

# Shadows of Men

## SYNOPSIS

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It's April, 1937 and Spain is in turmoil, cursed by a civil war between the government of the Republic of Spain and the Spanish military. It is a great struggle between democracy and fascism in an age where human beings are defined by the ideologies in which they believe. Into the midst of this turmoil steps a coterie of American celebrities - among them journalists Martha Gellhorn and Josephine Herbst and novelists Ernest Hemingway and John Dos Passos. For Dos Passos, however, the war in Spain has a more personal component, since the novelist's friend, José Robles, an employee of the Republican government, has mysteriously vanished. Dos Passos eventually learns from José's wife, Margara, that his friend was arrested in the middle of the night some weeks back and has not been seen since.

Although coming to Spain to participate in a propaganda film, Don Passos quickly finds that his attention becomes solely focused on finding his friend - a source of irritation with the blustery, acerbic Hemingway, who despises Dos Passos's obsessive focus on friendship when the grander cause of the Republic is at stake. As Dos Passos continues his search, how much is he willing to give up for his friend - and could his friend, in fact, be a traitor to the Republic? The answer is more devastating than Dos Passos could ever expect - but, in the thundering echo it leaves behind, Dos Passos learns the true centrality of human beings and human relationships in a world dominated by abstractions.