



A Medicine for Melancholy and Other Stories

Ray Bradbury

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Ray Bradbury is a painter who uses words rather than brushes--for he created lasting visual images that, once observed, are impossible to forget. Sinister mushrooms growing in a dank cellar. A family's first glimpse at Martians. A wonderful white vanilla ice-cream summer suit that changes everyone who wears it. A great artist drawing in the sand on the beach. A clunky contraption made out of household implements to help some kids play a game called Invasion. The most marvelous Christmas display a little boy ever saw. All those images and many more are inside this book, a new trade edition of thirty-one of Bradbury's most arresting tales--timeless short fiction that ranges from the farthest reaches of space to the innermost stirrings of the heart. Ray Bradbury is known worldwide as one of the century's great men of imagination. Here are thirty-one reasons why.

A Medicine for Melancholy and Other Stories Details

Date : Published February 1st 1998 by William Morrow Paperbacks (first published 1959)

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Author : Ray Bradbury

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From Reader Review A Medicine for Melancholy and Other Stories for online ebook

Tandi Gill says

When I was in 7th grade reading class (about 25 years ago) we had quiet reading time everyday. Our textbooks had short stories and one of those stories was Dark They Were and Golden Eyed. The day I read that story was some sort of turning point in my literary life. It was just so different than anything I had ever read. Ray Bradbury had such a poetic style of writing. His words come to life like vibrant colors leaping from the page. He had a gift that was otherworldly. Dark They Were and Golden Eyed has haunted me all of these years. Was it really as magical as I remembered or had the years between me and reading it built the story up in my mind? I finally ordered A Medicine for Melancholy because I knew that story was in it. I devoured it as soon as I got the book. It really is just as magical as I remembered, along with so many other stories that are in this book of short stories. I can't really tell you the best stories in this book because they are all the best stories. Read this book!

Collin says

Probably my least favorite Bradbury book I've read so far, though that's not to say I didn't like it. It's just not quite as creative and tightly constructed as the stuff I've come to expect from him. And two or three of the stories came out sounding pretty similar: the old husband with the far-flung, poetic ideas, and the nagging wife trying to bring him back to earth. The formula got upturned once but it was still a little disappointing.

The last story, though, "The Day It Rained Forever," was one of his best - the imagery, the sensory details, the melody of music and nature. Also maybe including one of Bradbury's most lifelike, independent female characters? That's probably a lot of why I liked it.

Sergey Tomson says

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tough. I had heard Ray Bradbury, and specifically *All Summer in a Day*, discussed some on the podcast I listen to, *What Should I Read Next*. So I decided a collection of Ray Bradbury's short stories would be different. I really thought I may have read short stories before, but besides memoir-type essays, I still can't come up with anything so I think this was actually a valid choice. And I enjoyed the genre - it was different, but entertaining. There were some stories I wanted to know more about, and others that I was glad were ending. The problem with this book (and the reason for the low rating) is that Ray Bradbury is definitely not my jam! These were very science fiction, futuristic stories, and while I can appreciate the creativity, I am just not interested. It took me forever to finish this - I read multiple books in between stories. So I was unable to turn in the raffle ticket before the summer reading program ended. But, on the positive side, I still won! A gift certificate to a local restaurant. I like to think of it as a prize for finally getting through this collection of short stories!

Hillary says

A lovely collection of stories. Bradbury's writing is like an inviting pool I want to go swimming in. There is an immersive quality to it. I think my favorites from this bunch are the ones involving Mars, but there are plenty of other interesting subjects covered.

Billy says

A collection of 31 Bradbury short stories from the late '40s into the '60s. It's a mix of science fiction, fanciful and just normal everyday stuff. One of the problems with being a successful author is that eventually everything you wrote gets published, and that is the case here. Some of the stories, especially the sci fi ones, can only be termed as lame. Obviously when these were penned, space travel was just in its infancy, but even back then, the notion of newspapers being delivered to Mars by rocket had to have been eye-rolling.

As such, despite Bradbury's excellent prose, one is continually left with the feeling that the author simply has no science background, has done no research and is banking on us simply believing that someone hid a rocket in the garage (?) capable of not only flying his family to Mars to escape a nuclear war (recurrent theme for Bradbury) but also carrying enough food for them to subsist. Speaking of planets, Bradbury's visions of Venus as cool and rainy and Mars with pools of water with pasturelands for grazing animals have certainly been annihilated by NASA's probes. So much for Bradbury as prophet.

Kevin says

While there are some great stories in here, the preponderance of them is too much of Ray Bradbury's worst tendencies--thin characters, wasted non-drama, a romanticism with space and rockets that feels plain gooey. Combine the best of this book with the best of *"R is for Rocket"* and you have one tight collection of short stories.

Amanda says

This was so good! I now remember why I consider Bradbury to be one of my favourite short story writers. I'll be reading everything he's ever written over my lifetime because he's just superb. Loved many of these stories. There was even a mermaid!!

Adam Wilson says

Ray Bradbury's A Medicine For Melancholy collection was a pleasant surprise after reading several horrible books in a row. This collection is full of stories that are sometimes scary, sometimes sad, and sometimes puzzling to the emotions. Most of the stories in this volume impressed me, even the ones that talked about rockets and Mars, which seemed to be every other one. A few of them are incredibly memorable like The Wonderful Ice-Cream Suit because of its eerie but comical quality. I also loved All Summer In A Day which is an imaginative and impossible story about a small girl's huge disappointment on the planet Venus. The Town Where No One Got Off is yet another memorable story that made me wonder what would happen if I just got off the train at a town in the middle of nowhere without telling anyone. Great collection with very few duds in the mix.

Jim says

A generally pleasant read, though the quality of the stories varies, as is probably inevitable in a collection like this. There are some real gems, like "The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit" and the grade school anthology standard "All Summer in a Day"; there's also the memorably eerie "Fever Dream" and "The Town Where No One Got Off." But there are quite a few that I found fairly uninspiring. Bradbury's prose is usually rather pretty, and there's nothing too annoying or cringe-worthy, but some of the stories get a bit close to being filler.

As a small aside, I really enjoy the datedness of some of Bradbury's science fiction--for instance, the regular assumption in his stories that we'd have colonies on Mars by the 1990s. I don't think it interferes with the story in any way--it's just a remarkable reminder of how fast technological change was anticipated, and the direction that change was thought to go.

There are two stories about Americans in Ireland that I thought were by miles the worst of the lot (and perhaps dated in a more profound way than the 1950s nuclear families farming on Mars). One turns on the very obviously pre-MADD assumption that drinking makes people better drivers (oh, those loveably drunk Irish!). The other asks us to find it hilariously, disturbingly weird that people can have dangerous collisions riding bicycles (not cars--oh, those loveably uncivilized Irish!). These seemed to me to strike an oddly unperceptive and clunky note for such a generally thoughtful writer. But they are exceptions.

Vladimir Ivanov says

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Mike says

It's easy to think of Bradbury as a genre writer, but this collection of stories highlights the range of his talent. There are a few science fiction stories, set on Mars and in a post-apocalyptic future. A few are subtle, creepy horror. A couple are fantasy or magic-realist, but the rest are straight realist fiction, about the human condition and human relationships. Some are flawed, but considering that he wrote several hundred stories over the course of his career, you have to expect a clunker now and then. (And frankly, even those are pretty decent). A solid collection of Bradbury working in his favored format, the short story.

Murnau says

Es muy común asociar el nombre de Ray Bradbury a la ciencia ficción, sobre todo por su obra distopica Fahrenheit 451. Pero estaríamos cayendo en un juicio demasiado fácil y precipitado. Bradbury jamas se considero un escritor del genero, el se catalogaba como un cultivador del genero fantástico, un simple cuenta-cuentos creador de mundos imaginarios, y la prueba de ello se ve que obras ambientadas en planetas como Marte o Venus no se explican como se consiguieron atmosferas respirables, si sufrieron un proceso de terraformación o los medios por los cuales los seres humanos consiguieron llegar y posteriormente asentarse. Esta antología de brevisimas piezas es la mejor prueba para descubrir al Bradbury mas imaginativo y fantástico.

Reseña completa aquí: <http://gymnopédieygnossiennes.blogspot...>

Paul says

Here is a group of stories by one of the masters of the science fiction field.

A young woman is bedridden with a baffling illness. Her family decides to bring her, and her bed, outside, on the street, to take advantage of the human tendency to give unsolicited medical advice to complete strangers. A group of male friends, of the same physical size, pool their resources to purchase an expensive white suit, which they will share. It is the sort of suit that is guaranteed to attract the ladies. A young boy is sick with what his doctor is certain is nothing more than scarlet fever. The boy fears that his sickness is much more serious.

An after-the-apocalypse story is about an America where everything, and anything, from the past is to be hated and destroyed, including a famous painting that is based on a woman's smile. A group of human colonists are stuck on Mars because of a war on Earth. A colony ship is sent, five years later, after the war, and finds several hundred Martians, with no knowledge of any human colonists. Traveling across America

by train, a businessman impulsively decides to get off at the next stop, whatever it is. He learns why there are some small towns where no one ever gets off the train. A couple of men who wander California beaches looking for coins or dropped jewelry find something really interesting. A real mermaid washes up on shore. Their thought is to pack it in ice, and eventually sell it, but the tide is coming in.

This book shows why Bradbury was such a great author. The stories aren't just science fiction, or fantasy, or horror. They feel like the sort of stories that could happen to anyone. If a copy can be found, this is a gem of a book.

Justin says

This collection has some real gems, but they don't show up until about halfway in. The opening stories, to me, were slow and disappointing. I felt like they were more descriptions of moments than they were stories with an arc. But later in the collection, he seems to hit a stride, particularly with the sci fi ones, one or two of which are in the Martian Chronicles.

Regardless, the stories are well written, and each one dissects or depicts some deep aspect of human thought.

So, my recommendation is to read the Martian Chronicles first, and then, if you're really craving more, check this out, but keep your expectations low, particularly for the first half.

Charles says

I put this in SF but Bradbury's stuff is hard to categorize.

José Guridi says

Siempre me ha cautivado la prosa de Bradbury, que siento que se luce especialmente en estos cuentos. Historias cotidianas se mezclan con escenarios de ciencia ficción y fantasía, donde no son protagonistas, sino que un ambiente para reflexiones. Me deja maravillado con paisajes de Marte, una sirena varada y el sonido de la lluvia en un arpa.

Irene says

Todas esas cosas tontas, pequeñas... no son importantes. Pero son las cosas que me vienen a la cabeza a las tres de la mañana.

Los relatos que me gustaron son:

*Sueño de fiebre.

*El pueblo donde no baja nadie.
*Eran morenos y de ojos dorados.
*Todo el verano en un día.
*La sonrisa.

Realmente me gusta el estilo de Bradbury, pero el resto de los relatos no los disfruté al 100%

Ilona says

"The stranger was drawing and drawing and did not seem to sense that anyone stood immediately behind him and the world of his drawings in the sand... Twenty, thirty yards or more the nymphs and dryads and summer founts sprang up in unravelled hieroglyphs. And the sand, in the dying light, was the colour of molten copper on which was now slashed a message that any man in any time might read and savour down the years. Everything whirled and poised in its own wind and gravity."

Whenever I take a book of Ray Bradbury in my hands I'm sure that I'll have several hours of extremely pleasant reading. There isn't a story of this author which I disliked. Both his short-stories and novels can be sad, funny, strange, even creepy sometimes but they are never boring. Each story is a world of its own and you have to become a part of it, to catch its bizarre atmosphere, only then you'll understand what the author wanted to say. If you want to understand what Bradbury wrote, open your heart to his stories, and only then they'll find the way to your mind.

As for this particular collection of stories, it really became a medicine for melancholy for me, though not all the stories are cheerful, *Fever Dream* and *The Town Where No One Got Off* for instance gave me goosebumps. But still, I felt very upset and depressed for many reasons the day I decided to read this book and it cured me with its strange magic.

The title story is beautiful, the other best ones in my opinion (except of *All Summer in a Day* and *The Smile* which I read at school) are *In a Season of Calm Weather*, *The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit*, *The Shore Line at Sunset*.

This collection tells about past and future (and in *The Dragon* past and future even collide, you understand what I mean if you have read the story). Of course there are some stories on space topic (as any of Bradbury's collections). I don't know actually how to characterize the whole collection in general, because the stories are so different that having finished one of them you try to imagine what comes next... and still the next story appears to be better than any of your ideas about it. This collection is like a photo-album with pictures so bright, colourful and memorable you can't forget them. And suddenly you begin to smell sarsaparilla in your room, feel the soft ice-cream tissue under your fingers, look into the mirror to check if your eyes are of golden colour or still green as they used to be and touch your hand or leg to make sure it still belongs to you (sounds a little bit strange, if you haven't read *Fever Dream*). Whatever other people think of Bradbury for me his stories are pure magic. And Bradbury himself is the man drawing on the sand from the story *In a Season of Calm Weather*.

