

ADULT FICTION

PROSE – ENGLISH DRAMA

SWA-DR1 United States ca.1974

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

SW – Fiction – Radio Drama – Film Music – Orchestral

Scr: (?) (From the novel by Ernest HEMINGWAY)

Mus. Comp: Victor YOUNG

Nar: Otto KRUGER

Perf: Gary COOPER (Robert Jordan)

Ingrid BERGMAN (Maria)

Akim TAMIROFF (Pablo)

Gale SONDERGAARD (Pilar)

Prod. Co: Pelican Records; Los Angeles, CA

Rec. Date: Feb. 12, 1945

Time: (?)

LP: FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

Pelican LP 136 (mono)

12" 33rpm (Sides 1 & 2)



Notes: A recording of the original Lux Radio Theater drama that was aired live on Feb. 12, 1945. Another source says that this broadcast was on Feb. 11, 1945. (Anon. 2014)

This radio script was probably partially based on Dudley Nichols' scenario for the 1943 Paramount film. The three leading stars of the film Cooper, Bergman, and Tamiroff were reunited again for this historic broadcast. Unfortunately, this sound dramatization suffers greatly in comparison with the film, which incidentally received the Oscar nomination for best movie but didn't win. Bergman, Tamiroff, and the others manage to hold things together but Cooper's hesitant, false delivery with its heavy pauses between phrases comes across very badly here without the visuals to offset it. Short excerpts of the film's music are used for the transitions between scenes and for the romantic scenes a theme plays behind the dialogue.

The story takes place during the Spanish Civil War. Robert Jordan, an American sympathizer with the Republican (Communist) cause, goes to the cave hideout of a band of guerillas in the mountains near Segovia. With their help he is to blow up a strategic bridge held by the Fascists. Despite the opposition and treachery of Pablo (the guerilla leader) Roberto has the support of Pilar (Pablo's woman) and the rest of the band. Several scenes where strategy is discussed take place in the cave and it is always clear through the dialogue whether the scene is inside or outside the cave. (The movie still here shows a scene in the studio cave set with Maria serving Robert and Anselmo.) At the end of Act 1 there is applause and the narrator returns – "Over the sharp rim of the Segovia Mountains... And now Robert Jordan is also ready to leave the cave with Maria and Pilar for their meeting with El Sordo..."

Side 2 begins with the scene where Pablo is drunk in the cave and there is the dialogue, which originally appeared in the novel much earlier in chapter 6. Maria (a refugee who is in love with Roberto) asks Roberto – "Were you always a Republican? And your father?" He answers – "Sure, he voted the Republican ticket all his life." (This bad play on words gets a laugh from the live studio audience) Then Augustín asks – "And they did not shoot him for it?" To which Roberto replies – "No, they don't shoot you for being a Republican in America." (There is, of course, no possible connection between the Spanish Communist Republicans

and American right-wing Republicans. It is worth remembering that in the early 1950s the film's scriptwriter, Dudley Nichols, was persecuted by the Army-McCarthy Hearings for his Communist beliefs.) Act 3 begins with the narration – “The night wears on. Its chilly stillness hangs over the cave on the mountaintop. Nearby where the horses are tethered... And the girl named Maria, who sleeps in the cave...”



Scattered throughout the story there are romantic interludes between Roberto and Maria where the dialogue is quite different from Hemingway's text but, nevertheless, equally laden with sentimental excess. Eventually, the bridge is blown. (Sound effects of machine guns, explosions, fake gunshots, and horses hooves are heard.) During the retreat Roberto is wounded in the leg. He stays behind to hold off the pursuing Fascist troops.

Ref: Anon. 2014, *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (Film), [Wikipedia](#)

Ernest Hemmingway, Biography, [Wikipedia](#)

For Whom the Bell Tolls, The Film, [imdb](#)

For Whom the Bell Tolls LP, Pelican, [worldcat](#)

Hemmingway, Ernest 1940 (2004), *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, Arrow Books, London, p. 69

Hemmingway, Ernest 1940, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, Plot Summary, [Wikipedia](#)

Lux Radio Theater, [Wikipedia](#)

Otto Kruger, Bio, [Wikipedia](#)

SWA-DR2 United States 2001

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

SW – Drama – Fiction

Scr: (?) (From the novel by Ernest HEMINGWAY)

Perf: Alexander **ADAMS** (reader)

Prod. Co: Books on Tape, Inc.

Time: (?)

CD: FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

Books on Tape (?) (13XCDs)

Notes: A more recent unabridged reading of the novel. Nothing further is known.

Ref: Hemmingway, Ernest 1940, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, Plot Summary, [Wikipedia](#)

For Whom the Bell Tolls CD, [barnesandnoble](#)

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