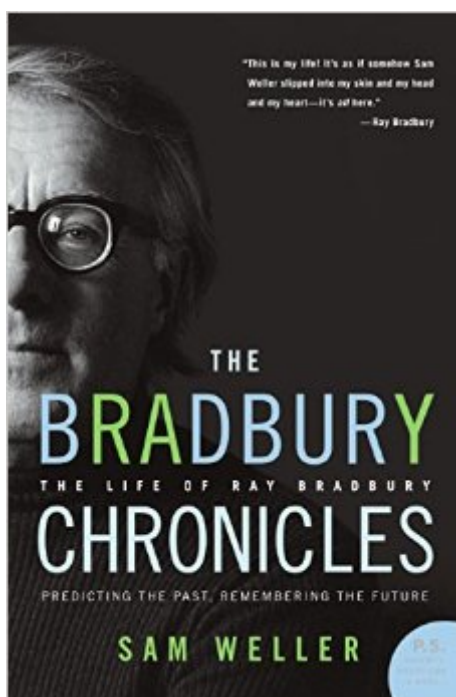


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The Bradbury Chronicles: The Life Of Ray Bradbury (P.S.)



Synopsis

Accomplished journalist Sam Weller met the Ray Bradbury while writing a cover story for the Chicago Tribune Magazine and spent hundreds of hours interviewing Bradbury, his editors, family members, and longtime friends. With unprecedented access to private archives, he uncovered neverâ “beforeâ “published letters, documents, and photographs that help tell the story of this literary genius and his remarkable creative journey. The result is a richly textured, detailed biography that illuminates the origins and accomplishments of Bradbury’s fascinating mind.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Sam Weller’s The Bradbury Chronicles is a well researched, upbeat biography of Ray Bradbury. Weller’s enthusiasm is both his strength, and, at times, his weakness. If you’re looking for a general overview of Ray Bradbury’s life and the things that led him to be a writer, this is an excellent starting place. The strongest part of the biography is the description of Ray’s family history and his early life in Waukegan, Illinois. Weller describes Ray’s grandfather’s history as a printer and his Aunt Neva’s artistic interests as strong influences towards Ray’s decision to become a writer. Equally detailed are Ray’s teen years when his family moved back and forth from Illinois to Arizona, before finally settling in Los Angeles, California. L.A. and Hollywood played a huge role in influencing Ray’s decision to become a writer. During his teen years, he befriended George Burns and actress Ida Lupino, and he often hung out outside the gates of major studios like Paramount and MGM in order

to get autographs from the stars. He was a fan of films and longed to be accepted into the film community. Of particular interest to me were the years in Ray's life between high school and his early thirties. Weller does an excellent job of describing Ray's early connections in the local sci-fi community in Los Angeles, as well as Ray's trips to the World Science Fiction Convention. We learn how he got an agent and published his first few books. Where the biography slips a little are the years following Ray's triumphant (though difficult) work with John Huston on the film version of *Moby Dick*. Weller gives us a general overview of the years between 1955-70, but he flashes forward and back whole decades at a time and the details are not as thorough as in the early part of the book.

For decades, Ray Bradbury has inspired a vast array of creative minds --- from writer Stephen King to film director Steven Spielberg, from rock guitarist Ace Frehley to astronaut Buzz Aldrin --- and now we get a very intimate look into the story behind the man. Sam Weller was given incredible access to Bradbury, his wife Marguerite, and many of his friends and family in an effort to compile this amazing look at the moments that built the framework of Bradbury's creativity. Born in 1920 in Waukegan, Illinois, Ray Bradbury was a child of a father touched by wanderlust and big dreams at a time when the Great Depression had a stranglehold on the country. From Illinois to Arizona to Hollywood, Bradbury's family searched for work. Moving to various areas of the country, he never lost his simple midwest roots, which can be seen in many of his stories as he returns time and again to simpler times in Illinois autumns. As a young boy, Bradbury was inspired by the adventures of Buck Rogers, Tarzan, John Carter of Mars, and a multitude of other fantastical wonders in print and on film. Weller shows us a young man who devoured books and always found the means, even in the hardest of times, to make his way into the movie theater. From these creations he felt the pull toward his own imagination, the results of which has entertained generations of readers. In 1932, Bradbury had an unexpected encounter with sideshow attraction Mr. Electrico. The magician confronted him during his performance and shouted to him "Live forever!" Though Bradbury will no doubt have to leave us (hopefully none too soon), in the end he will have left behind a literary legacy that will ensure Mr. Electrico's bold command holds true.

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