

Foreword to *The Sun Also Rises* written by Ernest Hemingway on September 27, 1925, on a short trip to Chartes where he began to revise the novel for publication.

This foreword was eventually discarded. The spelling, grammar and punctuation are all Hemingway's own. What is crossed out below was crossed out by Hemingway. The original is in the archives of the John F Kennedy Library and Museum in Dorchester, Boston, Massachusetts.

ONE day last summer Gertrude Stein stopped in a garage in a small town in the Department of Ain to have a valve fixed in her Ford car. The young mechanic who fixed it was very good and quick and skillful. There were three other mechanics all about the same age in the garage.

‘Where do you get the boys to work like this?’ Miss Stein asked the owner of the garage. ‘I thought you couldn’t get boys to work any more.’

‘Oh yes,’ the garage owner said. ‘You can get very good boys now. I’ve taken all these and trained them myself. It is the ones between twenty-two and thirty that are no good. C’est un generation perdu. No one wants them. They are no good. They were spoiled. The young ones, the new ones are all right again.’

‘But what becomes of the others?’

‘Nothing. They know they are no good. C’est un generation perdu. A little hard on them,’ he added.

I did not hear this story until after I had written this book. I had thought of calling it *Fiesta* but did not want to use a foreign word. *Perdu* loses a little something by being translated into *lost*. There is something much more final about *perdu*. There is only this to say that this generation that is lost has nothing to do with any Younger Generation about whose outcome much literary speculation occurred in past times. This is not a question of what kind of mothers will flappers make or where is bobbed hair leading us. This is about something that is already finished. For whatever is going to happen to the generation of which I am a part has already happened.

There will be more entanglements, there will be more complications, there will be successes and failures. ~~There may be other wars. A few will learn to live perhaps one or two may learn to write or paint.~~

~~But the things that are given to people to happen to them have already happened. There will be many new salvations brought forward.~~ My generation in France for example in two years sought salvation in first the Catholic church, 2nd communism Dadaism, third the movies, fourth Royalism, fifth the Catholic church again. There may be another and better war. But none of it will matter particularly to this generation because to them the things that are given to people to happen have already happened.