
Ray Bradbury

Fahrenheit 451



Title: Fahrenheit 451

Author: Ray Bradbury

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Description

The terrifyingly prophetic novel of a post-literate future.

Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to burn books, which are forbidden, being the source of all discord and unhappiness. Even so, Montag is unhappy; there is discord in his marriage. Are books hidden in his house? The Mechanical Hound of the Fire Department, armed with a lethal hypodermic, escorted by helicopters, is ready to track down those dissidents who defy society to preserve and read books.

The classic dystopian novel of a post-literate future, Fahrenheit 451 stands alongside Orwell's 1984 and Huxley's Brave New World as a prophetic account of Western civilization's enslavement by the media, drugs and conformity.

Bradbury's powerful and poetic prose combines with uncanny insight into the potential of technology to create a novel which, decades on from first publication, still has the power to dazzle and shock.

Insightful reviews

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Jonathan:

It was a pleasure to read.

I was somewhat blown away by this novel. Perhaps it is simply my personal taste. I seem to enjoy novels about the future and in particular ones with a dystopian element. (see my reviews of [Brave New World](#) and [1984](#) for example)

I have read a handful of articles about how in analysing this novel most people miss the target. They claim it is a novel about book censorship whereas Bradbury claims it is more a novel focusing on talking about whether other forms of media would destroy our stories. However this is not a didactic text with only one main message (and there are a handful of those which I believe exist). This like all books is one which can be interpreted in various ways without missing the fact that at its heart this is a novel written for entertainment.

Bradbury in his after-word mentions that no one would print a book that featured book censorship at the time he intended to publish it. And book censorship is certainly one clear theme although not necessarily intended to be the main theme. It just so happened that Fahrenheit 451 was published at a time when such a topic was controversial. I doubt however that we can necessarily read a historical or political motivation as such into the novel more that it so happened to be released at that time.

Curiously also in the after-word Bradbury mentioned that his inspiration came through five other stories he had written. Each of them also focusing on books and encounters with the law. He also mentioned that he was inspired by the burnt library books at Alexandria and the Salem witch trials. Curiously the Salem witch trials were the focus of another personal favourite - the play [The Crucible](#) - which was written at a similar time and used the witch trials to challenge McCarthyism.

Personally what I saw in the novels were various themes and issues being discussed. I saw a tale about scapegoats and about totalitarian control through the media. I felt that Bradbury's story reveals a lesson about humanity. That we seek to throw blame about human evils upon tools like guns and books but in the end they are just tools. I don't perceive any book as possessing inherent evil although I do believe that there may be ideas contained within them which could perhaps be perceived as such or are at their heart morally flawed. In Fahrenheit 451 the society attempted to destroy the tools to remove such perceived ideas and yet ultimately they replaced the ideas in books with flawed thoughts of their own. ([view spoiler](#)).

I highly recommend this novel. Bradbury's prose is beautiful and poignantly lyrical. It's sparse and he uses very few elaborate phrases but he has a way of cobbling phrases and metaphors together to beautiful effect. There are times when the writing appears to be in the manner of stream of consciousness but Bradbury writes it well. In fact while his story is a harrowing and on the whole haunting (and somewhat bleak) portrayal he writes it with care, devotion and artistry.

The tale of how firemen become book burners and how one fireman decides to read the forbidden material will not be easily forgotten by me. And I feel that this is a novel which has well stood the test of time and deserves to be called a classic and read and studied by future ge

nerations.["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>

Mary: *The good writers touch life often. The mediocre ones run a quick hand over her. The bad ones rape her and leave her for the flies.*

Fahrenheit 451 is one of those books I've always heard of but never read. I don't know why, but I always thought this was more of a "boy book"...yes, I give my books genders. Fire, firemen, dystopia, I thought it was going to be a lesser Orwell. But no. No, no. It was a strange and gripping little book and I was pleasantly surprised by just how beautiful the writing was. And haunting. And sad. And horrifying. And lovely.

I adored the atmosphere of this novel, the paranoia, the coldness, the un-real horror. And the utmost homage to literature, the ultimate love letter to books. Books!

There must be something in books, things we can't imagine, to make a woman stay in a burning house; there must be something there. You don't stay for nothing.

There's a line towards the beginning where the protagonist's wife asks, why read books, what for? It reminded me of a boss I had years ago who once said something similar "I don't get why people read books". How does one even begin to respond to that? F451 may be an extreme fantasy of a world gone horribly wrong and overboard, but really, how far off was he? We are surrounded by people who think Dickens is a dirty word and Murakami is a sushi dish. People who worship reality TV, movies with car chases, music created on computers. Our world is already burning with the indifferent and unknowing masses. And this book could have been written yesterday.

So now do you see why books are hated and feared? They show the pores in the face of life. The comfortable people want only wax moon faces, poreless, hairless, expressionless. We are living in a time where flowers are trying to grow on flowers, instead of growing on good rain and black loam.

Thank you to Mark and Scott for creating a Bradbury group and opening my world to his works!

Jason Koivu: Fahrenheit 451 is extra assertion than story. Indeed, if i am not mistaken, it used to be initially only a brief tale that later used to be fleshed out into this slim, virtually novella of a novel. To this reader's eyes it by no means advanced past its brief tale status. No, I by no means may possibly love this. it is too bare. The story, the world, the characters, all are yet limbless bushes stripped in their bark, stark and nonetheless yet for the occasional gust. All of those set items are in position looking ahead to the arriving of the most character. you are going to comprehend him by means of his ultimate scrap of bark. The strength of the tale itself is undeniable, specially touching to the hearts of bookworms. yet as soon as you may have heard it pop, it fizzles away fairly quickly, similar to how in the event you by accident overhear that (view spoiler)[<http://datacore.sciflicks.com/soylent...> (hide spoiler)] you notice that there is now not a lot else within the motion picture to get excited about. that is the case with Fahrenheit 451, a rattling solid brief tale that is long past and bought above itself

lengthwise.["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>

Kerri : I heard that this was once an exceptional book, and that i fairly desired to like it. The identify and the quips at the again conceal stuck my interest. man Montag is a fireman, however the task is flipped. rather than placing out fires, he's growing them, and he likes it a lot. the 1st sentence, "It was once a excitement to burn", and the next description after, had me confident that i'd benefit from the book. not just that, long island occasions professes that the e-book is "frightening in its implications". With all that buildup and this sort of dramatic precis at the back, i used to be hoping that the publication might make me think. possibly it might be a dismal book, morbid, even offensive. It did not convey any of that, yet that isn't the problem; i do not pass judgement on a ebook in keeping with even if it follows my preconceptions. it will possibly were a wonderfully stable e-book with none of that.Maybe the writing variety simply did not go well with me. i used to be hoping that the e-book will be vivid, and one might anticipate ebook with such a lot of descriptions and metaphors will be vivid. Nope, no longer for me. every thing is blurry. the folks suppose one dimensional, except for Montag himself. The meant message feels flat. So, publication censorship is bad, television is bad. What am I imagined to take into consideration it? My actual challenge is that i do not consider something while i used to be examining Fahrenheit 451, other than possibly frustration. such things as a lady burning along with her books may still make me consider whatever like horror or sadness. The publication does not have any impact on me as the metaphors and flowery descriptions are so distracting. part the time i think that they do not give a contribution anything, and my brain immediately skips over them besides a few almost certainly very important material. Then i'm going to try and learn it again, yet not anything is retained aside from bits of flowery fluff. The writing within the whole publication is disjointed and strange, and that are supposed to were fine, simply because this sort of kind has strength for making a disturbing, off feeling; that might healthy a dystopian book. Instead, i believe uncomfortably distanced. Is there anything i'm lacking concerning the book? Is there a few profound message mired in all of the crimson prose? pass forward and take a look at to enlighten me. Who knows, might be i will be confident via a persons argument.

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