

# Ray Bradbury

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**Ray Douglas Bradbury** (born **August 22, 1920**) is an **American literary, fantasy, horror, science fiction, and mystery** writer best known for *The Martian Chronicles*, a 1950 book which has been described both as a **short story** collection and a novel, and his 1953 **dystopian** novel *Fahrenheit 451*. He is widely considered to be one of the greatest and most popular American writers of **speculative fiction** during the twentieth century.

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## Beginnings

Bradbury was born in **Waukegan, Illinois**, to a **Swedish immigrant** mother and a father who was a power and telephone **lineman**.<sup>[1]</sup> His **paternal** grandfather and great-grandfather were newspaper publishers.<sup>[2]</sup>

Bradbury was a reader and writer throughout his youth, spending much time in the **Carnegie Library** in Waukegan. He used this library as a setting for much of his novel *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, and depicted Waukegan as "Green Town" in some of his other semi-autobiographical novels — *Dandelion Wine*, *Farewell Summer* — as well as in many of his short stories.<sup>[3]</sup>

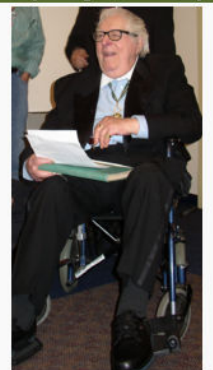
He attributes his lifelong habit of writing every day to an incident in 1932 when a carnival entertainer, Mr. Electrico<sup>[4]</sup>, touched him with an electrified sword, made his hair stand on end, and shouted, "Live forever!"

The Bradbury family lived in **Tucson, Arizona**, in 1926–27 and 1932–33 as his father pursued employment, each time returning to Waukegan, but eventually settled in **Los Angeles** in 1934, when Ray was thirteen.

Bradbury graduated from the **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. Ray was invited by **Forrest J Ackerman** to attend the now legendary Clifton's Cafeteria Science Fiction Club. Here Ray met the writers **Robert A. Heinlein**, **Emil Petaja**, **Fredric Brown**, **Henry Kuttner**, **Leigh Brackett**, and **Jack Williamson**. Launching his own fanzine in 1939, titled *Futura Fantasia*, he wrote most of its four issues, each limited to under a hundred copies. Bradbury's first paid piece was for the pulp magazine *Super Science Stories* in 1941, for which he earned \$15.<sup>[5]</sup> 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**, a firm owned by writer August Derleth.

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

### Ray Douglas Bradbury



Ray Bradbury at the 2008 UCR J. Lloyd Eaton Science Fiction Conference.

<b>Born</b>	August 22, 1920 (age 87) Waukegan, Illinois
<b>Occupation</b>	Writer
<b>Nationality</b>	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> United States
<b>Genres</b>	Science Fiction
<b>Notable work(s)</b>	<i>The Martian Chronicles</i> , <i>Fahrenheit 451</i>
<b>Influences</b>	<span>[show]</span>
	<span><b>Official website</b></span> <span>[<span>?</span>]</span> <span>[show]</span>

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