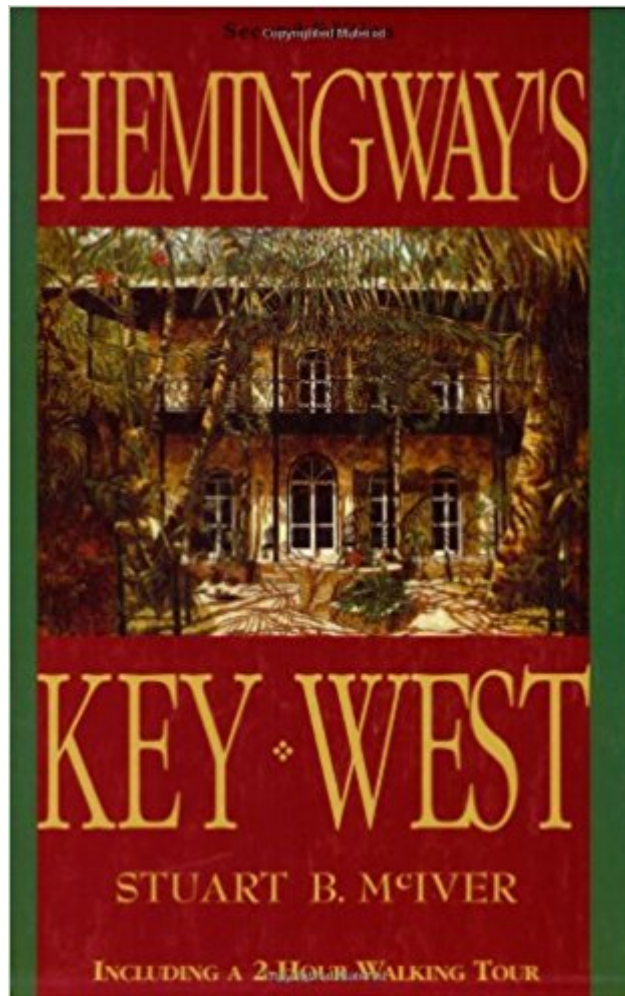




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Hemingway's Key West



Synopsis

The only place in the United States that Hemingway could really call home after he started writing was the tropical island of Key West. During his decade here in the 1930s, he acquired his famed macho persona as Papa, the biggest Big Daddy of them all. This vivid portrait of Ernest Hemingway in Key West reveals both Hemingway, the writer, and Hemingway, the macho, hard-drinking sportsman. His Key West years turned out to be his most productive: he finished *A Farewell to Arms*, started *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, and wrote several other books, including *Green Hills of Africa*, *Death in the Afternoon*, and *To Have and Have Not*. He also turned out some of his best short stories. There was plenty of time left over for eating, drinking, fighting, fishing, chasing women, and hanging out with his circle of friends (known as "the Mob"). Hemingway spent the last years of his life in Cuba, and it was here he overcame several demons—accidents, failing health, depression—to write *The Old Man and the Sea*, for which he won both a Pulitzer and a Nobel Prize in Literature. Filled with photos (some of which were not available in the first edition), this book also includes a two-hour walking tour of Key West and a tour of Hemingway's favorite Cuban haunts. This edition also includes a record of the author's exploits in Bimini and Cuba. Accompany Hemingway on fishing expeditions in the Gulf Stream and to Cuba and Bimini aboard his custom-built boat, *Pilar*. A treat for Hemingway fans!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Stuart McIver was the author of eleven books on Florida. In addition, he wrote more than four hundred stories and articles for both regional and national publications and was the editor of *South*

Florida History Magazine. A North Carolina native, McIver has been called “south Florida’s tribal storyteller.”

McIver is a poor writer. The book is extraordinarily repetitive. He says the same thing over and over again. It is like watching Groundhog Day with Bill Murray only much worse. I cannot believe his editors and publishers let this go to print. A terrible representation of a great writer... Hemingway that is, not McIver.

The book is filled with the many antics of Hemingway who was not only blessed with the creativity of being a well known writer but he was quite the sportsman as well. It seems he had many interests and they weren't all legal! I found the stories interesting but some were shocking as well. He was definitely a recluse who lived by his own rules but he did love the old-old Key West when it was a non-tourist island ... HIS island. Some of the fishing stories could have been in less detail; which is why I gave it a 4-star rating but overall the book is filled with his I-dont-give-a-care attitude and his marriage-hopping. I did like the end recapping dates and details of his life. It's a good book that draws a picture of what Ernest Hemingway was really like.

Lots of repetition from chapter to chapter, but great beginning and ending chapters. Especially, the last chapter "Bimini". Really learned a lot about Hemingway, the man, and physical accidents he incurred. Also, did not know he won the Nobel Prize.

Interesting tour of Key West.

This is a strangely written book - parts of it are intelligently written and other parts/chapters appear to have been dashed off in a couple of hours. There's also much backtracking and repetition - practically the same sentences are reinserted in various chapters. I also didn't care for chapters on the current Key West which to me, has been ruined from what it used to be, and a mockery of the Key West Hemingway loved. While reading this book (which doesn't take long) I kept thinking that if this was a middle school book report, it would garner a C+

Short and simple history, with very simple writing. A good beginning chronicle of Ernest Hemingway's time in Key West. Lots of unusual anecdotes. You won't find any criticism of Hemingway in this little book. There are better books on this topic, but this book is worth the money.

Read it to get a flavor of old Key West before visiting. Enjoyed walking around old town and thinking what it must have been like in Hemingway's day. He certainly was an interesting character. Would recommend the book.

Of all the books I could have chosen to shed light on one of the greatest American novelists, this was everything I hoped it would be. I'm deep into a collection of Hemingway's short stories, and this book shed light on its complicated author, his genius and insanity, his courage, his many loves, and his way of tackling life head on. Hemingway was hard living and a heavy drinker and shed one wife only to remarry in short order. On my list of vacation destinations, his Key West home is at the top. This book will surely enhance my experience. I look forward to meeting the latest generation of his six-toed cats as well. I am so happy to have read this beautifully written story, told without judgment but with a good deal of admiration for his contributions to the world of writing.

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