



The Martian Chronicles/The Illustrated Man/The Golden Apples of the Sun

Ray Bradbury

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At ninety, Ray Bradbury ranks as the dean and grand eminence of science fiction. This giant omnibus volume collects three major works by this genre titan: The Martian Chronicles, The Illustrated Man, and The Golden Apples of the Sun. It would be nearly impossible to identify three works more central to sci-fi than this trio.

The Martian Chronicles/The Illustrated Man/The Golden Apples of the Sun Details

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Author : Ray Bradbury

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From Reader Review The Martian Chronicles/The Illustrated Man/The Golden Apples of the Sun for online ebook

Natalie says

I'm going through and reading the whole book, which contains 3 stories by Bradbury. I've just finished "The Martian Chronicles" and figured I'd write a review on it now.

When I started reading "The Martian Chronicles," I wasn't really sure what to expect. I'd heard of the story, of course, but I wasn't really sure what it entailed. So, the beginning was rather confusing. But as it progressed, not only did I gain an understanding, but also an appreciation for the style in which it was written. By telling a number of smaller stories within a larger framework, you are able to switch between characters, places, and time very easily - since the common thread between them is very loose. In this way, the reader is able to get a better appreciation for the entire time, as opposed to just one story told during a time.

I did like how Bradbury came back to a few of the characters that were mentioned early on, then continued with their lives. When I read the initial story, I didn't understand why we were being introduced to so many characters - but by the end it made a lot of sense. In a similar vein, I sort of wish some of the later stories were told by the Martians, since they were involved as well, especially at the beginning.

My final thoughts, which were minor, was that it was interesting to read stories about the now-future and now-past from the standpoint of the actual past (1951). In some ways, the mentality was old-fashion - memory tapes, film reels, etc. were still in use in the future. More annoyingly, there was some rather overt sexism during one story (Of course! A woman would go to a beauty salon!). On the other hand, the majority of the stories employed some /very/ creative imagination and direction, which I really enjoyed. In some ways, it reminded me of plots seen in Star Trek or Farscape.

Martian Chronicles: 4 stars.

Now I've finished reading "The Illustrated Man." While I found a lot of the themes /very/ similar to "Martian Chronicles", I very much enjoyed the short stories. Unlike MC, which had a very thin plot running throughout it, these were short stories just for the sake of short stories - not even really connected to one another. Although, many of them were futuristic or on Mars.

The one obvious point was that many of the stories ended...well...badly for the main characters. In fact, there were only a 2 or 3 that weren't completely depressing. Some were beautiful, though (The Rocket) and others were strange and bit jarring (The Exiles). Then others had really interesting imagery about other worlds (The Long Rain), as long as you ignore that it's really about Venus, or thought experiments (Kaleidoscope).

There were definitely some similarities between the stories, for example that a lot of them were on Mars or that the names were even very like each other. But the stories were not identical or, for the most part, predictable -- and that was very refreshing.

Overall, very entertaining, although not good to read before bed.

The Illustrated Man: 5 stars

Curt Jeffreys says

I haven't read Bradbury in years but when I saw this nice looking volume on the shelves at my local B&N I snapped it up. So glad I did. Revisiting Mars as envisioned by Mr. Bradbury oh those many decades ago brought me great pleasure. Bradbury saw the world - and far-flung places like Mars - with almost childlike innocence and wonder. His prose flows like poetry, his words paint beautiful landscapes in our minds. Even if, like me, you have read these stories before do yourself a favor and revisit the Red Planet, Ohio, and Illinois created by the words of the brilliant Ray Bradbury. You cannot possibly go wrong.

Sara says

Incredible collection of Bradbury's masterful storytelling! Contains my favorite "All Summer in a Day." (These Barnes and Noble collectible editions are almost too pretty to read!)

Jnotes99 says

A collection of short stories by Ray Bradbury. The Martian Chronicles are short stories that are all related to the planet Mars, with each story jumping ahead chronologically by months/years. The Illustrated Man is a collection of short stories that are tattoos across the illustrated man of the title. The Golden Apples of the Sun are a variety of short stories not really connected in any way. An enjoyable read, some of the short stories somewhat famous as they appear in Sci Fi short story collections, and some were part of the Ray Bradbury Theater TV show from the 1980's. The breadth of ideas covered in these stories, especially in the last two books, was interesting. Recommended.

Jenna Nov says

This book is extremely important and I think that everyone should read this regardless of how old you are or your genre preferences. Especially in the Martian Chronicles, there are morals and meaning that everyone should see

Martin Hernandez says

Ray BRADBURY es considerado, sobre todo, un escritor de ciencia ficción. Injustamente, en mi opinión, porque el señor no escribía SciFi, sino profundas observaciones psicológicas sobre el género humano, y en algunas narraciones, ponía cohetes, marcianos y cosas del espacio. Pero **BRADBURY** es, antes que nada, un Poeta, y un gran escritor, dueño de un estilo literario digno de un premio Nobel. Este tomo contiene, además de "Las Crónicas..." las colecciones de "El Hombre Ilustrado" y "Las Manzanas Doradas del Sol".

Mis reseñas de cada libro:
"Las Crónicas Marcianas"
"El Hombre Ilustrado"
"Las Manzanas Doradas del Sol"

Este libro es una excelente adición a cualquier biblioteca, contiene las mejores colecciones de relatos de **BRADBURY** en una hermosa edición al estilo clásico.

Andrew Winkel says

Only read Golden Apples of the Sun to the boys, but Bradbury's short fiction is always remarkable. Not all of the stories in Golden Apples of the Sun are 5 star worthy, though some of the strongest are from Dandelion Wine and R is for Rocket (the brilliant "A Sound of Thunder" was always my favorite story to start seventh grade LA class).

Andrew says

Science fiction short stories are like the small tapas at a Spanish restaurant: inventive, varied, and requiring attention lest one miss something. And no one serves small bursts of Sci-Fi better than Bradbury. This is an excellent collection of some of his best stories exploring humanity through the lens of space and human exploration. The volume itself--a special leather-bound edition put out by Barnes and Noble--is aesthetically pleasing and seems to hearken back to the nascent space age in which Bradbury first developed his ideas.

In reading all of these short stories together in one compilation, I was struck by how dated many of the story narratives seemed. This is not to say that Bradbury does not offer important insights into human behavior and persistent challenges in our society. But Bradbury and other science fiction writers like him seem more equipped to describe and comment on the existent world using a fictional future setting than pretend to foresee the future of humanity. In Bradbury's future, women continue to tend the home while men explore the far reaches of space, the existent social strata in 1940s America is replicated one hundred years later on the surface of Mars, and atomic wars continue to overcloud everything. Reading these short stories does involve a bit of time travel then, but in the opposite direction of the dates indicated in the stories.

Read more at <http://znovels.blogspot.com/2015/09/t...>

Benjamín Román Abram says

I just read The Martian Chronicles, I'm totally excited for his poetry and his message. I will study in depth the book, that includes knowing its context, the fifties in America.

Acabo de leer Crónicas marcianas, estoy totalmente emocionada por su poesía y su mensaje. Voy a estudiar en profundidad el libro, que incluye conocer su contexto, los años cincuenta en los Estados Unidos.

Tyson Heck says

I only read The Martian Chronicles portion, and only because it has been recommended to me by the only other co-worker I have that enjoys reading as much as me. Her opinion and recommendation had solidity behind it, so it was a simple choice.

To me, science fiction/fantasy seems as if it has to be the most difficult genre to write. I mean, to really, truly put out sci-fi that is worthwhile, it has to be a very well thought out process. All the ends need to be tied, consistency needs are always underlying, and an entertaining story must be intertwined through the entire world you've just invented. It's a challenge that, for someone like me who has always had an urge to write a book before I die, is an undertaking that I'll gladly save for others to write so that I can stick to reading it.

Bradbury left me with an amazing respect. Not only was he able to drive morality tales into his writing, he created a beautiful scene while doing so. Every page is dripping with wonderful imagery that can sometimes be a challenge to find in the literary universe if you don't know where to look. It's a book where every chapter is almost like a short story in itself, until you realize they are more like puzzle pieces that fit so smoothly into one another. The levels that Bradbury is able to confine into words makes this book a glamorous example of the depth science fiction can be taken to. I began reading it with the expectations that I have with most books that are recommended to me; read it and comprehend it enough so that when the recommender asks my thoughts, I can avoid hurt feelings and move on to something I actually want to read. But in the case of The Martian Chronicles, Bradbury saved me from that burden and left me feeling disappointed in myself for even doubting that I would enjoy it.

Please, do yourself a favor and read this book. It's not like much else you can find.

Tommy Demsky says

I don't know what to say. Bradbury's stories will always be a joy to read. So many different themes and tones and almost every one of them is a little literary gem.

Zoe's Human says

Ray Bradbury is likely my favorite short story author of all time. What other writers need pages to say, he can do with a single paragraph. In one spare sentence, he can chill you to the bone with an insight into humanity that, perhaps, you would rather have not had. His finest work lies on the border between horror and science fiction. This omnibus is a perfect collection of his finest anthologies.

Travis Heermann says

This is a really beautiful edition of some of Ray Bradbury's finest work. I had not read The Martian Chronicles since high school, and it was great to rediscover it in the context of

greater knowledge of Bradbury's work, where one can see the ripples of his recurrent themes spreading throughout other books and stories.

This book is a great way to introduce someone to the genius of Ray Bradbury, and it's also a great book for Bradbury aficionados to enjoy his work in a truly gorgeous volume and rediscover some of his greatest stories.

Stephanie says

I recently picked this up at Barnes and Noble for around \$15 or so. As I collect Bradbury's books, and have for several years, I already own at least a few copies of each of these short story collections individually. After *Fahrenheit 451*, *The Martian Chronicles* is my second favorite book, and *The Illustrated Man* and *Golden Apples of the Sun* are likely in the top ten. Because of the extreme fondness I have for all three of these collections (with at least 2/3 of the stories, if not more, being among my favorite individual short stories as well), I had to pick it up. The book itself is also quite nice looking, and for the price, I needed it to add to my collection. You can easily pick up a ratty old mass market paperback from the sixties or the seventies of any three of these collections for about fifty cents or less, but if you really like very nice looking books sitting on your shelves, pick this one up instead. I don't usually fall for pretty packaging with books, but for some of my all-time favorite literature, I make exceptions.

Scott says

The three titles packed together in this thick book are the first I've read of Mr. Bradbury. The cover art caught my eye and the top title 'The Martian Chronicles' to be interesting for a soul such as mine that has a tendency to devour science fiction. I read 'The Martian Chronicles' in a moderate time and was at first struggling to adjust to a series of short stories that it actually was. As I read it wasn't long before I enjoyed reading what a 1950s author thought of space travel and its Martian implications. I moved onto 'The Illustrated Man' but within four of those short stories I promptly tossed it back onto the shelf to accumulate a mini mountain of dust. I had grown tired of short stories in my early time being a full time reader; I had and still do much to learn about reading. It takes time and brain pain sometimes to read but later I'd learn that completing any book is an experience you can grab a hold of in times where you may otherwise feel regretful of how life is going.

The book stared at me for months as I distanced myself from books until I finally obstructed it's vision of me by leaving my closet door open against the bookshelf, quite an evil deed. This new year of 2013 emerged from the future as I had already been dragged back into the world of my mind. Books have a way of bringing you back if you leave the door open but a crack. It took about nine months since I last read this collection of Mr. Bradbury's but I had a whole new appreciation for the stories. It felt to me as I read each story, as fast as my fingers could turn the pages that each story was like viewing a photo album. A photo album shows you a certain time, place and experience within it much the way I accepted each short story having its own tale. If you don't prefer short stories then it'll be a chore to read any of this.

Short Stories

When I first began reading these stories in 'The Martian Chronicles' I had never read short stories much and was very accustomed to reading novels, my lack of reading prowess failed me. In my early era of reading I've grown fond of single story novels not that I limit myself to said books now but when I began Bradbury's

short stories I hated being sucked into a ten page group of intrigue only to have it come to an end. In reading a book such as this I recommend coming to terms that it's meant to be short. That probably seems obvious but I overlooked it and it tormented me. The stories can end quickly and sometimes leaving you scratching your head but the upside is a new one can begin right after. The majority of the stories are fantastic for a science fiction mind however anybody could find a story or two to admire. I came back to this behemoth of a book due in large part that I found myself writing short stories and rather enjoying it, figure that one. My perception has changed about this book and for the greater good of my soul.

The Martian Chronicles

There are some interesting views on what Mars could be used for in mankind's future and Bradbury brings to light many of them. I would rather avoid opening the book for you and telling you what this brilliant author concocted oh so many years ago so I won't. I will say it's well written which is what readers want to know. The idea of space travel, particularly to other planets, is unknown to us. We know we can go to space but what is Mars like or Venus? How many other galaxies are there, truly? The stories in this book whip up some notions of what it is by planting that seed. Whenever I hear the word Mars now my mind twists and turns to recall a story from this book as my base understanding of the planet, how many other books claim that? One story I'd recommend is 'The Earth Men'.

The Illustrated Man

The stories within this book differ on topic and aren't limited to space travel or Mars. A witch tattoos a man with some questionable ink thus showing whoever casts eyes upon him to see a most unsettling story. I like the idea of this main story that starts and concludes this book. 'The Long Rain' is one of my favorites but there are many that succeed. The stories jump around a bit topic wise so you're not set on any one area.

The Golden Apples of the Sun

In my mind I thought this would be a slow struggling read. It happens to us all from time to time right? Before we begin a book we have that intuition that it's going to be lackluster or a failure. My brain chose this one but it was wrong again, surprise. It does start off uninteresting with some of the stories ending before you really understand what was going on. It does pick up and before you know it your fingers are working then begging for a massage. Some that I liked, 'The Murderer', 'Sun and Shadow', 'R is for Rocket', 'Frost and Ice' and 'Chrysalis'. There are plenty more that really entertain and if I had to pick one of these it would be 'Frost and Ice'. Out of the three books here I'd save this one for last so you're guaranteed a satisfactory conclusion to your read.
