Ray Bradbury was born in Waukegan, Illinois to a Swedish immigrant mother and a father who was a power and telephone lineman. His paternal grandfather and great-grandfather were newspaper publishers. Bradbury was a reader and writer throughout his youth, spending much time in the Carnegie Library in Waukegan. His novels Dandelion Wine, Something Wicked This Way Comes, and Farewell Summer depict the town of Waukegan as "Green Town" and are semi-autobiographical. The Bradbury family lived in Tucson, Arizona, in 1926-27 and 1932-33, each time returning to Waukegan, and eventually settled in Los Angeles in 1934, when Ray was thirteen.

Bradbury graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1938 but chose not to attend college. Instead, he sold newspapers at the corner of South Norton Avenue and Olympic Boulevard. He continued to educate himself at the local library, and having been influenced by science fiction heroes like Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers, he began to publish science fiction stories in fanzines in 1938. His first paid piece was for the pulp magazine Super Science Stories in 1941, for which he earned $15. He became a full-time writer by the end of 1942. His first book, Dark Carnival, a collection of short works, was published in 1947 by Arkham House. He married Marguerite McClure (1922-2003) in 1947, and they had four daughters.

A chance encounter in a Los Angeles bookstore with the British expatriate writer Christopher Isherwood gave Bradbury the chance to put The Martian Chronicles into the hands of a respected critic. Isherwood's glowing review followed and was a substantial boost to Bradbury's career.

For Bradbury, there is some blurring of categories, and the distinctions in his works are somewhat subjective, for he recently has written multiple short stories about a set of characters or a subject, making minor edits or adding supplemental material, and calling the results a novel. Although he is often described as a science fiction writer, Bradbury does not box himself into a particular narrative categorization:

"First of all, I don't write science fiction. I've only done one science fiction book and that's Fahrenheit 451, based on reality. Science fiction is a depiction of the real. Fantasy is a depiction of the unreal. So Martian Chronicles is not science fiction, it's fantasy. It couldn't happen, you see? That's the reason it's going to be around a long time—because it's a Greek myth, and myths have staying power."

Besides his fiction work, Bradbury has written many short pieces on the arts and culture, attracting a devoted following. He has received many honors and awards, and has been listed as one of the world's top writers in the 2005-2006 edition of Dictionary of Literary Biography. His many works have garnered praise and accolades, and he is considered an important figure in the world of science fiction and literature.
Adaptations of his work

Many of Bradbury's stories and novels have been adapted to films, radio, television, theater, and comic books. In 1951 to 1954, 27 of Bradbury's stories were adapted by Al Feldstein for EC Comics, and 16 of these were collected in the paperbacks, *The Autumn People* (1965) and *Tomorrow Midnight* (1966).

Also in the early 1950s, adaptations of Bradbury's stories were televised on a variety of shows including *Tales of Tomorrow, Lights Out, There, Suspense, CBS Television Workshop*, Jane Wyman's *Fireside Theatre*, Star Tonight, *Windows and Alfred Hitchcock Presents*. "The Merry-Go-Round," a half-hour film adaptation of Bradbury's "The Black Ferris," praised by Variety, was shown on Starlight Summer Theatin in 1954 and NBC's *Sneak Preview* in 1956.

From 1985 to 1992 Bradbury hosted a syndicated anthology television series, *The Ray Bradbury Theatre* for which he adapted 65 of his stories. Each episode would begin with a shot of Bradbury in his office, gazing over mementoes of his life, which he states (in narrative) are used to spark ideas for stories.

*The Martian Chronicles* became a three-part TV miniseries starring Rock Hudson which was first broadcast by NBC in 1980.

Director Jack Arnold first brought Bradbury to movie theaters in 1953 with *Come From Outer Space*, a Harry Essex screenplay developed from Bradbury's screen treatment, "The Meteor." Three weeks later, Eugène Lourié's *The Beast From 20,000 Fathoms* (1953), based on Bradbury's "The Foot Horn," about a sea monster mistaking the sound of a fog horn for the mating cry of a female, was released. Bradbury's close friend Ray Harryhausen produced the stop-motion animation of the creature. (Bradbury would later return the favor by writing a short story, "Tyrannosaurus Rex," about a stop-motion animator who strongly resembled Harryhausen.) Over the next 50 years, more than 35 features, shorts, and TV movies were based on Bradbury's stories or screenplays.

Recently, Peter Hyams' film version of Bradbury's 1953 story, *A Sound of Thunder* (2005), brought an almost unanimous negative reaction from film critics. Reviewing for *The New York Times*, A.O. Scott observed that "it illustrates the dangers of turning a lean, elegant short story into a loud, noisy, incoherent B movie."


Controversy over titles

In 2004 it was reported that Bradbury was extremely upset with filmmake Michael Moore for using the title *Fahrenheit 9/11*, which is an allusion to Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, for his documentary about the George W. Bush administration. Bradbury called Moore "a horrible human being," but stated that his resentment was not politically motivated. Bradbury asserts that he does not want any of the money made by the movie, nor does he believe that he deserves it. He pressured Moore to change the "stolen" name, but to no avail. Moore called Bradbury two weeks before the film's release in 2004 to apologize, saying that the film's marketing was set in motion a long time ago, and it was too late to change the title.

Bradbury himself is the author of several works with appropriated titles including "Something Wicked This Way Comes", "Beyond 1984" and "Another Tale of Two Cities". Bradbury, however, is always careful to give credit to those from whom he appropriates. His objection to Michael Moore was that he was not publicly given credit by Mr. Moore that he felt was his due. In defense of Moore, it might be stated that Bradbury's novel has become so much a part of American culture that knowledge of the reference being made can be almost taken for granted.

Honors and awards

- For his contribution to the motion picture industry, Ray Bradbury was given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6644 Hollywood Blvd.
- An asteroid is named in his honor, "9766 Bradbury," along with a crater on the moon called "Dandelion Crater" (named after his novel, *Dandelion Wine*).
- On November 17, 2004, Bradbury was the recipient of the National Medal of Arts, presented by President George W. Bush and Laura Bush. Bradbury has also
Almost 50 additional Bradbury stories have never been collected anywhere after their initial publication in periodicals. In addition to these collections, many of the stories have been published in multi-author anthologies.

**Trivia**

- In the *Star Trek: The Next Generation* episode “Ménage à Troi”, the ship that comes to take Wesley Crusher is named the USS Bradbury.
- One well known irony is that Bradbury, despite writing about spaceships and interplanetary travel and having lived in Los Angeles for most of his life, has never driven a car. He attributes this to having seen a gruesome car accident when he was young.
- Bradbury once had a well-publicized fear of flying, and did not fly in an airplane until the age of 62. Later, he flew on the Concorde to Paris, where he worked with the Walt Disney Company on the new Disneyland being created in France. He did enjoy a ride in the Goodyear Blimp when he was 48.
- Bradbury has helped Disney with many projects over the years, including the futuristic park EPCOT, and was also inspired to become an advocate for the proposed L.A. monorail system after riding and enjoying the Disneyland monorail system.
- At the age of fifteen, Bradbury read Jack Woodford’s book on writing, *Trial and Error*, which had a large influence on his career. He attributes his lifelong daily writing habit to the day in 1932 when a carnival entertainer, Mr. Electrico, touched him with an electrified sword, made his hair stand on end, and shouted, “Live forever!” The following day, Mr. Electrico brought Bradbury behind the scenes of the carnival and discussed philosophy with him. Bradbury said Mr. Electrico told him that Bradbury was the reincarnation of Electrico’s friend who was killed in the Battle of the Ardennes in 1918.
- Bradbury appeared in the television game show, *You Bet Your Life*.
- Bradbury St. in thekonami game *Silent Hill* is named in his honor.
- Bradbury usually gives an annual speech in Torrance, California for “Ray Bradbury Day” (April).
- According to Superman #411: The Last Earth-Prime History (1985), Superman loved Ray Bradbury’s books since he was a boy.

**List of Bradbury works**

**Novels**

- (1950) *The Martian Chronicles*
- (1953) *Fahrenheit 451*
- (1957) *Dandelion Wine*
- (1962) *Something Wicked This Way Comes*
- (1972) *The Halloween Tree*
- (1985) *Death is a Lonely Business*
- (1990) *A Graveyard for Lunatics*
- (1992) *Green Shadows, White Whale*

**Short story collections**

- (1947) *Dark Carnival*
- (1951) *The Illustrated Man*
- (1953) *The Golden Apples of the Sun*
- (1955) *The October Country*
- (1959) *A Medicine for Melancholy*
- (1962) *R is for Rocket*
- (1964) *The Machineries of Joy*
- (1965) *The Vintage Bradbury*
- (1966) *S is for Space*
- (1969) *I Sing the Body Electric*
- (1975) *Long After Midnight*
- (1980) *The Stories of Ray Bradbury*
- (1984) *A Memory of Murder*
- (1988) *The Toynbee Convector*
- (1996) *Quicker Than The Eye*
- (1997) *Driving Blind*
- (2002) *One More for the Road*
- (2003) *Bradbury Stories: 100 of His Most Celebrated Tales*
- (2005) *A Sound of Thunder and Other Stories*

In addition to these collections, many of the stories have been published in multi-author anthologies. Almost 50 additional Bradbury stories have never been collected anywhere after their initial publication in periodicals.

**Screenplays and teleplays**

- (1953) *It Came from Outer Space* (original story)
- (1956) *Moby Dick*
- *Jane Wyman Presents The Fireside Theatre* (1956) *The Bullet Trick / The Marked Bullet*
- *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*
- (1956) *Shopping for Death*
Design for Loving (1958)

Special Delivery (1959)

The Faith of Aaron Menefee (from the story by Stanley Ellin) (1962)

Steve Canyon (1959)

The Gift

Trouble Shooters (1962)

The Tunnel to Yesterday (1961)

King of Kings (narration, uncredited)

The Twilight Zone

Losing the Body Electric (1962)

Alcoa Premiere

The Jail (1962)

Icarus Montgolfier Wright (1962)

The Alfred Hitchcock Hour

The Life Work of Juan Diaz (1964)

The Picasso Summer

The Curiosity Shop (1969)

The Groom (1971)

Gnomes (1979)

The Electric Grandmother (1982)

Something Wicked This Way Comes (1983)

Quest (1985)

The Ray Bradbury Theater (1985-1992)

The Twilight Zone

The Elevator (1986)


The Halloween Tree (1993)

The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit (1998)

It Came from Outer Space (2003)

This list does not include adaptations by others of Bradbury's published stories.

Radio

World Security Workshop

The Meadow (1947)

Suspense

Riabouchinska (original story) (1947)

Summer Night (original story) (1948)

The Screaming Woman (original story) (1948)

Leviathan '99 (1968)

This list does not include adaptations by others of Bradbury's published stories.

Poetry

When Elephants Last in the Dooryard Bloomed (1975)

Where Robot Mice and Robot Men Run Round in Robot Towns (1977)

The Ghosts of Forever (1980)


Plays

The Meadow (1948)

The Anthem Sprinters and Other Antics (1963)

The Day It Rained Forever (1966)

The Pedestrian (1966)

The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit and Other Plays (1972)

Pillar of Fire and Other Plays (1975)

Fahrenheit 451 (1986)

The Martian Chronicles (1986)

Dandelion Wine (1988)

Falling Upward (1988)

Bradbury on Stage: A Chrestomathy of His Plays (1988)

Children

Switch on the Night (1955)

With Cat for Comforter (1997)

Dogs Think That Every Day Is Christmas (1997)

Fable

Ahmed and the Oblivion Machines (1998)

Non-fiction

Zen in the Art of Writing (1990)

Yestermorrow: Obvious Answers to Impossible Futures (1991)


Bradbury Speaks: Too Soon from the Cave, Too Far from the Stars (2005)

Further reading


Documentaries about Ray Bradbury


Bradbury's later life was satirized in an Internet short by Invisible Engine called The Adventures of Ray Bradbury, in which Ray has two fictitious sons and a fictitious autistic daughter, as well as an African-American doppelganger who goes by the obvious name of "Black Ray Bradbury." The episode concludes with a "To Be Continued" title card, but there has yet to be a second episode.

References

1. Certificate of Birth, Ray Douglas Bradbury, August 22, 1920, Lake County Clerk's Record #4750. Although he was named after Rae Williams, a cousin on his father's side, Ray Bradbury's birth certificate spells his first name as "Ray."

2. ^ [1]


6. ^ Ray Bradbury. "Michael Moore is an asshole"[^2]


8. ^ [2]

9. ^ Icarus Montgolfier Wright at the [Internet Movie Database](http://www.imdb.com)

External links

- [Wikiquote](http://www.wikiquote.org) has a collection of quotations related to:
  - Ray Bradbury
  - Ray Bradbury - Official site
  - Ray Bradbury Media - Extensive coverage of work in film, TV, radio plus exhaustive short story cross-reference.
  - Ray Bradbury at the [Internet Speculative Fiction Database](http://www.isfdb.org)
  - Ray Bradbury: Story of a Writer film by Terry Sanders
  - Illustrated guide to Bradbury's stories (English, Polish and Russian languages)
  - Exhaustive bibliography at Fantasticfiction.com
  - Survey of Scholarship Detailed look at critical scholarship of Bradbury's works throughout his career.
  - Two audio interviews of Ray Bradbury (1992 and 1993), RealAudio
  - Videos of Bradbury on the Internet, censorship and other subjects
  - Ray Bradbury at the [Internet Movie Database](http://www.imdb.com), with complete filmography as writer, actor and more

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(redirected from Douglas Spaulding) Also found in: Dictionary, Encyclopedia. Graphic Thesaurus, Display. I remember summers as Douglas Spaulding experienced them, vast expanses of sun-suffused days that seemed limitless in late May. Ray Bradbury And The Longing Of Childhood. is here called Green Town, and his narrator, Douglas Spaulding, gets his name from Bradbury's middle name and his father's middle name. BOOK PICKS.