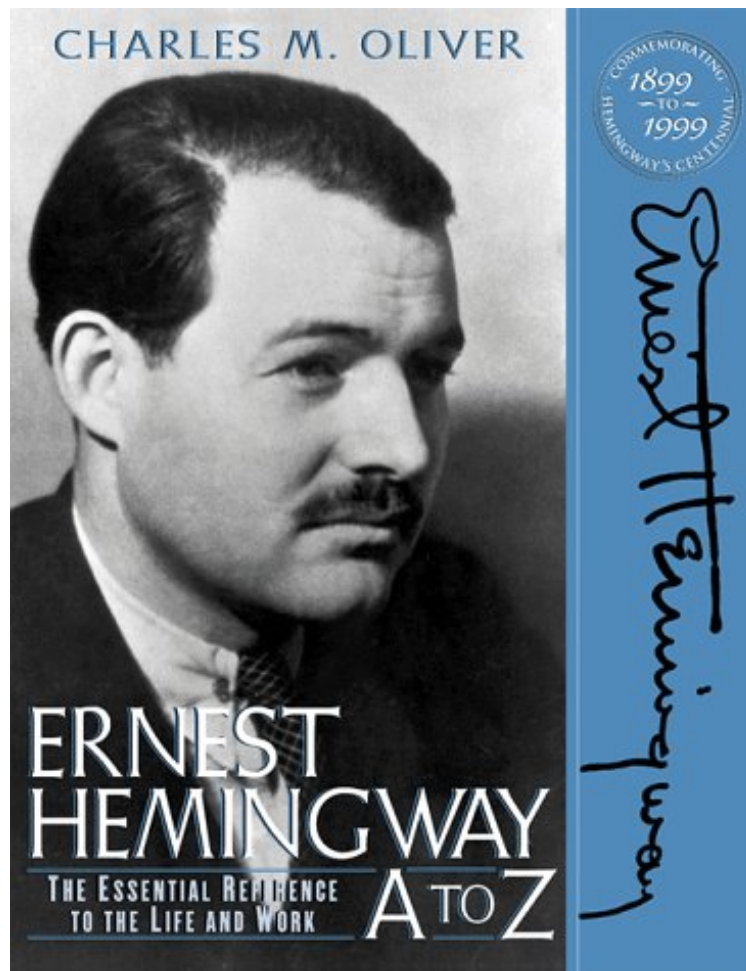


## Ernest Hemingway A to Z: The Essential Reference to the Life and Work (Literary A to Z)

Charles M. Oliver

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**Charles M. Oliver : Ernest Hemingway A to Z: The Essential Reference to the Life and Work (Literary A to Z)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ernest Hemingway A to Z: The Essential Reference to the Life and Work (Literary A to Z):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Marjorie G. Mountmust have!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Sadly UnreliableBy Doctor W.I bought this book when working on my doctorate with the hope that it would provide an easy reference to key facts on Hemingway so that I might more easily track the basic facts of his life and bibliography than leaning on Reynolds and Baker (both of whom are, for their respectively generations of Hemingway scholarship, without peer). Even though facts needs to be verified when one is writing a scholarly work, years of studying Hemingway left a wealth of information in my head, and, the more I leafed through

this book, the more "wonky" entries I found. It brings me no pleasure to write that the list of mistakes and errors in this book is far too long to enumerate here (and it is not my job to do Oliver's job for him, let alone his editors' work). If you are an a tier below being a Hemingway expert if not an expert yourself this book does have some value as an easy reference, but only if you're willing to consult Reynolds or the primary texts to verify anything that doesn't smell right. Unless you have a vast storehouse of information on Hemingway on file in your gray matter and your "bullsh\*t detector" is functioning at a high degree, this is a book to be avoided by the casual fan and even the aficionado. But, if I may be totally honest, this book has long been off the shelves and has lived in a box for the better part of the last decade. I don't now why I can't bring myself to part with it. Perhaps I keep it as a reminder that we should never allow ourselves to be too arrogant as scholars, nor should we rely on our editors to correct our blunders as did once the members of our dissertation committees. It never brings me joy to write a negative review. I would rather stick to glowing reviews of books that I love. But, in this case, this work could lead a budding scholar far astray from the truth about Hemingway, and the truth about Hemingway is already tricky enough. 16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. An excellent resource regarding Hemingway's life and works. By Craig McDonald Oliver's "A To Z" joins Michael Reynolds' "Hemingway, The Final Years," as one of the two or three really valuable books to be issued or reissued in this, the centennial year of Hemingway's birth. As a Hemingway scholar, former editor of "The Hemingway Review" and a dealer in collectible Hemingway editions, Oliver is eminently suited to the task of preparing what amounts to a Hemingway encyclopedia. Casual readers of Hemingway's work and Papa aficionados will find equal value in this book. It is particularly refreshing to have a volume such as this one that confines itself to the facts of the life and the (reasonable) scholarly conjectures regarding the text and subtext of Hemingway's books and short stories. To his credit, Oliver doesn't feel compelled to include listings for Duff Twysden or Harold Loeb, citing them as "obvious" inspirations for certain fictional characters who crop up in a certain Hemingway novel released in the mid-Twenties. One caveat: Given the fact that this book is intended as a reference volume - and therefore a book to be consulted more than once - it is lamentable such a thin grade of paper was chosen (blame the publisher, not Oliver). Therefore, take durability where you can find it and buy the hardback edition.

A guide to the author's life offers synopses of his writings, explores the major and minor characters of his work, and discusses the important people in his life.

From School Library Journal YA-This remarkable series continues with two authors prominent in the high school curriculum. Students will be comfortable with the easy-to-use format and appreciate the readable articles. Information is provided on the writers' lives and the periods in which they lived. Explanations of allusions, details from the works, and the characters are extensive. Literary information such as form or language is clarified. This is especially strong in Chaucer, which includes the pronunciation of the Middle English. Plot summaries are detailed. Chaucer's lesser-known works and Hemingway's journalistic writing and poetry are included. The bibliography is more extensive in Hemingway, and Web sites are given only in Chaucer. All libraries will benefit from these extensive resources. Claudia Moore, W. T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.