

#103: The Old Man and the Sea

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ERNEST
HEMINGWAY



*The Old Man and
the Sea*



Overview

I've never read any Hemingway before. But a friend suggested I check him out (thanks Antonio), so I dipped in a toe and thoroughly enjoyed [The Old Man and the Sea](#).

Epic fishing, sharp descriptive prose, man vs. nature, age vs. youth, SHARKS!, and masterful storytelling all made this a great introduction. If you like Hemingway, let me know what I should check out next!

Also, the Scribner Classics edition has some truly epic illustrations.

Book Notes

Introduction (Charles Scribner)

- Hemingway on researching his story...
 - "I'm going out with old Carlos in his skiff so as to get it all right. Everything he does and everything he thinks in all that long fight with the boat out of sight of all the other boats all alone on the sea. It's a great story if I can get it right." (pg. 8)
- "Hemingway took the external details of the story and presented them from the point of view of the fisherman. He thus made it possible for the reader to participate imaginatively in the story. That effect was always Hemingway's primary aim as a writer." (Pg. 9)

"Age is my alarm clock," the old man said. "Why do old men wake so early? Is it too have one longer day?"

"I don't know," the boy said. "All I know is that young boys sleep late and hard." (pg. 24)

"The old man had seen a great many fish. He had seen many that weighed more than a thousand pounds and he had caught two of that size in his life, but never alone. Now alone, and out of sight of land, he was fast to the biggest fish that he had ever seen and bigger than he had ever heard of, and his left hand was still as tight as the gripped claws of an eagle." (pg. 52)

"He took all his pain and what was left of his strength and his long gone pride and he put it against the fish's agony and the fish came over onto his side and swam gently on his side, his bill almost touching the planking of the skiff and started to pass the boat, long, deep, wide, silver, and barred with purple and interminable in the water." (pg. 70)