



A Bell for Adano

John Hersey

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"A Bell for Adano" won the Pulitzer Prize in 1945. The novel is set during the Allied occupation of the Italian coastal town of Adano in 1943. It tells the story of an Italian-American officer in Sicily during World War II who wins the respect and admiration of the people of the town of Adano by helping them find a replacement for the town bell that the Fascists had melted down for rifle barrels. The novel achieved huge popularity and was hailed as a classic war novel. Many believed that the novel was realistic because Hersey had been a war correspondent in Italy during the war. The book is rich in characterization, and it is recognized as a classic study in leadership. Another possible reason it was so well received was that the novel portrays the American army in a positive light and shows how democracy is inherently superior to Fascism. At the conclusion of World War II, the American people were anxious to believe that they had made the right decision to go to war, and then to occupy Italy. John Richard Hersey (1914 - 1993) was an American writer, journalist and professor considered one of the earliest practitioners of the so-called New Journalism, in which storytelling devices of the novel are fused with non-fiction reportage. - Wikipedia

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