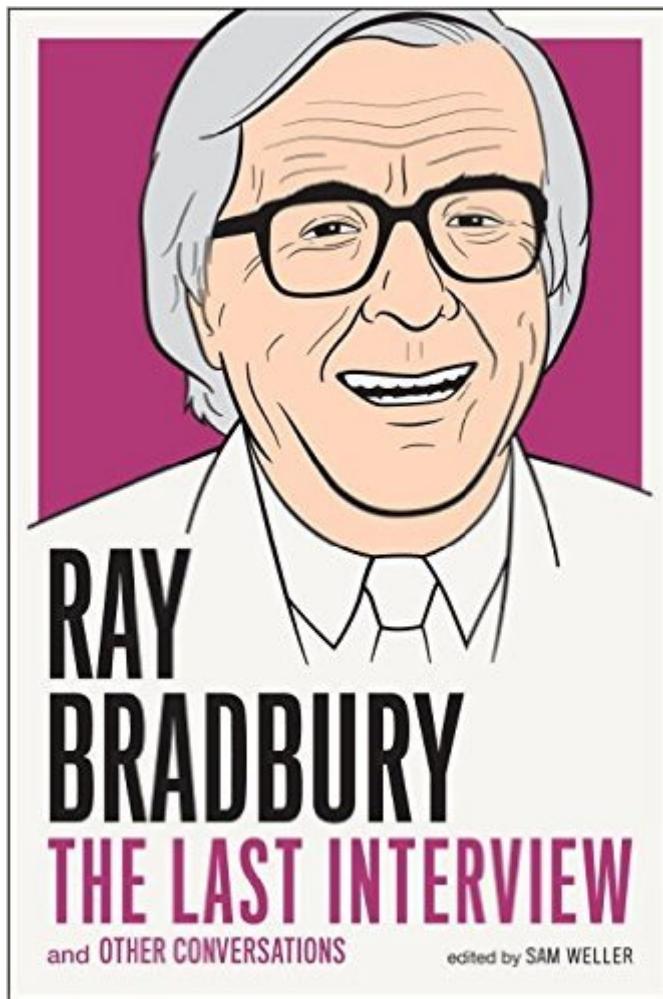


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Ray Bradbury: The Last Interview: And Other Conversations (The Last Interview Series)



Synopsis

Ray Bradbury was long the most influential sci-fi writer in the world, the poetic and visionary author of such classics as *Fahrenheit 451*, *The Martian Chronicles*, and *The Illustrated Man*. But he also lived a fascinating life outside the parameters of sci-fi, and was a masterful raconteur of his own story, as he reveals in his wide-ranging and in-depth final interview with his acclaimed biographer, Sam Weller. After moving to Los Angeles, he became an inveterate fanboy of movie stars, spending hours waiting at studio gates to get autographs. He would later get to know many of Hollywood's most powerful figures when he became a major screenwriter, and he details here what it was like to work for legendary directors such as John Huston and Alfred Hitchcock. And then there are all the celebrities—from heads of state like Mikhail Gorbachev to rock stars like David Bowie and the members of Kiss—who went out of their way to arrange encounters with Bradbury. But throughout that last talk, as well as the interviews collected here from earlier in his career, Bradbury constantly twists the elements of his life into a discussion of the influences and creative processes behind his remarkable developments and inventions for the literary form he mastered. Mixed with cheerful gossiping about his travels and the characters of his life, it makes for a rich reading experience and a revealing collection of interviews.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ray Bradbury: The Last Interview, edited by Sam Weller, is a bit of a misnomer. It's actually several interviews, conducted over the last two years of Bradbury's life, plus a handful of rough

essays dictated by Bradbury to Weller, his long-time biographer. Despite this, the book is relatively slim, coming in at about 90 pages, with a lot of white space. This is not meant, though, to be an in-depth look at (or listen to) Bradbury; for that you'll want to turn to other sources, including Weller's *The Bradbury Chronicles* and *The Bradbury Interviews*. This is just a chance to hear the near-final words of a true legend, and that alone makes it worth your time I'd say. Along with the relatively small amount of material, there is also some repetition of well-known stories. So those well versed in Bradbury's history will recognize Bradbury's references to seeing a Mr. Electro at a carnival (appearing in *Something Wicked This Way Comes*) when he was a child, or to working on the script of *Moby Dick*. But as Weller says in his introduction, he did try to limit such repetition, so the familiar references are present, but not at any great length. Unfortunately, because some of the interviews are public ones, where Bradbury took questions from the audience, some questions are not particularly probing or substantive, and the same could be said about some of Bradbury's responses. That all said, there were several moments that either informed, tickled, enthralled, or moved me (sometimes simultaneously). For instance, I'd somehow missed or had forgotten that the folks at NASA had let Bradbury drive the Mars Rover for a while.

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