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Farewell To Arms Quotes With Page Numbers

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Exploring the Timeless Depth of A Farewell to Arms: Key Quotes and Their Page Numbers

Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* remains one of the most powerful and poignant novels of the 20th century. Set against the brutal backdrop of World War I, the story of Lieutenant Frederic Henry and the English nurse Catherine Barkley is a masterclass in love, loss, and the quiet dignity of human endurance. For readers, students, and literary enthusiasts, finding specific **Farewell to Arms quotes with page numbers** is essential for study, reference, and deep appreciation. This guide explores the novel's most significant passages, providing page references from the classic Scribner paperback edition, and examines how these lines define the book's enduring legacy. Whether you are writing an essay or simply revisiting the text, having these quotes organized by theme will enrich your understanding of Hemingway's sparse yet profound prose.

The Famous Opening: The Hemingway Style on Display

The novel's first paragraph is one of the most analyzed introductions in American literature. It immediately establishes the setting, tone, and thematic concerns of the entire story. Hemingway's "iceberg theory" of writing—where the deeper meaning is implied rather than stated outright—is on full display.

"In the late summer of that year we lived in a house in a village that looked across the river and the plain to the mountains." (Page 3)

This opening line, found on page 3 of the Scribner edition, does more than set the scene. The phrase "that year" suggests a specific, significant time that the narrator assumes the reader knows. It is the year of war, yet the sentence carries a pastoral calm. The contrast between the peaceful "house in a village" and the implied conflict beyond the "mountains" introduces the central tension of the novel: the desire for a private, peaceful life amid public chaos. This quote is frequently cited when discussing Hemingway's ability to convey immense weight through simple words. When searching for **Farewell to Arms quotes with page numbers**, this opening is almost always a primary reference point for any analysis of Hemingway's style.

Love and War: The Central Conflict of the Narrative

The relationship between Frederic and Catherine develops in the interstices of war. Their conversations are often deceptively simple, masking deep anxieties and a desperate need for connection. The early dialogue reveals a certain performative quality to their romance, as both characters are coping with trauma.

"You see," she said, "I don't have babies, so I have a good time. Do you have a good time?" (Page 18)

On page 18, Catherine introduces the theme of war's intrusion into personal happiness. Her statement about not having babies is directly linked to the death of her previous fiancé. She is emotionally scarred and guarded.

Frederic's response is initially superficial, but her directness forces a level of honesty. This quote is essential for understanding Catherine's psychological state at the novel's outset. The war has already claimed her capacity for a normal future, making her relationship with Frederic both a refuge and a

Farewell to Arms quotes with page numbers that deal with psychological trauma, this moment is crucial.

As their relationship deepens, the language shifts. A pivotal moment occurs during a night in Milan, where the intimacy between them becomes less about performance and more about genuine connection.

"I had a life but I'm not living it. I'm dead and you're dead. It's just a trick." (Page 68)

This exchange on page 68 reveals the existential despair that shadows their love. Catherine articulates a feeling of living in a suspended state, where the war has rendered their normal lives inaccessible. This quote is a powerful example of how Hemingway uses dialogue to reveal the internal void felt by the Lost Generation. It resonates with readers because it captures the sense of unreality that accompanies both deep love and profound trauma. For anyone compiling a list of **Farewell to Arms quotes with page numbers**, this passage is vital for discussing themes of alienation and the search for meaning.

The Rain as a Symbol of Inevitable Loss

Rain is arguably the most dominant symbol in the entire novel. Catherine's fear of the rain is introduced early and becomes a haunting leitmotif that foreshadows the novel's devastating conclusion. Hemingway does not explain the symbol; he allows it to accumulate meaning through repetition.

"I'm afraid of the rain because sometimes I see me dead in it." (Page 126)

On page 126, Catherine confides this fear to Frederic. The rain here represents death, sorrow, and the inevitable tragedy that waits for them. This line is one of the most quoted in the novel, often appearing in analyses of Hemingway's symbolic techniques. It is a perfect example of foreshadowing that feels organic rather than forced. When readers later encounter the rain in the closing pages, the emotional weight is immense. This quote is indispensable for any collection of **Farewell to Arms quotes with page numbers**that focuses on literary devices and symbolism.

The Retreat from Caporetto: The Breakdown of Order

The second half of the novel is dominated by the chaotic Italian retreat from Caporetto. This section is a powerful indictment of war, showing its senseless violence and the breakdown of military hierarchy. Hemingway's depiction of this historical event is visceral and bleak.

"The world breaks everyone and afterward many are strong at the broken places. But those that will not break it kills. It kills the very good and the very gentle and the very brave impartially. If you are none of these you can be sure it will kill you too but there will be no special hurry." (Page 249)

This profound reflection on page 249 is one of Hemingway's most famous philosophical statements. It appears during Frederic's journey after the retreat. The quote speaks to the indiscriminate nature of tragedy and the resilience (or lack thereof) of the human spirit. The line "strong at the broken places" has entered common parlance, used to describe survivors of trauma. However, the full quote carries a darker, more deterministic tone. It suggests that survival is not a matter of virtue but of luck. This is a cornerstone quote for any serious study of the novel and a must-have on any list of **Farewell to Arms quotes with page numbers**.

The retreat also marks Frederic's final break with the war. After witnessing the arbitrary execution of officers by the military police, he makes a definitive choice.

"Anger was washed away in the river along with any obligation." (Page 232)

This quote on page 232 is the literal turning point of the novel. Frederic dives into the Tagliamento River to

escape the carabinieri. The "river" acts as a baptismal cleansing, washing away his duty and his anger. He separates himself from the "abstractions" of the war. This moment of desertion is not portrayed as cowardice but as a rational, life-affirming choice. It is a pivotal quote for those examining the theme of Farewell to Arms quotes with page numbers and defining Frederic's character arc, this is the key passage.

The Sanctuary of Switzerland: A Fragile Peace

After escaping the war, Frederic and Catherine find a temporary haven in Switzerland. Their life in the mountains offers a brief period of happiness away from the conflict. The descriptions of the landscape reflect their inner peace.

"We had a fine life. We lived in a house in the old town on a street that led down to the lake." (Page 291)

This simple statement on page 291 echoes the novel's opening line, creating a thematic bookend. However, this "house" is not threatened by war, but by the fragility of human life itself. The happiness is described in quiet, understated terms. Hemingway avoids grand romantic declarations; instead, the "fine life" is found in the domestic details: eating together, sleeping, and anticipating the baby. This section is crucial for understanding the novel's structure. The reader knows that this peace cannot last. Having this page reference allows readers to quickly locate the moments of happiness that make the tragedy of the conclusion so devastating. It is a necessary inclusion in any collection of **Farewell to Arms quotes with page numbers**.

The Childbirth and the Final Tragedy

The novel's final act is set in a hospital in Lausanne. Catherine's prolonged and difficult labor is described in relentless, clinical detail. The hope for a new life is gradually crushed by a series of medical complications. The prose becomes stark, stripped of almost all sentimentality.

"There is no end except a death. That is the end of the sentence." (Page 319)

On page 319, Frederic reflects on the nature of endings during the long night of Catherine's labor. This quote encapsulates the modernist sensibility of the novel. Traditional narratives have happy endings, but life, especially in the context of war and tragedy, has only one final destination. This line is the philosophical core of the novel's conclusion. It rejects false hope and sentimentality in favor of a hard, clear-eyed truth. This is often cited as one of the greatest final lines in literature, though it is actually spoken before the very end. It is a critical quote for any deep analysis and a key entry in any list of **Farewell to Arms quotes with page numbers**.

The final, devastating paragraph of the novel is delivered with unbearable simplicity.

"But after I had got them out and shut the door and turned off the light it wasn't any good. It was like saying goodbye to a statue. After a while I went out and left the hospital and walked back to the hotel in the rain." (Page 332)

This passage on the final page of the novel (page 332 in the Scribner edition) is the perfect example of Hemingway's iceberg theory. The surface text is simple: he leaves the hospital and walks in the rain. But the submerged meaning is a catastrophic abyss of grief. The word "statue" suggests that Catherine is gone, leaving only an empty shell. The final image of "the rain" fulfills Catherine's earlier prophecy and closes the symbolic loop. There are no tears, no screams, no philosophical justifications. Just a man walking in the rain. This is the most important quote for any reader of the novel and the ultimate destination for anyone searching for **Farewell to Arms quotes with page numbers**.

Why Page Numbers Matter for Study and Discussion

Using specific **Farewell to Arms quotes with page numbers**adds a layer of academic rigor to any discussion. It allows readers to verify the context of a quote, examine the surrounding text, and understand the pacing of the narrative. For students, citing page numbers is essential for proper attribution in essays and papers. For

book clubs, having a common edition with shared page numbers ensures that everyone is discussing the same passage. It transforms a vague memory of a line into a precise, verifiable reference. This practice also honors Hemingway's deliberate structure; knowing where a quote falls in the novel—whether in the early, middle, or final chapters—provides critical insight into the character's development and the author's intent.

A Note on Edition Variations

It is important to acknowledge that the page numbers provided in this article refer to the widely available Scribner paperback edition (ISBN: 978-0684801469). Other editions, including hardcovers, library bindings, and e-book formats, will have different pagination. When using these quotes for formal academic work, always verify the page numbers against the specific edition you are using. The chapter number is often a more reliable universal reference point across different printings. However, for casual study and general reference, the Scribner edition is the standard that most readers and discussions rely upon when searching for **Farewell to Arms quotes with page numbers**.

Conclusion: The Enduring Power of Hemingway's Words

A Farewell to Arms is a novel that stays with the reader long after the final page is turned. The quotes discussed here—from the pastoral opening to the devastating rain-soaked conclusion—form the emotional and thematic skeleton of the story. They speak to the futility of war, the desperate need for love, and the ultimate loneliness of the human condition. By exploring these **Farewell to Arms quotes with page numbers**, we gain a deeper appreciation for Hemingway's literary genius. His ability to convey the deepest sorrow and the quietest joy with such economy of language is

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