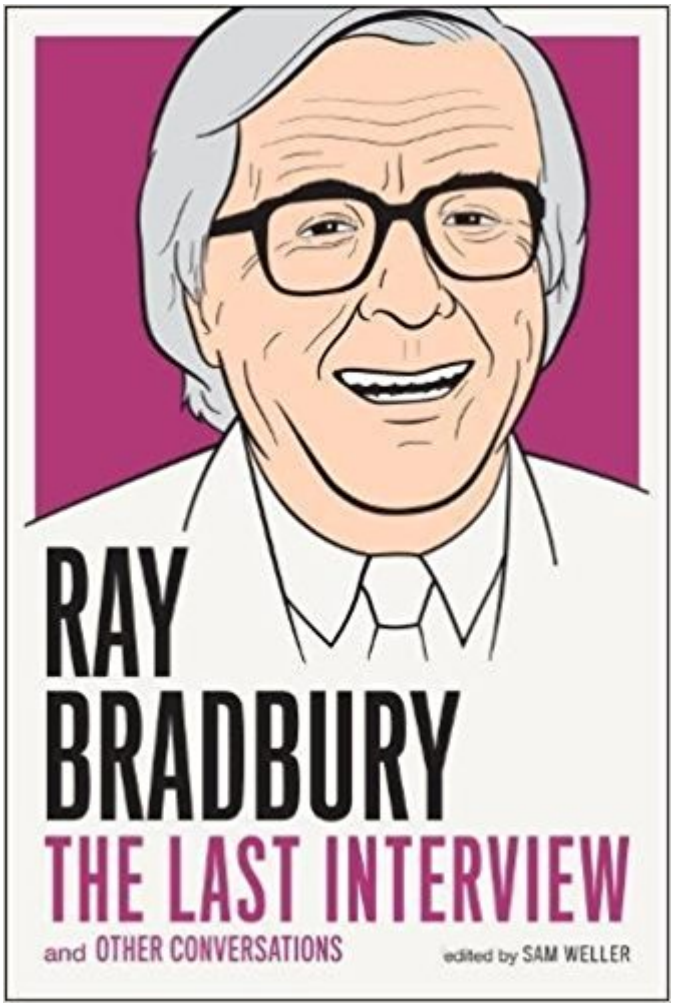
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Ray Bradbury: The Last Interview: And Other Conversations (The Last Interview Series)



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Synopsis

Ray Bradbury was long the most influential sci-fi writer in the world, the poetic and visionary author of such classics as Fahrenheit 451, The Martian Chronicles, and The Illustrated ManBut he also lived a fascinating life outside the parameters of sci-fi, and was a masterful raconteur of his own story, as he reveals in his wide-ranging and in-depth final interview with his acclaimed biographer, Sam Weller. After moving to Los Angeles, he became an inveterate fanboy of movie stars, spending hours waiting at studio gates to get autographs. He would later get to know many of HollywoodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most powerful figures when he became a major screenwriter, and he details here what it was like to work for legendary directors such as John Huston and Alfred Hitchcock. And then there are all the celebritiesÃ¢â ¬â •from heads of state like Mikhail Gorbachev to rock stars like David Bowie and the members of KissÃ¢â ¬â •who went out of their way to arrange encounters with Bradbury.But throughout that last talk, as well as the interviews collected here from earlier in his career, Bradbury constantly twists the elements of his life into a discussion of the influences and creative processes behind his remarkable developments and inventions for the literary form he mastered. Mixed with cheerful gossiping about his travels and the characters of his life, it makes for a rich reading experience and a revealing collection of interviews.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“The Bradbury edition benefits from the authorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s warm rapport with his biographer,

Sam Weller... In their discussions [Bradbury] remains full of passion."Ã¢â ¬â •New Yorker, Books to Watch Out ForPraise for Ray Bradbury:Ã¢â ¬Å“He was my muse for the better part of my sci-fi career . . . In the world of science fiction and fantasy and imagination he is immortal.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Steven SpielbergÃ¢â ¬Å“Mr. Bradbury was the writer most responsible for bringing modern science fiction into the literary mainstream.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The New York TimesÃ¢â ¬Å“One of this countryÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most beloved writers . . . A great storyteller, sometimes even a mythmaker, a true American classic.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The Washington PostÃ¢â ¬Å“The uncrowned poet laureate of science fiction.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The TimesÃ¢â ¬Å“Ray Bradbury has a powerful and mysterious imagination which would undoubtedly earn the respect of Edgar Allen Poe.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The Guardian

RAY BRADBURY (1920Ã¢â ¬â œ2012) was for decades the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most preeminent author of science fiction and fantasy, acclaimed for such renowned titles as Fahrenheit 451 and The Martian Chronicles. He began writing quite young, selling jokes to radio comedian George Burns when he was 14, and publishing his first short storyÃ¢â ¬â •to Imagination magazineÃ¢â ¬â •when he was 18. He would go on to write not only seminal sci-fi, but numerous other kinds of books, as well as numerous television and movie screenplays, such as for TVÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Twilight Zone and John HustonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Moby Dick. When he died in 2012, President Obama said, Ã¢â ¬Å“His gift for storytelling reshaped our culture and expanded our world.Ã¢â ¬Â•Editor SAM WELLER is the author of The Bradbury Chronicles: The Life of Ray Bradbury, and has lectured across the United States on the life and work of Bradbury. Weller is a professor in the Fiction Writing Department at Columbia College Chicago.

The shortcoming of the book is that there isn’t more of it. Admittedly, the project being what it is, there is a lot of good material here, for Bradbury certainly trusted his interviewer. For me as a writer, it’s very inspiring to read what Ray has to say, about his career, about his choices, about writing in general. It wasn’t until recently that I realized how profoundly Ray Bradbury had influenced my own writing style, mainly because I don’t read his works as frequently as I do others. But once I did recognize how much he had added to my outlook as a writer, I came to value greatly books such as this. You will hear his voice, but more importantly, you will feel Ray’s joy in life and joy in storytelling. Both of those are precious elements for the heart of a writer. This book is well worth reading.

I am a huge Bradbury fan. These interviews are all interesting but some are repetitious and poorly

presented. Could have used some better editing. Bradbury is a 20th century literary giant and deserves better. However, I recommend this book because it contains the words of the master. You can do your own editing.

Excellent. A number of great interviews to help bring Bradbury to the forefront of thought.

Not much that I hadn't already read about Bradbury. I was disappointed with this book.

Man, have I loved Ray Bradbury since I was thirteen. Throughout the intervening twenty-five years, he has grown on me, and I have reread just about all of his books at least once. I picked up The Halloween Tree for the first time just the other day and fell in love with something I had never experienced in his work prior and loved it. Of course, finding out Melville House printed his final interviews with Sam Weller, I jumped at getting a copy.The book is a collection of a variety of final conversations and transcriptions that Weller completed, spending a great deal of time with his mentor leading through his final years. This book is truly a wonderful portrait of a man's final experiences on the planet ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ a man expecting to live to one hundred years old, who misses his wife and his dogs, and who has led a literary life of such sheer magnificent joy. He talks about his work, a little bit about his process and history, gives insight into the genesis of some of his ideas, and reflects on living on a planet and living a life that has truly meant something. Bradbury wasn't a genius of literature by accident, but in these interviews it is clear that his ability to have vision and enjoy having such a huge part in dreaming up things that we take for granted today ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ this is something that he treasures. He almost sounds like he has always appreciated everything, and found wonder around every corner.While I wasn't entirely impressed with all of Weller's lines of questioning (which at the cons had a few that were lavishing praise on Bradbury and then asking a question about why that was so awesome ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ sort of reminiscent of the Paul McCartney / Chris Farley SNL interview), I am sure there was a practical reason that he asked some of them in the way he did. I am convinced at the very least because of the obvious caliber of their personal relationship ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ and I also know I would have been way worse than Chris Farley and hardly able to complete a sentence. But honestly, that intimacy and comfort bled through every answer, and I can't think that I would have liked anyone other than Wells to complete a final series of interviews of one of the greatest American writers who ever lived. A fine little book.

"Ray Bradbury: The Last Interview" is a poignant work. If you are a Bradbury fan, and think that you have heard everything there is to hear about Bradbury from Bradbury - think again and read this book. Through transcripts of q and a sessions from his Comic-Con appearances with author/editor/official biographer Sam Weller, and interviews by and essays dictated to Weller, we are treated to the beautiful, final insights and reflections of Ray Bradbury at the end of his 91-year life and 74-year creative career. In some passages fun and grin-inducing, in some passages inspiring and thought-provoking, and in some passages profound and tear-welling we feel as if we are the ones Ray is speaking to personally. Writing. Life. Death. Passion. Bo Derek. Weller probes deep, and we are treated to Bradbury introspecting and realizing things about himself and his own work and sharing them with us in the magic moment. It reads like the best Bradbury stories which, I suppose, goes without saying as they are his words - but there is something special about it. Case in point - The passages in which he discusses his grandfather are like having a final glass of Dandelion Wine that, with great joy, you just discovered was still in the the bottle. This book belongs on your shelf, in your hands, and in your mind and heart.

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