



# Adiós, Hemingway

By Leonardo Padura Fuentes

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## Adiós, Hemingway By Leonardo Padura Fuentes

Padura Fuentes—one of Cuba's best-known and most widely acclaimed writers—has written a first-rate detective story set against the backdrop of Hemingway's Cuba. Part fascinating examination of Hemingway the man in his trying final years and part nifty postmodern procedural, *Adiós Hemingway* will engross Hemingway fans while keeping them in suspense until the final pages. When the skeletal remains of a man brought down by two buckshots forty years earlier surface on the Havana estate of Ernest Hemingway, ex-cop Mario Conte reluctantly accepts a reinstatement to investigate. As the truth of the night of October 3, 1958, slowly reveals itself, Conte must come to terms with his idealistic memory of Papa Hemingway on Cuba's sun-drenched docks from when he was a child tagging along with his grandfather. Padura Fuentes weaves Conte's world with that of Hemingway's Cuba four decades earlier, a period marking the beginning of Hemingway's decline. In the heat-and-rum haze, the eras and personas begin to merge in this evocative, compelling novel.

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### Editorial Review

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Mario Conde is a retired Havana cop obsessed with Hemingway, so when the skeletal remains of a man killed on Papa's Cuban estate 40 years earlier are unearthed, it's only natural that the police ask Conde to work the case. A celebrated mystery writer in Cuba, Fuentes offers a fascinating mix of fact and fiction, jumping between present and past, and vividly dramatizing Hemingway's last days in Cuba. What is most fascinating about the book is the character of Conde, torn between his mixed feelings about Hemingway the man and the writer, but drawn to the case like a supplicant to the altar. Fans of Cuban noir will love the cars, the crumbling chic of old Havana, and, of course, the aftertaste of rum-soaked decadence, but best of all, finally, is the priceless anecdote about Ava Gardner's black silk knickers, a souvenir to die for. Give this one to fans of Brazilian Garcia-Roza's Inspector Espinosa series, about another melancholy Latin sleuth who feels what Conde calls "solidarity with writers, crazy people, and drunkards." *Bill Ott*

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#### Review

intelligent, moving and delightful...It makes you think and feel. What more can you ask for?...a lovely little novel. \* *The Scotsman* \* Fact and fiction are seamlessly merged... \* *Buzz* \* ... the gently melancholic tone, beautifully rendered here by John King, subverts any literal reading. \* *The Guardian* \* a well-paced and beautifully characterised detective story. \* *The Observer* \* a superb piece of crime literature...a thrilling and engaging mystery. \* *City Life* \* beautifully recreates a complicated and interesting man. \* *Event Magazine* \*

#### About the Author

Leonardo Padura Fuentes is one of Cuba's most acclaimed writers. He was born in 1955, not far from Hemingway's Cuban home and has written extensively as a critic and essayist, as well as novelist. A winner of the international Dashiell Hammett prize, his books include a series of detective novels featuring Mario Conde.

### Users Review

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