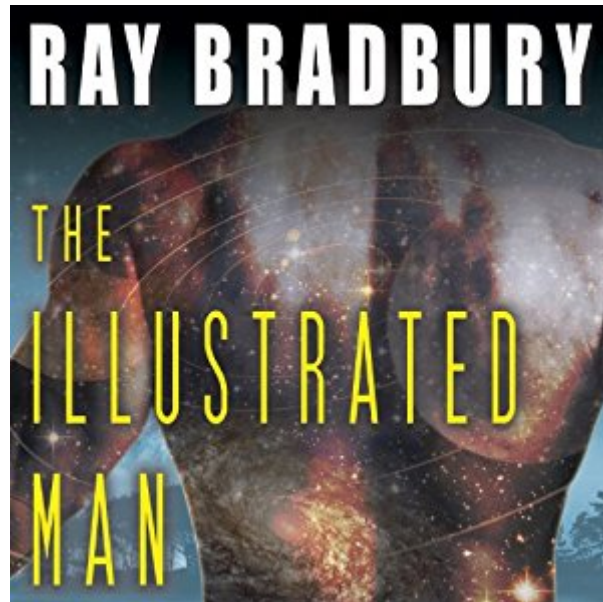




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The Illustrated Man



Synopsis

The Illustrated Man is classic Bradbury - a collection of tales that breathe and move, animated by sharp, intaken breath and flexing muscle. Here are eighteen startling visions as keen as the tattooist's needle and as colorful as the inks that indelibly stain the body. The images, ideas, sounds, and scents that abound in this phantasmagoric sideshow are provocative and powerful: the mournful cries of celestial travelers cast out cruelly into a vast, empty space of stars and blackness; the sight of grey dust settling over a forgotten outpost on a road that leads nowhere; the pungent odor of Jupiter on a returning father's clothing. Here living cities take their vengeance, technology awakens the most primal natural instincts, Martian invasions are foiled by the good life and the glad hand, and dreams are carried aloft in junkyard rockets. Bradbury's The Illustrated Man is a kaleidoscopic blending of magic, imagination, and truth, widely believed to be one of the grandmaster's premier accomplishments: as exhilarating as interplanetary travel, as maddening as a walk in a million-year rain, and as comforting as simple, familiar rituals on the last night of the world. The stories contained in The Illustrated Man are: "Prologue: The Illustrated Man" "The Veldt" "Kaleidoscope" "The Other Foot" "The Highway" "The Man" "The Long Rain" "The Rocket Man" "The Last Night of the World" "The Exiles" "No Particular Night or Morning" "The Fox and the Forest" "The Visitor" "The Concrete Mixer" "Marionettes, Inc." "The City" "Zero Hour" "The Rocket" "The Illustrated Man."

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours and 6 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: August 11, 2010

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B003ZJCCCM

Best Sellers Rank: #8 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science Fiction > Anthologies & Short Stories #78 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Anthologies #438 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories & Anthologies > Short Stories

Customer Reviews

This book was an easy read that left me contemplating at the end of each story. This is compilation of short stories involving the future and all tied together by being written in moving picture form across the flesh of the Illustrated Man. Each story is unique and teaches a lesson about the human spirit - some of these lessons are a brutal reflection of the negative and other stories show that hope can prevail. There were very few happy endings in the stories, but the sad stories still had a great lesson to teach about what lies inside a person. It really was quite intriguing. These stories were written in the late 1940s and early 1950s and it's very interesting that the majority of the stories about the future involved rockets, space travel, and life on other planets. It's funny how the future back then all focused on the discovery of what is out there in space, yet current books about the future more involve the collapse of current social systems and reconstruction of society. Maybe I don't read very much Sci-Fi, but it seems to me that the outlook of the future has changed since the 1950s. I really found this book intriguing. Each and every story left me thinking about something. It was very thought provoking.

One of my favorite authors, Bradbury is like none other. I read this book of short stories in my teens, and find it now, in my middle age years, to be much richer and more poetic than I did then. A must read for any sci-fi fan. Though the references to the 1990's and obvious (though unintended, I'm sure) sexism may cause a cringe or two for some, I suggest reading with an open and discerning mind. These stories are more cautionary tales than prophecy.

Reading the stories is like watching a few hours of the Twilight Zone: a series of mid-century morality plays with uncanny similarities to the real world despite sci-fi settings. Some stories are ironic, some existentially terrifying, some cathartic, and some a little bit weak. Bradbury's way of weaving metaphors and figurative language over several paragraphs even in the midst of a relatively mundane storyline is always satisfying.

Fantastic book! Love the different stories and it's very well written. I've read it many times and love it so much each time I read it. Very interesting story line too.

Great stories. A classic forever. Do not buy the mass-market paperback. It's cheaper, but so small you can hardly hold it.

Though the creative capacity of the author is undeniable, I was left unmoved by the stories and

found them to be somewhat lifeless. I would consider reading more of Bradbury's work but despite this collection rather than because of it.

One of my most favorite books.

One of my favorite books and no matter how many times I read it I never grow tired of it. Such amazing stories and what an incredible imagination.

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