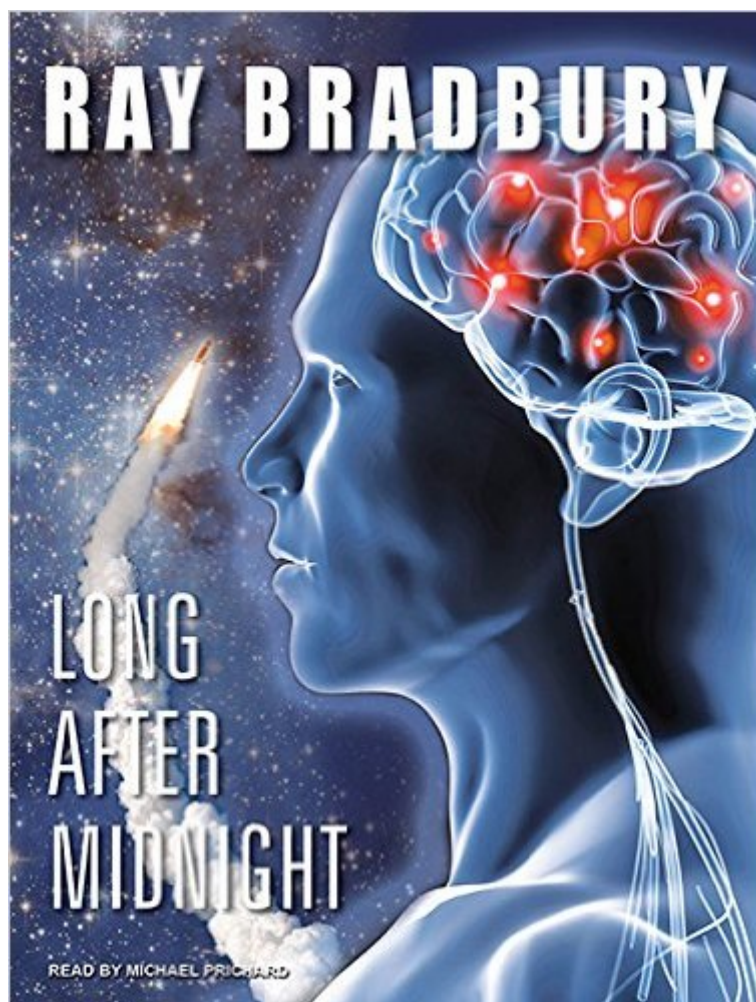


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Long After Midnight



Synopsis

Two drifters caught in the backwash of space wander from city to dead city, sifting the rubble for the fabled Blue Bottle of Mars-and find in it two different, equally entrancing, dooms... A young boy in Green Town, Illinois, does not marry-yet marries-his beloved eighth-grade teacher... In the hell of a Manhattan July night, Will Morgan is offered a possibly Mephistophelean proposal by which he might gain a perfect love and a magical immunity... A jealous husband who orders an exact replica of his unfaithful wife from an android manufacturing company (purpose: murder) runs afoul of the compassionate new "live robot" law... At forty-eight, seized with an overwhelming desire to settle an old score, a man journeys back into the past under the spell of his "utterly perfect, incredibly delightful idea," only to recoil in stunned disbelief when he confronts, at last, his former tormentor... Bradbury's imaginative field is boundless. In this book, his stories carry us from the cozy familiarity of the small-town America we lived in in *Dandelion Wine* to the frozen desert and double moon that have been part of our interior landscape since *The Martian Chronicles*. His characters range from the "ordinary"-a rookie cop, an unhappy wife on vacation in Mexico, an old parish priest hearing confession-to the quite extraordinary: the parrot to whom Ernest Hemingway confided the plot of his last, greatest, never-put-down-on-paper novel, and a woman who, in New York City in the summer of 1974, hangs out a sign reading "Melissa Toad, Witch." Fantastic or conventional, chillingly suspenseful or hauntingly nostalgic, each of these stories has that aura of the unexpected combined with the special ring of absolute rightness that is brilliantly, uniquely Bradbury. Track List for Long After Midnight: Disc 1 "The Blue Bottle"-Track 1 "One Timeless Spring"-Track 10 "The Parrot Who Met Papa"-Track 16 Disc 2 "The Burning Man"-Track 2 "A Piece of Wood"-Track 9 "The Messiah"-Track 13 "G.B.S.-Mark V"-Track 21 Disc 3 "The Utterly Perfect Murder"-Track 3 "Punishment Without Crime"-Track 11 "Getting Through Sunday Somehow"-Track 19 Disc 4 "Drink Entire: Against the Madness of Crowds"-Track 1 "Interval in Sunlight"-Track 11 Disc 5 "A Story of Love"-Track 9 "The Wish"-Track 17 Disc 6 "Forever and the Earth"-Track 2 "The Better Part of Wisdom"-Track 17 Disc 7 "Darling Adolf"-Track 4 "The Miracles of Jamie"-Track 17 Disc 8 "The October Game"-Track 1 "The Pumpnickel"-Track 8 "Long After Midnight"-Track 11 "Have I Got a Chocolate Bar for You!"-Track 16

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Customer Reviews

Recovering from one or two monotonous bores, "Long After Midnight" is an excellent collection of the best of Bradbury. It offers a wide variety of appeals to all audiences and all of the stories are gripping to the point that you feel like it is taking over your life and making it a part of the story. Some of the stories have such paranormality that they could easily be the storyline for an X-Files episode. Yet some are so ordinary and monotonous that it almost seems that it was an ordinary work of literature. But none of the stories in "Long After Midnight" are ordinary. All of them are written with such painstaking detail which make them spectacular. Being as it is "Long After Midnight" is a must read for almost all readers today

I thoroughly enjoyed these short stories. They're the perfect length, each about 10 to 15 pages, just enough to build up the story and knock it over with a classic Bradbury twist. My favorite stories for far are "The Burning Man", which asks the reader to reexamine his or her own prejudices in the setting of a typical lone road hitchhiker horror story, and "The Perfect Murder" which shows that time is the ultimate judge and jury.

I must preface this review by stating that I have not read this edition but the original paperback Bantam publication from 1976. Assuming that the contents are the same, I will proceed thusly. . This collection of 22 short pieces might prove something of a puzzle for anybody picking it up based on Bradbury's reputation as a science fiction writer. To be sure, there are stories here that fit neatly into that genre due to subject matter (robots, time travel) or setting (Mars) but Bradbury is really not a science fiction writer so much as a storyteller. This is a distinction that seems to be much more clear today than it was back in 1976 when Bradbury seemed to be stuck with the Sci-Fi type despite stories such as those found in "Long After Midnight", which are closer to literary than

genre fiction even when employing science fiction devices. Perhaps a good example of the latter would be "The Messiah". This story simply yet profoundly examines the nature of religious faith via the characters of a missionary priest on Mars and a telepathic, shape changing Martian. Other pieces defy any easy classification and stand alone as simple revelations of the human condition and the mysteries of life. "Getting Through Sunday Somehow" is such a one. Bradbury's gift for poetic nostalgia is used to brilliant effect here as an American writer in Dublin, facing a gray wall of ennui, is transformed and made aware of his blessings through a bar room philosopher and a street side harp player. Bradbury, with his seemingly boundless imagination and gift for transcribing the visions of that imagination, is a treasure and these stories are literary jewels shining dark and light.

Don't have this collection of Ray Bradbury in your library??? Oh my, what you are missing. Each & every story in this book takes you somewhere interesting. I suggest reading, then digesting the story before moving onto the next. You will be sure to want more & more of Ray Bradbury, also the author of "Something Wicked This Way Comes" that was made into a wonderful movie.

Ray Bradbury's classic collection, Long After Midnight, gets a special treatment from PS Publishing. Long After Midnight is a well-known collection to Bradbury fans (and other readers), because it was first published in 1976. It was nominated for a World Fantasy Award. I think it's great that PS Publishing has decided to publish it again, because this edition contains beautiful black and white drawings. I'm sure that they'll please Bradbury fans. This edition contains an introduction by Ramsey Campbell and the following stories:- The Blue Bottle- One Timeless Spring- The Parrot Who Met Papa- The Burning Man- A Piece of Wood- The Messiah- G.B.S.--Mark V- The Utterly Perfect Murder- Punishment Without Crime- Getting Through Sunday Somehow- Drink Entire: Against The Madness of Crowds- Interval in Sunlight- A Story of Love- The Wish- Forever and the Earth- The Better Part of Wisdom- Darling Adolf- The Miracles of Jamie- The October Game- The Pumpnickel- Long After Midnight- Have I Got a Chocolate Bar for You- I Rocket (previously unreleased material, only in the deluxe edition)The cover art (The Witches' Sabbath by Francisco de Goya) looks very good. It's a beautiful painting. Long After Midnight is an excellent collection of Ray Bradbury's stories. He's a storyteller, who entertains his readers with different kind of stories. In my opinion this collection contains many of his best stories. I think it could be said that Long After Midnight is like a treasure trove of different kind of literary pearls. If you're a Bradbury fan, you'll love this illustrated collection. If you haven't read Bradbury, but you're thinking of reading his novels and stories, this collection is a good place to start, because these stories are interesting.

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