



Quicklet on Ernest Hemingway's The Torrents of Spring

Charles Limley

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Published in 1926, *The Torrents of Spring: A Romantic Novel in Honor of the Passing of a Great Race* is Ernest Hemingway's first published novel. Prior to this novel, Hemingway published two collections of short stories: *Three Stories and Ten Poems*, published in 1923, and *In Our Time*, which was published in Paris in 1924 and then in the United States in 1925.

Perhaps the most important context from which to read *The Torrents of Spring* is that of Hemingway's contemporary literary culture. Before the novel even begins, Hemingway draws attention to the subject of literary culture by using a title that directly references an earlier novel by nineteenth century Russian writer Ivan Turgenev, entitled *Torrents of Spring*. While the Turgenev novel was written in the early 1870s, Hemingway's work actually focuses on the more specific literary scene of which Hemingway was personally a part.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Charles Limley is a native of Colorado. After earning bachelor's degrees in both English Literature and Humanities from the University of Colorado Boulder, he entered the world of professional writing. He began his work with Hyperink during the fall of 2011. In addition to writing, Limley is an avid reader. He also loves bicycles, and has completed several long-distance bicycle tours.

EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK

The novel's thematic and stylistic concern with examining and critiquing literary culture and the processes of writing, reading, and thinking about literature are ubiquitous. These examinations take on many different forms throughout the course of the novel, including parodic passages, sarcastic discussions of art, purposely pompous strings of name-dropping, and pretentious-sounding anecdotes. For the actual characters of the novel, literature remains either elusive (Scripps repeatedly tries, but fails, to reference writers and their works) or pointlessly superficial (Mandy can talk about literature, but this reduces her to a banal, one-dimensional character).

All of this boils down to the basic question: How serious is literature? In addition to this main vein of questioning, this novel is focused on raising many other questions regarding art and literature. What is the function of art and literature in a society? How meaningful can art really be to a group of people? What are the limits and boundaries of art and literature?

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- Quicklet on Ernest Hemingway's *The Torrents of Spring*
- + High-Spirited Nonsense: Parody In *The Torrents of Spring*
- + About Ernest Hemingway
- + Petoskey Pump-Factories And Parodic Paragraphs: An Overall Summary
- + A Walk Down the Tracks: Chapter-by-Chapter Commentary

+ ...and much more

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Lisa Vazquez:

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