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Ernest Hemingway's After The Storm: The Story Plus The Screenplay And A Commentary



Synopsis

A. E. Hotchner did not come to the task of adapting Hemingway's seven-page short story "After the Storm" with apparent disadvantages. After all, he personally knew Ernest Hemingway; he had traveled with him to Paris, Pamplona, Venice, the Riviera. He had studied Hemingway's work and already adapted for the television or movie screen fifteen of the Nobel Prize-winning writer's works, including *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. Still, in the matter of adaptation, as Hotchner shows in the essay that opens this volume, close familiarity with an artist's work or personality does not necessarily simplify the challenge to the adapter. In addition to Hotchner's essay, which identifies the problems posed by adaptations of works not written for the screen, the book includes the complete texts of both Hemingway's story and the screenplay that converts it into a full-length feature film—making this volume invaluable to film students, movie fans, screenwriters, and Hemingway readers alike.

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Customer Reviews

This book presents the screenplay for the recent television movie "After the Storm" and the six-page Ernest Hemingway short story on which it was loosely based. The adapter A. E. Hochner also throws in an informative essay on the art of adapting. While this will certainly interest would-be playwrights and Hemingway aficionados, there is little else of substance here. The short story is little more than a premise--a poor Bahamian fisherman finds a sunken luxury yacht and tries unsuccessfully to scavenge it--with no supporting characters and an unsatisfactory resolution.

Hochner adds villains, conspiracies, and two love triangles to spice things up. The result is a better-than-average TV movie, due to solid performances by Benjamin Bratt and Armand Assante, but it is still too slow and formulaic to meet the standards of a feature film.

A. E. Hotchner allows the reader into his process. This is a terrific book for would-be writers, working, but stuck writers and you needn't be a Hemingway fan.

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