was a genuine crisis when Hadley confesses to Ernest that she lost all his work. Again, their problems always center around his work. Could he forgive her or would the incident drive a deeper wedge in their already crumbling marriage?

Chapter 23

It was obvious that Ernest did not want children - at that point of his life and career at least. He suspected that Hadley tricked him into the pregnancy. Later, he conflated her two biggest sins -losing the manuscripts and getting pregnant - he seemed to view them as equally tragic. Ernest was obviously distressed by the loss of all his work and, in fact, was immobilized by it. He could not seem to start writing again, which was understandable with the loss of his entire body of work. Just like an artist never painted a work the same way twice, Ernest knew that he could not replace his years of work



precisely as it was. Besides it was such a monumental task that stood before him - no one would relish it.

Chapter 24

Ernest is warming up to the idea of the baby - not totally but he is bending a little. He is also having some small successes with his writing. It appears that when Ernest's writing is going well, nothing else in his life presents a problem. When he is struggling with his writing, he carries it over into the rest of his life. When Hadley sees the bullfight, Ernest is surprised how strong she is. She used to be strong but was weakened by circumstances - mostly her mother's attitude toward her. When she tells Ernest that their baby will be strong and that they'll be honest with him, she is really recalling how she was damaged in her childhood.



Chapters 25 through 28

Chapters 25 through 28 Summary

Chapter 25

The couple traveled to Canada. Ernest was often annoyed with Hadley's conversation. He'd be formulating lines in his mind, she'd begin talking and he'd lose the line. He was also drinking more frequently. He worked through the night reviewing proofs for a small book of his stories and poems that was being published. Ernest was given a lot of overnight assignments and was often gone. One night when he was gone, Hadley went into labor at a friend's dinner party. After two hours of labor, Hadley was given ether and was put out. When she woke the nurse was holding her son in front of her. Ernest arrived as soon as he could. He was relieved that Hadley was okay. He touched the tiny hand of his son, John Hadley Hemingway.

Chapter 26

Ernest was demoted for not filing his report before he went to the hospital. He decided that Toronto wasn't where they should be. But they were close to broke and couldn't afford passage to Paris. So they stayed and he continued in a job he detested. The work was beneath his talent. As the harsh winter set in, Ernest's spirits became frighteningly low. His book was published but did not make a mark.

Ernest needed Hadley to keep him warm and he needed his work to keep him sane. They decided to return to Paris. Ernest vowed to work extra hard to save money for the trip. They had little money when they were on their way back to Paris. Ernest was worried about making enough money to support the family.

Chapter 27

Back in Paris, Gertrude pronounced Ernest's journalism career dead. She told him to write what he was meant to write. Now, Hadley was rarely lonely. Bumby (the baby's nickname) kept her busy. Gertrude became the boy's godmother. Ezra Pound minced no words about the baby. Children were not welcomed in his studio because he didn't believe in them.

Ernest began working at home in his room with the door shut. Ezra got Ernest a job as a deputy editor for the *Transatlantic Review*. Writer Ford Maddox Ford was the editor-in-chief. Ford and his girlfriend had a baby, which endeared them to Hadley. Ernest didn't have the same warm feeling for Ford. He thought he was condescending. It was at a tea at the Fords that the couple met Harold Leob. He was a young writer from the states and they had a lot in common. His young girlfriend, Kitty Cannell, was beautiful and graceful, a former dancer. The two women became close and shared stories about their lives. Ernest was suspicious of Kitty. He told Hadley to be cautious. Kitty was the kind of



fancy woman who would soon be whispering in Hadley's ear and telling her how miserable her life was.

Chapter 28

Hadley continued her friendship with Kitty but Ernest remained skeptical of her. Kitty felt that Hadley was living for Ernest's career and was getting nothing out of their marriage. Ernest's writing had benefited from their return to Paris. He was writing better than ever. Ernest looked kinder upon Ford who told him he'd publish any work by Ernest, sight unseen. Ernest's "Indian Camp" appeared in the April issue along with an excerpt from Joyce's new book which would eventually be known as, "Finnegan's Wake." The April issue also critiqued Ernest's "Three Stories and Ten Poems," to rave reviews.

At a gathering, Hadley noticed that Ernest was paying a lot of attention to a young, slender beauty with dark blond hair. Red flags went up and sent a chill down Hadley's spine. The woman was Lady Twysden, known as Duff, who was married to a British count. Kitty was at the party and grabbed Hadley away. Harold was leaving her for another woman and she would be leaving Paris. The news made Hadley worry more about Ernest and Duff who talked the night away. Finally, Hadley couldn't take it any longer and told Ernest she wanted to leave. He replied that he'd find someone to walk her home. He wanted to stay. Hadley was hurt and humiliated.

Chapters 25 through 28 Analysis

Chapter 25

Ernest was stressed out. He was due to become a father which was something he really didn't want. He was finishing up some writing and was annoyed when Hadley interrupted his thoughts with her talking. The move to Canada indicated that Ernest cared about the welfare of his wife and child since Canada had the best OB hospitals in the world. He was not happy with his position at the Star because of the manager he was working under. They didn't get along since the moment they had met. When Ernest was unhappy with his work, trouble usually followed.

Chapter 26

Ernest was becoming very depressed. He hated his job but had to work to support his family. They decided to return to Paris even though they could not afford it. Ernest felt his job at the Star was beneath him, which once again pointed to the importance that Ernest placed on his career. Although it was subtle, there seemed to be a growing resentment within him that the baby has taken focus away his career.

Chapter 27

Hadley had a resentment, sometimes subconscious, for anyone who influences or supports Ernest's career. She was jealous of the relationship that grew between Gertrude and Ernest, even though Gertrude was simply his mentor and he apparently



benefited from it. Again, it was Hadley's lack of self-worth that she allowed Ernest's relationship with an older woman who was a lesbian to bother her. Gertrude and Ernest's relationship was based purely on artistry - perhaps that's what bothered Hadley. She never felt a part of that element of his life, which was undoubtedly the most important thing to him.

The reader sensed Ernest's growing dissatisfaction with Hadley's jealousy and resentment, which though subtle he was very aware of. Ernest was an artist extraordinaire and was emotional, sensitive, and fragile even though he presented a rough exterior. It seemed as though Hadley never understood him and never understood how talented he was. She was most concerned about his being home and assuring her of his love for her.

Chapter 28

Ernest claimed that he was happy with Hadley's plain Jane look and generous curves, but he seemed to be attracted to slim stylish young women. Ernest's work was being published and gaining more attention and Ernest was happy and gregarious. Ernest embarrassed Hadley by staying behind at a party where he was paying a lot of attention to a beautiful young woman. A sensitive artist like Ernest was aware that not leaving the party with Hadley would crush her and it did. When he finally did come home, she began crying but he chose to slough it off. His feelings for her were obviously changing and he seemed to be looking around for another woman.



Chapters 29 through 32

Chapters 29 through 32 Summary

Chapter 29

Ernest, Hadley, Bumby, and a nanny went on a ski trip in the Austrian Alps. They did a lot of skiing and Ernest was very attentive and romantic during their stay. Ernest wrote a little but was again worrying about his career despite some recent successes. Ernest was elated when he received a telegram during their trip. His book, "In Our Time," was going to be published. A contract laying out what his royalty take would be was being prepared. It was a huge turning point in Ernest's career. He would never again be unknown. His apprenticeship was over.

Chapter 30

Back in Paris, Ernest was seeing more of Duff and her fiance. Hadley was relieved to know she was engaged but sometimes that didn't mean very much. Kitty returned from London. Hadley was glad to see her but Ernest still disliked her. One day Hadley visited Kitty at her apartment. Also there were Jinny and Pauline Pfeiffer. Pauline was American who had come to Paris to work for Vogue. She was very chic and stylish. Ernest came by and began flirting openly with Jinny.

Ernest began to change. He was even having problems with his close friend, Gertrude. Ezra and Dorothy Pound weren't around much, living most of the year in Rapallo. Kitty brought Pauline around to Hadley's apartment a few times. Hadley began to like Pauline. She was funny and very smart. Pauline and Kate Smith had been friends at college, both majoring in journalism at the University of Missouri.

One night at a restaurant, F. Scott Fitzgerald came to the table. He recognized Ernest and they had a few exchanges about writing. Fitzgerald mentioned he had a new book out called, "The Great Gatsby." Ernest promised to read it. After Hadley and Ernest both read the book, they went out on the town with Fitzgerald and his wife, Zelda. Ernest commented later that he was sure that Zelda was insane - it was the crazy look in her eyes.

Later at the Fitzgerald home for a night cap, Zelda announced that she had fallen in love with another man and it almost killed her and Scott. But it did actually kill the other man. It was in all the papers, she told them.

Chapter 31

Duff and her fiance, Pat, came to the bullfights. During the bull run, Duff and Ernest went off to a restaurant alone. Hadley noticed, of course, as did Pat who looked rather sad and hopeless. Pat was an alcoholic and his mood swings would send anyone away. There was a large group of friends at the bullfights - everyone was aware that Duff and



Ernest were becoming an item. Hadley was shocked to learn that Harold had fallen under Duff's spell as well. He was just as miserable as Hadley and Pat as he watched the relationship between Duff and Ernest deepen.

Pat and Harold got into it over Duff during dinner. Pat resented the attention that Harold was heaping on Duff. Hadley was disturbed by the attention Ernest was giving to Duff. Another friend, Don Stewart, walked her back to her hotel. Don was open about the situation with Duff. He hoped Ernest wouldn't throw Hadley over for her. Don had strong feelings for Hadley but the timing wasn't right for her.

Chapter 32

The next morning, Ernest was already at breakfast when Hadley awoke. The night before, everyone was drinking too much and Ernest and Harold almost came to blows over Duff. Ernest, Pat and Bill participated in an amateur exhibition in the bull ring. One bull was allowed in the ring at a time to face the amateur bullfighters. Harold climbed to the ring from the seats to join them as Hadley and Duff watched. There was tension between Harold and Ernest. Hadley figured it was because he knew of Harold's tryst with Duff. One of the other men in the ring sustained a severe goring in his leg. At lunch later, Hadley had to turn her chair away from Ernest who was sitting next to Duff where a lot of ear-whispering was going on.

At the bullfights later, a young matador Cayetano Ordonez thrilled the crowd. Duff and Ernest were particularly entranced by his skill and physical beauty. The matador killed the bull then sliced off a corner of an ear. He had a young boy bring it to Hadley to honor her for her beauty. That night at dinner, Harold and Duff disappeared for a while. When they returned, Harold and Pat had words. At bed that evening, Hadley reached out to Ernest. She wanted to forgive and forget everything.

The group went their own ways with Hadley and Ernest going on to Madrid and more bullfights. Ordonez was there and seemed to have a school boy's crush on Hadley. Ernest told Hadley he was writing a novel about bullfighting with the main character being based on Ordonez. Ernest began working intensely on the book. Hadley got a peek one afternoon and saw that the heroine in the story was based on Duff. It made her jealous. She missed Bumby and went home. Ernest stayed in Spain to write.

Chapters 29 through 32 Analysis

Chapter 29

Ernest, Hadley, Bumby and a nanny went on a ski trip in the Austrian Alps. They did a lot of skiing and Ernest was very attentive and romantic during their stay. Ernest wrote a little but was again worrying about his career despite some recent successes. Ernest was elated when he received a telegram during their trip. His book, "In Our Time," was going to be published. A contract laying out what his royalty take would be was being prepared. It was a huge turning point in Ernest's career. He would never again be unknown. His apprenticeship was over.



Chapter 30

Back in Paris, Ernest was seeing more of Duff and her fiancé. Hadley was relieved to know she was engaged but sometimes that didn't mean very much. Kitty returned from London. Hadley was glad to see her but Ernest still disliked her. One day Hadley visited Kitty at her apartment. Also there were Jinny and Pauline Pfeiffer. Pauline was American who had come to Paris to work for Vogue. She was very chic and stylish. Ernest came by and began flirting openly with Jinny.

Ernest began to change. He was even having problems with his close friend, Gertrude. Ezra and Dorothy Pound weren't around much, living most of the year in Rapallo. Kitty brought Pauline around to Hadley's apartment a few times. Hadley began to like Pauline. She was funny and very smart. Pauline and Kate Smith had been friends at college, both majoring in journalism at the University of Missouri.

One night at a restaurant, F. Scott Fitzgerald came to the table. He recognized Ernest and they had a few exchanges about writing. Fitzgerald mentioned he had a new book out called, "The Great Gatsby." Ernest promised to read it. After Hadley and Ernest both read the book, they went out on the town with Fitzgerald and his wife, Zelda. Ernest commented later that he was sure that Zelda was insane—it was the crazy look in her eyes.

Later at the Fitzgerald home for a night cap, Zelda announced that she had fallen in love with another man and it almost killed her and Scott. But it did actually kill the other man. It was in all the papers, she told them.

Chapter 31

Duff and her fiancé, Pat, came to the bullfights. During the bull run, Duff and Ernest went off to a restaurant alone. Hadley noticed, of course, as did Pat who looked rather sad and hopeless. Pat was an alcoholic and his mood swings would send anyone away. There was a large group of friends at the bullfights—everyone was aware that Duff and Ernest were becoming an item. Hadley was shocked to learn that Harold had fallen under Duff's spell as well. He was just as miserable as Hadley and Pat as he watched the relationship between Duff and Ernest deepen.

Pat and Harold got into it over Duff during dinner. Pat resented the attention that Harold was heaping on Duff. Hadley was disturbed by the attention Ernest was giving to Duff. Another friend, Don Stewart, walked her back to her hotel. Don was open about the situation with Duff. He hoped Ernest wouldn't throw Hadley over for her. Don had strong feelings for Hadley but the timing wasn't right for her.

Chapter 32

The next morning, Ernest was already at breakfast when Hadley awoke. The night before, everyone was drinking too much and Ernest and Harold almost came to blows over Duff. Ernest, Pat and Bill participated in an amateur exhibition in the bull ring. One bull was allowed in the ring at a time to face the amateur bullfighters. Harold climbed to



the ring from the seats to join them as Hadley and Duff watched. There was tension between Harold and Ernest. Hadley figured it was because he knew of Harold's tryst with Duff. One of the other men in the ring sustained a severe goring in his leg. At lunch later, Hadley had to turn her chair away from Ernest who was sitting next to Duff where a lot of ear-whispering was going on.

At the bullfights later, a young matador Cayetano Ordonez thrilled the crowd. Duff and Ernest were particularly entranced by his skill and physical beauty. The matador killed the bull then sliced off a corner of an ear. He had a young boy bring it to Hadley to honor her for her beauty. That night at dinner, Harold and Duff disappeared for a while. When they returned, Harold and Pat had words. At bed that evening, Hadley reached out to Ernest. She wanted to forgive and forget everything.

The group went their own ways with Hadley and Ernest going on to Madrid and more bullfights. Ordonez was there and seemed to have a school boy's crush on Hadley. Ernest told Hadley he was writing a novel about bullfighting with the main character being based on Ordonez. Ernest began working intensely on the book. Hadley got a peek one afternoon and saw that the heroine in the story was based on Duff. It made her jealous. She missed Bumby and went home. Ernest stayed in Spain to write.



Chapters 33 through 36

Chapters 33 through 36 Summary

Chapter 33

In Paris, Hadley spent a lot of time with Kitty, Pauline, and Jinny. Hadley felt a little uncomfortable around the stylish young women, but she liked and enjoyed them. Pauline had almost married but realized that she didn't love the man enough. Hadley told Pauline that she could probably have whatever she wanted. Hadley admired Pauline who was not only fashionable but was candid and sensible.

A week after Ernest returned, he finished the first draft of his novel. All their friends were represented by characters in the book but Hadley was surprised that she wasn't in it at all. Ernest said that the ideas came to him not the other way around. She had been in a down mood in Pamplona, where the story took place, and she had really been above the fray. Pauline was coming by a lot and encouraging Hadley to take up piano again and to think about giving concerts. Ernest liked Pauline. He saw her as a kinder version of Kitty.

Ernest put his bullfighting novel away for a while. He'd revisit it later since he didn't know what was good or bad. He devoted his time to other works. Their Christmas plans were to go to the Austrian alps again. Ernest suggested they ask Pauline to go along. Hadley would enjoy her company.

Chapter 34

By the time Pauline joined Hadley and Ernest in Austria, the snow had thawed somewhat and was not good for skiing. The Hemingways had been there for a few weeks already. Ernest had been nursing a sore throat but he was up again working. Hadley was glad she had a companion. Pauline was support of Hadley about her piano playing and to Ernest about his writing. She asked if she could read his Pamplona novel. Ernest wasn't comfortable with the novel yet and instead gave Pauline "The Torrents of Spring" to read which was a satire of a book by Ernest's friend and rival, Sherwood Anderson. Ernest was delighted that Pauline found it hilarious. Pauline urged him to send it to a publisher. The next day, Ernest bundled it up and sent it off to his editor, Horace Liveright. Hadley feared publication of the book would be destroy Ernest's association with Sherwood.

Ernest and Pauline began taking long walks together. He thought she was smart and was impressed with how much she'd read. The editor rejected "Torrents" but was looking forward to reading Ernest's bullfighting novel. He was upset with Liveright and thought about sending the novel to another editor. Hadley said he should be loyal to Liveright but Pauline said he should try a new editor. It seemed that Pauline was telling



Ernest what he wanted to hear. At Pauline's suggestion, Ernest decided to go to New York to pitch the book "Torrents" himself.

Chapter 35

As Ernest packed for New York, Hadley worried that she was losing him. He once had trusted her opinion but that seemed to have changed. He was attracted to Pauline, that was obvious but she was sure he wouldn't act on it. Besides, Pauline was her friend and as such she wouldn't go for a tawdry affair even if Ernest made a move. He would travel from Austria to Paris first and then to the States. He said he'd see Pauline in Paris if he had time.

Ernest had great success in New York. He met with Liveright in his New York office. The editor had a change of heart about "Torrents" and gave him an advance of \$1,500 on a package deal for that book and the novel Ernest had titled, "The Sun Also Rises." He stayed in New York for a few extra days to celebrate, meeting up with some other well known writers and celebrities.

After his return from New York, Ernest went to Paris to catch up with friends there. When he finally returned, he told Hadley that seeing her again reminded her how much he missed her. She said she missed him all along.

Chapter 36

Hadley went on a wine-country outing with Pauline and Jinny. Everything had gone well until near the end of the trip when Pauline had a mood swing. Suddenly, she wasn't interested in touring or seeing anything and just wanted to go. Hadley tried to entice her with an interesting spot on their tour but Pauline told her to "shut up!" She apologized later which Hadley graciously accepted. Later, as they walked through a garden, Pauline began crying. She apologized again and ran off.

Chapters 33 through 36 Analysis

Chapter 33

In Paris, Hadley spent a lot of time with Kitty, Pauline and Jinny. Hadley felt a little uncomfortable around the stylish young women, but she liked and enjoyed them. Pauline had almost married but realized that she didn't love the man enough. Hadley told Pauline that she could probably have whatever she wanted. Hadley admired Pauline who was not only fashionable but was candid and sensible.

A week after Ernest returned, he finished the first draft of his novel. All their friends were represented by characters in the book but Hadley was surprised that she wasn't in it at all. Ernest said that the ideas came to him not the other way around. She had been in a down mood in Pamplona, where the story took place, and she had really been above the fray. Pauline was coming by a lot and encouraging Hadley to take up piano again



and to think about giving concerts. Ernest liked Pauline. He saw her as a kinder version of Kitty.

Ernest put his bullfighting novel away for a while. He'd revisit it later - he didn't know what was good or bad. He devoted his time to other works. Their Christmas plans were to go to the Austrian alps again. Ernest suggested they ask Pauline to go along. Hadley would enjoy her company.

Chapter 34

By the time Pauline joined Hadley and Ernest in Austria, the snow had thawed somewhat and was not good for skiing. The Hemingways had been there for a few weeks already. Ernest had been nursing a sore throat but he was up again working. Hadley was glad she had a companion. Pauline was support of Hadley about her piano playing and to Ernest about his writing. She asked if she could read his Pamplona novel. Ernest wasn't comfortable with the novel yet and instead gave Pauline "The Torrents of Spring" to read which was a satire of a book by Ernest's friend and rival, Sherwood Anderson. Ernest was delighted that Pauline found it hilarious. Pauline urged him to send it to a publisher. The next day, Ernest bundled it up and sent it off to his editor, Horace Liveright. Hadley feared publication of the book would be destroy Ernest's association with Sherwood.

Ernest and Pauline began taking long walks together. He thought she was smart and was impressed with how much she'd read. The editor rejected "Torrents" but was looking forward to reading Ernest's bullfighting novel. He was upset with Liveright and thought about sending the novel to another editor. Hadley said he should be loyal to Liveright but Pauline said he should try a new editor. It seemed that Pauline was telling Ernest what he wanted to hear. At Pauline's suggestion, Ernest decided to go to New York to pitch the book "Torrents" himself.

Chapter 35

As Ernest packed for New York, Hadley worried that she was losing him. He once had trusted her opinion but that seemed to have changed. He was attracted to Pauline, that was obvious but she was sure he wouldn't act on it. Besides, Pauline was her friend and as such she wouldn't go for a tawdry affair even if Ernest made a move. He would travel from Austria to Paris first and then to the States. He said he'd see Pauline in Paris if he had time.

Ernest had great success in New York. He met with Liveright in his New York office. The editor had a change of heart about "Torrents" and gave him an advance of \$1,500 on a package deal for that book and the novel Ernest had titled, "The Sun Also Rises." He stayed in New York for a few extra days to celebrate, meeting up with some other well known writers and celebrities.

After his return from New York, Ernest went to Paris to catch up with friends there. When he finally returned, he told Hadley that seeing her again reminded her how much he missed her. She said she missed him all along.



Chapter 36

Hadley went on a wine-country outing with Pauline and Jinny. Everything had gone well until near the end of the trip when Pauline had a mood swing. Suddenly, she wasn't interested in touring or seeing anything and just wanted to go. Hadley tried to entice her with an interesting spot on their tour but Pauline told her to "shut up!" She apologized later which Hadley graciously accepted. Later, as they walked through a garden, Pauline began crying. She apologized again and ran off.



Chapters 37 through 40

Chapters 37 through 40 Summary

Chapter 37

One evening Pauline had visited Hadley and Ernest. Hadley turned in early with a sore throat. Ernest walked Pauline home. They shared a deep kiss. Ernest walked home consumed by desire. They met by chance at a cafe. They went to her apartment and had sex. He felt guilty and vowed to himself never to do that again. But it did carry on and Ernest felt guilty but loved them both.

Chapter 38

Hadley guessed why Pauline was upset. She was in love with her husband. Hadley asked Jinny about it and she confessed to Hadley that Pauline and Ernest cared for each other. At home, Hadley immediately confronted Ernest who refused to answer her battery of questions. He became angry with her for bringing the entire matter up. He stormed off to walk the rainy streets of Paris. To Hadley, his refusal to answer was an admission. He came back at midnight very drunk. Hadley told him she didn't want him there. He should go to his lover. He told her she should have been quiet about it. Now it's out in the open. She slapped him several times. He sat and drank in the kitchen all night and was gone in the morning.

Ernest came back the next night, saying he wrote all day. Hadley asked if Pauline knew that she had found out about them. Ernest said not yet. Ernest got two tumblers and a bottle of brandy and suggested they get drunk.

Chapter 39

Things were strained and there were many quarrels. Ernest left early for his trip to Madrid. Hadley canceled a piano concert she had planned to perform. Word spread quickly about the affair. Kitty thought Pauline had been pursuing Ernest for some time from a few comments she made about him. Ernest wrote Hadley from Madrid. He was lonely and asked if she and Bumby were coming. Bumby was ill and couldn't travel and she herself needed to be away from him. Ernest hated to be alone. It made him drink and kept him from sleeping which brought on his demons. But Hadley was hurting, too.

Hadley and Bumby went to to the country estate of friends, Gerald and Sarah Murphy. Many of her friends were there and of course, word had gotten around about Ernest and Pauline but Hadley tried to put it out of her head. Ernest was to join the group later after he finished his work in Madrid. Bumby still had a cough and a physician friend diagnosed him with whooping cough, a very serious disease. But the worst had apparently passed and the doctor said he should be fine. The doctor prescribed medications and told Hadley that he had to be quarantined for two weeks. Hadley and



the baby moved to a hotel then later to a friend's villa. When Ernest arrived, Hadley didn't bring up Pauline.

They went dined and partied with friends. Ernest wrote quite a bit while Hadley tended to Bumby. Scott and Zelda were among the friends they saw. Zelda was jealous of the attention that Scott and Ernest paid to Sara. Zelda and Ernest had never gotten along. He thought she was bad for Scott and she thought Ernest was a phoney, masquerading an effeminate core with his macho act.

Pauline wrote and invited herself, stressing she had whooping cough as a child and would be immune to it. Zelda made the comment that Hadley was too agreeable and that Ernest certainly ran the show. Hadley was in limbo. She thought Ernest might eventually fall out of love with Pauline. If she gave him an ultimatum, she might be sending him into Pauline's waiting arms and she'd lose him forever.

Chapter 40

Ernest had been miserable for some time. He had been contemplating different ways to commit suicide. He thought of how death would come if he turned on the gas or slit his wrists. He thought of jumping off a New York skyscraper when he was there. Then on the ship back to Europe, he thought of how it would be to jump in the ocean and drown. But in reality, he knew the only way he would ever do it would be with a gun. He thought of how he was almost shot to death in Italy. He planned to do it if the situation with Pauline wasn't resolved by Christmas. He loved both women and they all suffered. Pauline was pressuring him, mentioning "marriage" frequently and meaning it.

Chapters 37 through 40 Analysis

Chapter 37

One evening Pauline had visited Hadley and Ernest. Hadley turned in early with a sore throat. Ernest walked Pauline home. They shared a deep kiss. Ernest walked home consumed by desire. They met by chance at a cafe. They went to her apartment and had sex. He felt guilty and vowed to himself never to do that again. But it did carry on and Ernest felt guilty but loved them both.

Chapter 38

Hadley guessed why Pauline was upset. She was in love with her husband. Hadley asked Jinny about it and she confessed to Hadley that Pauline and Ernest cared for each other. At home, Hadley immediately confronted Ernest who refused to answer her battery of questions. He became angry with her for bringing the entire matter up. He stormed off to walk the rainy streets of Paris. To Hadley, his refusal to answer was an admission. He came back at midnight very drunk. Hadley told him she didn't want him there. He should go to his lover. He told her she should have been quiet about it. Now it's out in the open. She slapped him several times. He sat and drank in the kitchen all night and was gone in the morning.



Ernest came back the next night, saying he wrote all day. Hadley asked if Pauline knew that she had found out about them. Ernest said not yet. Ernest got two tumblers and a bottle of brandy and suggested they get drunk.

Chapter 39

Things were strained and there were many quarrels. Ernest left early for his trip to Madrid. Hadley canceled a piano concert she had planned to perform. Word spread quickly about the affair. Kitty thought Pauline had been pursuing Ernest for some time from a few comments she made about him. Ernest wrote Hadley from Madrid. He was lonely and asked if she and Bumby were coming. Bumby was ill and couldn't travel and she herself needed to be away from him. Ernest hated to be alone. It made him drink and kept him from sleeping which brought on his demons. But Hadley was hurting, too.

Hadley and Bumby went to the country estate of friends, Gerald and Sarah Murphy. Many of her friends were there and, of course, word had gotten around about Ernest and Pauline but Hadley tried to put it out of her head. Ernest was to join the group later after he finished his work in Madrid. Bumby still had a cough and a physician friend diagnosed him with whooping cough, a very serious disease. But the worst had apparently passed and the doctor said he should be fine. The doctor prescribed medications and told Hadley that he had to be quarantined for two weeks. Hadley and the baby moved to a hotel then later to a friend's villa. When Ernest arrived, Hadley didn't bring up Pauline.

They went dined and partied with friends. Ernest wrote quite a bit while Hadley tended to Bumby. Scott and Zelda were among the friends they saw. Zelda was jealous of the attention that Scott and Ernest paid to Sara. Zelda and Ernest had never gotten along. He thought she was bad for Scott and she thought Ernest was a phoney, masquerading an effeminate core with his macho act.

Pauline wrote and invited herself, stressing she had whooping cough as a child and would be immune to it. Zelda made the comment that Hadley was too agreeable and that Ernest certainly ran the show. Hadley was in limbo. She thought Ernest might eventually fall out of love with Pauline. If she gave him an ultimatum, she might be sending him into Pauline's waiting arms and she'd lose him forever.

Chapter 40

Ernest had been miserable for some time. He had been contemplating different ways to commit suicide. He thought of how death would come if he turned on the gas or slit his wrists. He thought of jumping off a New York skyscraper when he was there. Then on the ship back to Europe, he thought of how it would be to jump in the ocean and drown. But in reality, he knew the only way he would ever do it would be with a gun. He thought of how he was almost shot to death in Italy. He planned to do it if the situation with Pauline wasn't resolved by Christmas. He loved both women and they all suffered. Pauline was pressuring him, mentioning "marriage" frequently and meaning it.



Chapters 41 through 44

Chapters 41 through 44 Summary

Chapter 41

Bumby was recovering from whooping cough. Hadley and Pauline would often bicycle on a seaside road that cut through the cliff. Pauline stayed cheerful as if they were still friends. Hadley wasn't sure if they ever were. When the lease at the villa ended, they rented two rooms at a hotel. Hadley and Ernest were in one and Pauline in the other. Hadley suspected that Pauline was visiting Ernest in an office room he rented.

Pauline told Hadley she suggested that they move to the states back to her home town in Arkansas. It would be much cheaper for them. Ernest needed to write another novel because they'd be running out of money. Paris was too expensive. Hadley said he'd never move to there but Pauline said he was in favor of it. Hadley was angry and hurt by Pauline's "news."

Hadley confronted Ernest about moving to Arkansas and he said he had meant to tell her. We'll just try it for a while, he told her. If it doesn't work out they'd come back to Paris. They'd get a house together in Arkansas - the three of them, he added. He pointed out that the three of them were living together now. One afternoon when Hadley and Ernest were napping, Pauline came in and slipped under the sheets by Ernest. Hadley knew it but couldn't look or move.

Chapter 42

Ernest, Pauline, and Bumby were on the beach when Hadley swam out several hundred yards into the sea. She allowed herself to sink down until she began to feel the sting in her lungs. Her problems could be over if she allowed the sea to take her. Suddenly it came to her—she could not continue to live the way she'd been living but she did not want to die. She quickly swam back to shore. Pauline and Ernest urged Hadley to dive off the rocks but she refused and instead left and went back to the hotel. Later, Ernest came into her bedroom where she was resting. She told him that he and Pauline were killing her. And that it was too late to do anything about it. Everything was ruined.

Chapter 43

Even though Hadley had faced reality, she allowed the threesome to continue on for several more weeks. They went on to the fiesta in Pamplona. The whole gang was there - Pauline, Sara, Harold, and Duff. After the fiesta, Pauline left for Paris and Hadley and Ernest left for San Sebastian. All they did was argue, even making scenes in cafes and taxicabs. They could only sleep if they drank too much. They decided to leave San Sebastian early. She said it was time to leave but not together.



They took the train back to Paris together but when they arrived, Ernest gave the cabdriver the address for Gerald's studio where he would be staying. Hadley lashed out at him, striking and punching him. Ernest led Hadley up the stairs to the studio and tucked her into a cot. The next morning Ernest was gone and Hadley left for a hotel where she planned to rent two rooms for herself and Bumby.

Chapter 44

Hadley decided that if Pauline was physically away, that Ernest might return to her. She proposed a deal to Ernest: Pauline should go away for one-hundred days. If after that time period, he still loved her Hadley would give him a divorce. Ernest agreed and Pauline took a leave from her job and returned to the states. Ernest could never stand being alone and he was soon back with Hadley, eating, sleeping and having sex with her. He told her that Pauline was falling apart over this.

Chapters 41 through 44 Analysis

Pauline and Ernest assaulted Hadley and treated her in a demeaning way. First, her very presence in their family vacation was an affront to Hadley and sense of nuclear family. Second, she knew that Ernest and Pauline were "in love" and probably having sex somewhere on the same property where she was staying. Pauline's emotional attack on her, disguised as well-meaning advice, was perhaps the most hurtful.

Chapter 42

It finally took the contemplation of suicide to make Hadley want to live but not in the triangle with Ernest and Pauline where she had found herself. She was admitting to herself that things had gone too far for her to ever find her way back again. The marriage was over.

Chapter 43

The end was confirmed when the couple departed from their vacation to go in two different directions. Hadley finally allowed her anger to emerge when she physically attacked Ernest. He took it all in stride because in the end, he was getting what he wants. He was finished with Hadley but was being patient, allowing her to realize it on her own and thus deflecting a measure of guilt from himself.

Chapter 44

Hadley was making one last desperate attempt to win Ernest back. It wasn't a good sign that the first thing Ernest thinks of after making love with Hadley is that Hadley was "falling apart." It was very revealing in showing where his true interest lay.



Chapters 45 through 47 and Epilogue

Chapters 45 through 47 and Epilogue Summary

Chapter 47

Finally resolved that her marriage was over for good, Hadley and Bumby sailed for the States in the spring of 1927. They toured across America, from east coast to west coast. Along the way, she heard that Ernest and Pauline had married in Paris. On the beach in California, Hadley and Bumby made a paper boat out of Ernest's last letter and let it sail out into the ocean.

Epilogue

Ernest went on to have two children with Pauline then leave her for another and leave that one for another. He was the world's most esteemed writer for many generations. Yet, a sadness remained in him. Hadley married Paul Mowrer, a journalist she knew. It was a successful union lasting forty years. Ernest called Hadley when he was with his fourth wife. He told her that he was writing his memoirs. He thought that they'd loved each other too much. Hadley didn't think that that was possible. The next thing she heard about Ernest was when she received a call from his wife, Mary. Ernest had shot and killed himself. Paul, wanting to comfort her, ask if she needed anything. But Hadley didn't need anything. She was a lucky girl whose life had changed when she stepped off a train in Chicago and met Ernest Hemingway.

Chapters 45 through 47 and Epilogue Analysis

Chapter 45

Despite the silly one-hundred day stand-off, Pauline and Ernest were making their own plans. She had already arranged a marriage. Thinking back to their first time together, Pauline had been aggressive from the start and was determined to take him away from Hadley. The lost manuscripts was more of a turning point in their relationship than Ernest had let on. He lost trust in her and never got over it. He must have suspected that she lost them on purpose like some of his friends hinted at.

Chapter 46

Hadley finally admitted that her marriage was over and that divorce was the only answer. It was what Ernest wanted. He tried not to be gleeful in his response to her letter giving him his freedom, but reading between the lines he was getting exactly what he had been waiting for. One could view his attitude during the whole mess as caring since he allowed Hadley to reach the decision on her own. On the other hand, it was cruel because he knew what the outcome would be yet allowed her to hope and linger



much longer than if he'd been man enough to tell her that it was over and that he wanted to be with Pauline.

Chapter 47

Hadley went on to have her own life. When she allowed her son to make a boat out of Ernest's last letter to her and send it off in the Pacific, it symbolized her final acceptance of the end of her relationship with him.

Epilogue

Hadley remarried and had a long and lasting union. It must have told her that the problem in her marriage to Ernest was not her doing. Ernest married four times and was never happy. He loved Hadley too much he thought, but he hated himself more. His suicide was not surprise to Hadley. In the end, she was grateful for meeting Ernest Hemingway. He had caused her pain and misery but he had forced her to venture out and find herself. She never stopped loving him but she learned to love herself more.



Characters

Hadley Richardson

Hadley Richardson is the main character in "The Paris Wife." The "character" is actually based on the real person, Hadley Richardson, who was married to Ernest Hemingway between 1921 and 1927. During the marriage, they lived most of the time in Paris, France, which in the 1920s was the place for American artists and writers to be to hone their skills, to be seen and to produce their works.

Hadley Richardson was born in St. Louis, Missouri. Her father established the St. Louis Library system and founded Richardson Pharmacy Company which became the most successful pharmaceutical company in the Midwest at the time. Despite his stature and success, Hadley's father committed suicide when she was a young girl. Her mother died some years later, leaving the 28-year-old single woman in a dreary situation with her mean-spirited older sister and her husband who had taken over the family home.

Hadley decided to get away from it all and visit her friend Kate Smith who lived in Chicago. It was there that she met a boarder in the apartment building - the budding writer, twenty-one-year-old Ernest Hemingway. She was immediately taken with the gregarious, clever, and charming young man. After knowing each other for a short time, the two married. Once Hemingway heard that all young writers went to Paris, they were on their way.

Their marriage yielded one son and lasted only five years. He fell in love with one of Hadley's best friend and put Hadley through sheer hell. He allowed her to flounder and fantasize that she could win him back. But she finally realized that she could not stay with a man who was in love with someone else. She finally left him with her son and her dignity and moved on with the rest of her life.

Ernest Hemingway

Ernest Hemingway was a struggling twenty-one-year old writer when twenty-eight-year old Hadley Richardson met him at a party in Chicago. At the time, Ernest was writing poems and fiction stories but made his money by writing copy for a tire company. He wanted to become a successful writer and write something important one day. Ernest was a charming, funny, and gregarious young man. When he was in the room, there was no oxygen left for anyone else. He charmed the older woman from St. Louis so much that when he proposed to her and asked her to go to Rome as "wife," Hadley could not resist.

The two married and instead of heading for Italy, he decided they should go to Paris since it was the rage and there was a large circle of American artists and writers in residence, all trying to develop their arts and make a name for themselves. When Hadley had first become serious about Ernest, a close friend warned her to stay clear -



he was quite a womanizer. But love took over and Hadley chose to ignore the worrisome words.

Ernest was a struggling writer during most of his years with Hadley. Just when they were breaking up, his first blockbuster, "The Sun Also Rises," was published, establishing him as one of the most important writers of the day. Ernest went on to become the foremost writer of his generation and for that matter many other generations. He was a world-class writer but was never at peace. He drank too much and feared being alone more than he feared death. Ernest was a sex and relationship addict and clung to the old love while he was slipping away to the new one.

Five years into the marriage and after one child was born, Ernest became involved with one of Hadley's best friends and after torturing Hadley for months - allowing her to think she might get him back - they divorced. He married the woman, Pauline, had two children with her then left her for another then left her for another. All together, Ernest was married four times and had dozens of affairs. He got to the point that he feared life more than death and committed suicide at the age of sixty-one.

Pauline Pfeifer

Pauline Pfeifer was a good friend of Hadley Richardson. Pauline was a stylish woman who decided she would take Ernest away from Hadley. She was successful and became his second wife.

Gertrude Stein

Gertrude Stein was an American writer who resided in Paris in the 1920s. She became close with Ernest and became his mentor. She was the one who encouraged the simplistic style of writing he became famous for.

Ezra Pound

Ezra Pound was an American poet who resided in Paris in the 1920s. He liked Ernest's poetry and writing and sent some of his works to his contacts. Ezra Pound didn't allow any children in his studio because. . . he didn't believe in children!

Lady Duff Twysden

Duff was a beautiful woman who charmed all the men, including Ernest Hemingway. He based the heroine, Brett Ashely, in "The Sun Also Rises" on Duff.



Bumby

John Hadley Hemingway was Hadley and Ernest's son. They nicknamed him Bumby because of his robust physic. The nickname stuck.

Kate Smith

Hadley Richardson met Ernest Hemingway when she went to Chicago to visit her friend, Kate Smith. Kate warned Hadley to stay away from Ernest because he was a womanizer.

Kitty Cannell

Kitty Cannell was a close friend of Hadley. She introduced Hadley and Ernest to her friend, Pauline Pfeifer, who wound up stealing Ernest from Hadley and marrying him.

Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald

Hadley and Ernest saw F. Scott Fitzgerald and his wife in Paris on occasion. Scott had recently written "The Great Gatsby" when they first met. Scott was always drunk. Ernest didn't like Zelda. He thought she was crazy. (She was.) Zelda didn't like Ernest. She thought he was a fraud and that he was really gay but put on the macho act to hide it.



Objects/Places

Chicago, IL

Hadley Richardson met Ernest Hemingway in Chicago at a friend's apartment. The friend she was visiting warned her not to get mixed up with Ernest - he was a womanizer.

St. Louis, MO

Hadley Richardson was born and raised in St. Louis, MO. Her father had established the St. Louis Public Library system and the Richardson Pharmacy Company which was the largest pharmaceutical company in the Midwest.

Milan, Italy

Near the end of World War I, eighteen-year-old Ernest was an ambulance driver in Italy. He was shot in Fossalta and was taken by train to a hospital in Milan. He fell in love with Agnes, a nurse and wanted to marry her.

Paris, France

During most of the five years that Ernest and Hadley were married, they lived in Paris, France. Many young artists and writers lived and worked there during the 1920s looking for fortune and fame.

Toronto, Canada

Right before Bumby was born, the couple moved to Toronto. Ernest worked for the Toronto Star as a reporter and the hospitals in Toronto were considered to have the best obstetrics centers in the world.

Pamplona, Spain

Ernest fell in love with bullfighting in Spain. Ernest and Hadley and a group of friends would travel to Pamplona every year for fiesta to watch the bull runs and attend the bullfights. Pamplona was the setting of "The Sun Also Rises."



Austrian Alps

Ernest and Hadley would spend part of their winters in the Austrian Alps. They both enjoyed the outdoors and loved to ski and hike.

New York City

Ernest took matters in his own hands after continued rejections of his work. He traveled to New York City and closed a package deal for a satire he wrote entitled, "The Torrents of Spring," and a new novel entitled, "The Sun Also Rises."

Turkey

As a young reporter with the Toronto Star, Ernest was sent to war-torn Turkey to cover the Greco-Turkish War. He came home exhausted and sick with malaria.

Lusanne, Switzerland

Hadley was going by train to meet Ernest who was covering the peace conference in Lusanne, Switzerland. She planned to surprise him by bringing all his manuscripts with her so he could submit them to an editor. The valise containing the manuscripts was stolen and never seen again. Later, Ernest said it was the most tragic thing that ever happened to him.



Themes

The Impact of Child Abuse

Hadley Richardson and Ernest Hemingway, the two main characters in "The Paris Wife," had many areas in which they had little in common. Ernest was blustery and charming and aggressive. She was retiring and unsure and passive. However, one common bond that the couple had was that they both had childhoods that had long-lasting impacts on their lives and relationships.

Today, the way Hadley was treated by her mother would probably be called emotional child abuse. Her mother, Florence, blatantly favored other siblings over Hadley. Florence was bent on having Hadley, her youngest child, remain dependent on her. After losing her husband, perhaps Florence was afraid of being alone and wanted to keep her youngest child with her. Even on her deathbed, she couldn't give her daughter a break. Florence claimed she contacted Dorothy, an older daughter who had died nine years before, in a séance. Florence told Hadley that she asked what Hadley's future held but it was apparently so tragic that Dorothy refused to tell her. As a teenager, Florence prepared Hadley for eventual marriage by forcing her to read a magazine article that claimed that a wife who liked sex was the same as a prostitute which might give some insight into Florence's own marriage to a man who was driven to take his life.

Florence was the domineering partner in her marriage. Hadley's father was a successful businessman and a civic leader. He spent as much time as he could away from Florence but it failed to relieve his stress and misery. He committed suicide when Hadley was a young girl. Hadley carried guilt about her father's suicide for years - always regretting that she didn't spend more time with him and get to know him better. It is probably not coincidental that Hadley was drawn to a man who would also one day commit suicide.

Ernest also had a domineering mother who he hated. He was more open about his feelings, referring to her as "that bitch," than Hadley was. However, the bitterness that he had as a grown man far away from his mother demonstrated just how impactful that relationship had been and how it affected him the rest of his life. Ernest suffered from problems of self-worth, alcoholism and conditions that would probably be termed in modern times as relationship and sex addictions. Ernest found it impossible to be alone. When he was alone with his thoughts, the demons within would take over. He contemplated suicide throughout his life although he was terrified of death.

Dysfunctional Relationships

"The Paris Wife" by Paula McLain could also be used as a case study of dysfunctional relationships. The dysfunction began for both main characters, Hadley Richardson and Ernest Hemingway, long before they entered into on themselves. Both families had



degrees of dysfunction. It would be difficult to say which of the two was the more damaged of the time they were able to burst through to adulthood. Hadley was ostensibly the most damaged as her hurt was more apparent due to her obvious lack of self-esteem and her passivity that allowed others to continually hurt her. But Ernest, who appeared to be carefree and confident, was driven by far more dangerous demons that he managed to keep well hidden.

There was a great disparity in the union from the day they were married. The number one priority in Ernest's life was his career. Everything else was far secondary. Hadley, as the dutiful wife, was so thrilled to be married to him that she was willing to be relegated to some secondary level. She brought her own problems to the marriage. When he was away on writing assignments, she would punish him by pouting and crying when he had to go.

Distrust grew in the marriage. She had been warned about his eye for women but ignored it. She soon enough found the warnings to be true. He would flaunt his womanizing in her presence, silently daring her to say anything. He eventually became involved with one of her best friends, left Hadley, and married the woman.

Ernest grew to distrust her as well. When she came to join him on one of his assignments, she brought along a valise filled with all of his manuscripts - everything he had written in his life to that point. She was going to surprise him - he mentioned he wanted to get some of his works to an editor he was being connected with. Unfortunately, the valise carrying the manuscripts - his life's work - was stolen off the train and was never seen again. In the days before electronics and even copy machines, it was an irreparable tragedy. In fact, he considered that incident the biggest tragedy of his life.

Although he didn't overtly accuse her of sabotaging him, from that point on he did a slow burn about the loss and never got over it. When she told him she was pregnant, Ernest again thought she was sabotaging him. He didn't want children yet and he thought she tricked him into becoming a father.

After they divorced, Hadley remarried and had a long, happy relationship. She found someone who did not exploit her weaknesses. Ernest, on the other hand, never found happiness in all his marriages and relationships. At the age of sixty-one, he gave up his search and shot and killed himself.

Co-Dependency

It was kismet that the two lost and damaged individuals, Hadley Richardson and Ernest Hemingway, found each other. Hadley was the needy person who felt she had to have someone to complete her, to make her full. Ernest was that bigger than life person who was smart and savvy and had all the answers. He was the poet and the struggling writer whose artistry was pampered like a spoiled child. If Ernest was able to fulfill Hadley to some degree, she could not begin to fill the emptiness that resided within him though



she tried and tried. He had thought that her lack of sophistication would be a balance to his artistry but he was wrong.

Ernest was easily tempted away from the passive Hadley by the intensity of Pauline. She had set her sights on Ernest and she was going to have him. She was apparently a good judge of character - or in Ernest's case, lack thereof. She correctly sensed that Ernest needed to be constantly reminded that he was the greatest writer on earth. Pauline was a quick learner and she soon saw that the way to his heart wasn't through his stomach it was through his ego. What Pauline needed from Ernest was his stature and art. She was in the fashion world and perhaps she felt he filled the emptiness and lack of intellectual challenge that is associated with that industry.

Ernest searched his whole life for that person who could fulfill him but he was pursuing the impossible dream. There was no one would could fill that void. It was so deep and full of hurt and terror that no one could soothe his savage beast. Throughout his four marriages and innumerable affairs, he could never find that perfect person who could magically transform him and make him perfect. At the end of his days, he gave up. He took his own life because the thought of death that used to terrify him now seemed less frightening than living.

Style

Point of View

Most of the chapters in "The Paris Wife" are written in the first-person narrative and the past tense. Hadley Richardson is the main narrator of the book, which tells of her love affair with and marriage to Ernest Hemingway and its ultimate disastrous ending. The book departs from this point of view in several key chapters. In Chapter 18, the perspective cleverly switches to third person narrative, present tense, to explain Hemingway's assignment as a reporter in worn-torn Turkey. It was the first time, according to this book, that he committed adultery.

Another example of the change of perspective is in Chapter 27, which provides a flashback sequence written in past tense and limited omniscience. It is the account of how Ernest first became sexually involved with one of Hadley's best friends, Paula. By writing the account with limited omniscience, the author is able to share some of Hemingway's internal thoughts and the pain and guilt he was carrying for his behavior. The third and final such instance occurs in Chapter 40 when Ernest, distressed over his love for two women, was contemplating the various ways he could commit suicide. That chapter is written in the third-person narrative in the past tense.

Paula McLain who wrote "The Paris Wife," is an accomplished author who has written two collections of poetry; a memoir and her first novel, "A Ticket to Ride." She received her MFA in poetry from the University of Michigan and has been awarded several fellowships including one from the National Endowment of the Arts. In her "Sources," section, McLain explains that although "The Paris Wife," is a fictionalized account of real people and true events, she has tried to stay as close as possible to the facts that were available.

Setting

"The Paris Wife," the story of the marriage of Hadley Richardson and Ernest Hemingway, is set in a variety of locales. The story begins in Chicago where Ernest was renting a room in a friend's apartment. Hadley was visiting a friend who also lived there. She had traveled there from St. Louis, Missouri, her home town. After Hadley and Ernest married, they moved to Paris, France, the place for young American artists and writers to be. Much of the story from that point on takes place in Paris and other parts of Europe.

The couple visit Milan, Italy, where Ernest had been taken after being shot in a conflict in a small village in Italy near the end of World War I. He had been an ambulance driver and was caught in the crossfire of a artillery assault. When he revisited the region with Hadley, he became very morose recalling the terror and pain surrounding the incident.



In the winter months of their five-year marriage, the couple would often go for vacations in the Austrian Alps. They were both athletic and lovers of the outdoors and would ski and hike in the foothills. They also would go to the annual fiesta in Spain. They would take in the bull runs in Pamplona and the bullfights in Madrid. They always brought along a large circle of friends with them. The trips to Spain and the bullfights and the friends inspired his first bestseller, "The Sun Also Rises."

Ernest traveled to New York to meet with publishers and other literary figures. When Hadley finally left Ernest, she and her son returned to the States and toured the entire country. On the beach in California, she and her son made a paper boat out of Ernest's last letter. As it sailed out to sea never to return, it symbolized her acceptance that her marriage was over.

Language and Meaning

The language and tone of "The Paris Wife," harkens back to the era in which the actual events took place which was in the 1920s. Compared to today's communication styles, the narrative and dialog in the book reflect the times and are more conservative and formal than more modern exchanges. Friends refer to each other in endearing terms and are more flowery in their greetings and farewells to friends and family. This formal way of communicating transferred over to letter-writing as well which was of course the only kind of written exchanges that were available at the time.

Ernest Hemingway was apparently enjoyed giving everyone a nickname. He rarely called anyone by their given or surnames. For example, he called Hadley, at various times, "Tatie" and "Schatz" among other names. Hadley got into the habit as well and called him "Tatie," the same name he called her.

Although Hadley and Ernest lived in France for many years, there was only one mention of the French language. Hadley was picking up the language while Ernest only knew a word here and there. Apparently there was not a great compulsion to learn French since there were so many American artists, painters and other artistic types who lived in Paris at the time. Hadley and Ernest limited their social circle to mostly Americans so English was the only language they really needed to use.

They also spent a good deal of time in Spain, in Pamplona for the bull runs and Madrid for the bullfights. They took many vacations in Europe including yearly jaunts to the Austrian Alps. But again, they took their vacations always surrounded by American friends and associates from their social circle in Paris and there was little need to learn other languages.

Structure

"The Paris Wife" by Paula McLain is separated into forty-seven small to medium-length chapters. Preceding the book, is a prologue in which the author presents a kind whimsical image of Paris and the era in which the book takes place. It sets the stage for



the story of Hadley Richardson and her life as Mrs. Ernest Hemingway in Paris in the 1920s.

The book is a novel inspired by true events and people and it spans the period of time in which Hadley was married to Hemingway—roughly covering the years 1920 through 1927. Most of the book is written in chronological order although there are some flashback sequences that help to explain the story and add depth to the characters.

Although many people are familiar with the life and career of Ernest Hemingway, the details that are provided in this tome help enlighten some dark corners that may exist about the legendary writer. The author has filled in some gaps with her imagination and from the body of speculation that exists about the famous author and has created a memorable story. Despite the fact that the story is a familiar one to anyone following the life of one of the world's most famous writers ever, the author manages to build intrigue and suspense and provides more than a few cliff hangers.

There is also an epilogue that describes what happened to Hadley and Ernest after their years in Paris. There are also sections that credits sources and those who supported the author in her work. A small note at the end of the book explains that the typeface used in the book was designed in 1722 by William Caslon.



Quotes

"He put the olive on my tongue, and as I closed my mouth around it, oily and warm with salt, I found myself flushing from the deliciousness but also the intimacy, his fork in my mouth. It was the most sensual thing that had happened to me in ages." (Chapter 3, p. 15).

"Fonnie was with me on the Pike that day [at the 1904 World's Fair], but she didn't want ice cream. She didn't want cotton candy or puffed wheat or iced tea or any of the other novel offerings either." (Chapter 4, p. 23).

"The clouds were low and terrible and the air was drenched and salty. I felt as if I was drowning the whole time, over and over again. And even when we made it back to shore that day, the feeling that I was still out in the bay, sinking deeper and deeper, stayed with me through the rest of that summer and long afterward." (Chapter 4, p. 30).

"Everything about Ernest Hemingway was out of the ordinary." (Chapter 5, p. 35).

"When I was a teenager, my mother had published an article in the New Republic saying that a wife who enjoyed sexual activity wasn't any better than a prostitute." (Chapter 8, p. 57).

"If I can write one sentence, simple and true, every day, I'll be satisfied." (Chapter 13, p. 81).

"It gave me a sharp kind of sadness to think that no matter how much I loved him and tried to put him back together again, he might stay broken forever." (Chapter 15, p. 100).

"They're trying to kill me. Death by indignity, the nastiest kind of all." (Chapter 26, p. 170).

"I can take the bulls and blood. It's this human business that turns my stomach." (Chapter 32, p. 219).

"He was like a boy when he slept well. I could see the child he used to be under the man, and I loved them both, simple and completely, and irreversibly." (Chapter 35, p. 248).

"People belong to each other only as long as they both believe. He's stopped believing." (Chapter 44, p. 297).

"There was nothing Paul could possibly do for me except let me go—back to Paris and



Pomplona and San Sebastian, back to Chicago when I was Hadley Richardson, a girl stepping off a train about to meet the man who would change her life." (Epilogue, p. 314).

Topics for Discussion

What was Hadley's relationship like with her mother, father, and sisters? How did the effect of her familial relationships impact her relationship with Ernest Hemingway?

What important items that belonged to Ernest did Hadley lose? What impact did that incident have on their relationship and why? What event in their lives did he feel was equally tragic to losing these items?

What literary figure advised Ernest to change his writing style and why? What personal relationship did this individual have?

Who did Ernest base the feminine lead in his blockbuster novel, "The Sun Also Rises" on? What person in Ernest's real life was not represented by a character in the book? How did that person react?

Although Ernest was a confessed womanizer, what behavior displayed by Hadley may have helped drive him away? How did Ernest use her behavior against her? Why did he grow to distrust her?

After finding out about Ernest's affair with one of her best friends, why did she continue to keep company with both of them? How did this diminish her stature and weaken her?

What absurd deal did Hadley make with Ernest and Pauline? Why was it doomed for failure and how did it work right into Ernest's hands?