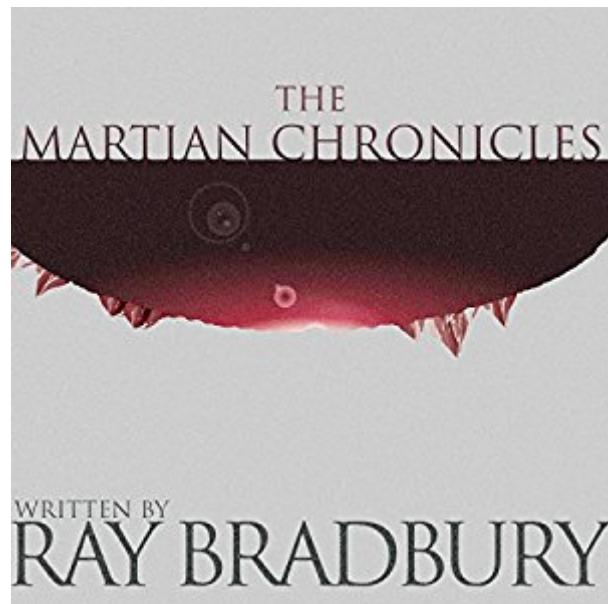


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# The Martian Chronicles



## **Synopsis**

Mars was a distant shore, and the men spread upon it in wave.... Each wave different, and each wave stronger. Ray Bradbury is a storyteller without peer, a poet of the possible, and, indisputably, one of America's most beloved authors. In a much-celebrated literary career that has spanned six decades, he has produced an astonishing body of work: unforgettable novels, including *Fahrenheit 451* and *Something Wicked This Way Comes*; essays, theatrical works, screenplays and teleplays; *The Illustrated Mein*, *Dandelion Wine*, *The October Country*, and numerous other superb short story collections. But of all the dazzling stars in the vast Bradbury universe, none shines more luminous than these masterful chronicles of Earth's settlement of the fourth world from the sun. Bradbury's Mars is a place of hope, dreams, and metaphor - of crystal pillars and fossil seas - where a fine dust settles on the great, empty cities of a silently destroyed civilization. It is here the invaders have come to despoil and commercialize, to grow and to learn - first a trickle, then a torrent, rushing from a world with no future toward a promise of tomorrow. The Earthman conquers Mars...and then is conquered by it, lulled by dangerous lies of comfort and familiarity, and enchanted by the lingering glamour of an ancient, mysterious native race. Ray Bradbury's *The Martian Chronicles* is a classic work of 20th-century literature whose extraordinary power and imagination remain undimmed by time's passage. In connected, chronological stories, a true grandmaster once again entralls, delights, and challenges us with his vision and his heart - starkly and stunningly exposing in brilliant spacelight our strength, our weakness, our folly, and our poignant humanity on a strange and breathtaking world where humanity does not belong.

## **Book Information**

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 7 hoursÂ andÂ 43 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: October 21, 2014

Language: English

ASIN: B00M4KS35S

Best Sellers Rank: #6 inÂ Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science Fiction > Anthologies & Short Stories #67 inÂ Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Anthologies #203 inÂ Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Classics

## Customer Reviews

This book has been extensively altered from the original and classic Martian Chronicles. All of the dates Bradbury used in the chapter headings have been changed, rendering the Cold War/Atomic Age context of the book meaningless. One of the most important chapters "Way in the Middle of the Air", which establishes the violence and hatred endemic in the American culture which invades Mars has been completely removed from the book. An additional, inferior chapter, "The Fire Balloons" which was never part of the original book, has been put in its place. Don't buy this re-hash, find an older version and buy that. UPDATE: January, 2017 I have let this warning stand for 4 years, but it is no longer accurate. There are (apart from used books) three versions of The Martian Chronicles on this page: the Kindle, the hardcover and the trade paperback. I have looked at the table of contents of each. The Kindle version is a censored version with altered dates, Way in the Middle of the Air missing and The Fire Balloons added. Apparently this Kindle version is no longer available, I cannot verify that, but I hope it is true. The hardcover version also is a censored version with altered dates, Way in the Middle of the Air missing and The Fire Balloons added. The mass-market paperback, however, I am delighted to say is a better edition, with the original dates restored, and the original chapters that the 1958 version, and all subsequent versions up to 1998, had. Thank you, Simon and Shuster, for responding to reader outrage and restoring what never should have been altered. And thanks to the book-buying and reading public for demanding that a book widely touted by its sellers as "a classic" be, in fact, a classic. By the way, there is nothing wrong with Bradbury's story "The Fire Balloons", it's just not part of The Martian Chronicles, it's part of The Illustrated Man, look for it there.

I love The Martian Chronicles by Ray Bradbury. It's a Five Star book however due to censorship I give it a one star. It has great short stories and make you think about things, especially for the time period it was written. It's a quick and easy read. With that said, my issue with this version is the publishers have censored it taking out one of the chapters due to racism, usage of the "N" word. I'm very much against book censorship and would want them to update it to leave the book to its original intent or for the readers not get this version. Please look for the book in its intentional form.

Ray Bradbury had a story in my fifth grade and sixth grade English textbooks. I enjoyed them and wanted to read more. I discovered The Martian Chronicles in the school library and I loved it. It was with some trepidation that I decided to re-read this book. Would it hold up to my memories? Yes, but in different ways. Yes, there were technological anachronisms, such as typewriters. What was

timeless were the people. There are explorations of what it means to be "them." First humans are the "them" to be feared and dealt with by the Martians. Then there is the "them" of the Martians. Even the humans divide into "us" and "them" at points. And there is the final story where the concept of "us" and "them" sees blurring. Bradbury also explores the links between science, religion, and art. He looks at censorship and the killing of dreams. There are so many timeless themes in this book. I believe if you consider yourself culturally literate, you should read this classic book. If you enjoy thoughtful fiction with philosophical implications, then you'll enjoy this book. If you read science fiction and haven't read this book, then you should pick it up next to see the roots of the stories today.

The Martian Chronicles is a must read for anyone interested in simple, expressive prose as the vehicle for powerful parables. The storytelling, absent the color or preference that narrators often use to identify the hero or heroine, makes the reader a spectator free to apply his own bias to his interpretation. As applicable now as when it was first written, it is science-fiction at its best, and most frightening, because it lays bare so easily the repetitive nature of mankind's use of its strengths and considerable weaknesses and our failure to learn from our mistakes.

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