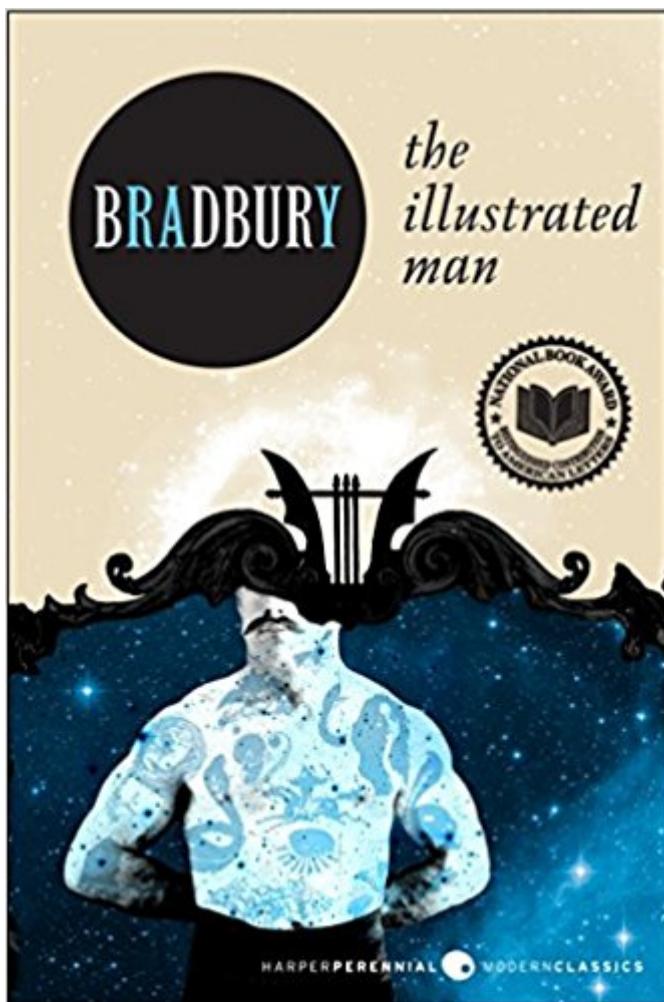


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# The Illustrated Man (Harper Perennial Modern Classics)



## Synopsis

“Sometimes at night I can feel them, the pictures, likeants, crawling on my skin. Then I know they’re doing what they have to do.” Fantasy master Ray Bradbury weaves a narrative spanning from the depths of humankind’s fears to the summit of their achievements in eighteen interconnected stories—visions of the future tattooed onto the body of an enigmatic traveler—in *The Illustrated Man*, one of the essential classics of speculative fiction from the author of *The Martian Chronicles*, *Dandelion Wine*, and *The October Country*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

That *The Illustrated Man* has remained in print since being published in 1951 is fair testimony to the universal appeal of Ray Bradbury’s work. Only his second collection (the first was *Dark Carnival*, later reworked into *The October Country*), it is a marvelous, if mostly dark, quilt of science fiction, fantasy, and horror. In an ingenious framework to open and close the book, Bradbury presents himself as a nameless narrator who meets the Illustrated Man—a wanderer whose entire body is a living canvas of exotic tattoos. What’s even more remarkable, and increasingly disturbing, is that the illustrations are themselves magically alive, and each proceeds to unfold its own story, such as “The Veldt,” wherein rowdy children take a game of virtual reality way over the edge. Or “Kaleidoscope,” a heartbreakingly beautiful portrait of stranded astronauts about to reenter our atmosphere--without the benefit

of a spaceship. Or "Zero Hour," in which invading aliens have discovered a most logical ally--our own children. Even though most were written in the 1940s and 1950s, these 18 classic stories will be just as chillingly effective 50 years from now. --Stanley Wiater --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 7 Up-Paul Hecht's calm, assured voice narrates this classic science fiction anthology by Ray Bradbury that brings to life the social and political fears prevalent in post World War II America, when they were first published. The unnamed narrator in the introduction watches the Illustrated Man's tattoos come to life presenting the 19 short stories. Resonant with authority, Hecht's voice presents rocket men in difficult circumstances, and yet he is able to be detached from their impending deaths. This is contrasted with the gentle tones of devotion of religious clerics. His speech presents a full variety of techniques. He changes pitch for the women characters, and modulates volume and speed to depict the full spectrum of emotions. Efficient production so that most stories are completed on a single side of a tape will enable teachers to locate easily a desired story for class presentation. Only a few of the shortest stories are two on a side. The wicked, colorful tattoos make a very eye-catching cover. A must for sci-fi fans!-Claudia Moore, W.T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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 gours 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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