



ARTIST BIO

Ray Bradbury, American novelist, short story writer, essayist, playwright, screenwriter and poet, was born August 22, 1920 in Waukegan, Illinois. He graduated from a Los Angeles high school in 1938. Although his formal education ended there, he became a "student of life," writing newspaper on L.A. street corners from 1938 to 1942, spending his nights in the public library and his days at the typewriter.

Ray Bradbury's work has been included in four Best American Short Story collections. He has been awarded the O. Henry Memorial Award, the Benjamin Franklin Award, the World Fantasy Award for Lifetime Achievement, the Grand Master Award from the Science Fiction Writers of America, the PEN Center USA West Lifetime Achievement Award, among others.

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Advance Praise for **FAHRENHEIT 451**

"Brilliant . . . Startling and ingenious . . . Mr. Bradbury's account of this insane world, which bears many alarming resemblances to our own, is fascinating."

-ORVILLE PRESCOTT, THE NEW YORK TIMES

"A masterpiece . . . A glorious American classic everyone should read: It's life-changing if you read it as a teen, and still stunning when you reread it as an adult."

-ALICE HOFFMAN, THE BOSTON GLOBE

"The sheer lift and power of a truly original imagination exhilarates . . . His is a very great and unusual talent."

-CHRISTOPHER RYHERWOOD, TOMORROW



FAHRENHEIT 451

RAY BRADBURY



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IT WAS A PLEASURE TO BURN...

Fahrenheit 451 is a classic work of literature by Ray Bradbury. The novel is set in a dystopia, a world that is ruled by human misery, suffering, or oppression. Guy Montag, the protagonist, is a fireman. However, the firemen in Fahrenheit 451 have little in common with the men in yellow suits, driving red trucks that we picture today. Instead, these firemen are in charge of burning books, which are seen as a threat to society because they cause people think too much. Instead, people are expected to relinquish their individuality and be content with vapid radio and television shows. Thinking is dangerous. The title of the novel is the temperature at which paper burns—a fitting title considering so much of the plot revolves around the burning of books.

At the beginning of the novel, Guy Montag begins to question the life he leads when he meets his free-thinking neighbor, Clarisse. Though only in high school, Clarisse asks him some deep, thoughtful questions that he somehow can't get out of his mind. In particular, she asks if he is happy. He realizes after pondering this for a time that he is not at all happy with his life. He finds burning books—and even his relationship with his wife, Mildred—to be unfulfilling...

BACK FLAP

BACK COVER

SPINE

FRONT COVER

FRONT FLAP