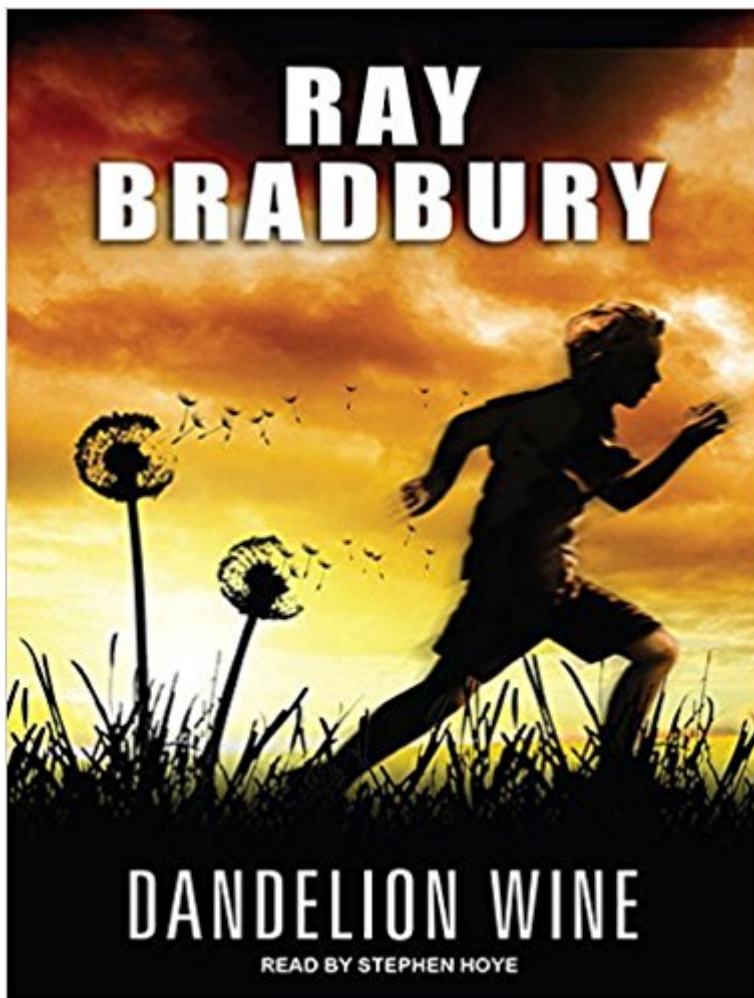


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# Dandelion Wine



## Synopsis

Ray Bradbury's moving recollection of a vanished golden era remains one of his most enchanting novels. *Dandelion Wine* stands out in the Bradbury literary canon as the author's most deeply personal work, a semi-autobiographical recollection of a magical small-town summer in 1928. Twelve-year-old Douglas Spaulding knows Green Town, Illinois, is as vast and deep as the whole wide world that lies beyond the city limits. It is a pair of brand-new tennis shoes, the first harvest of dandelions for Grandfather's renowned intoxicant, the distant clang of the trolley's bell on a hazy afternoon, It is yesteryear and tomorrow blended into an unforgettable always. But as young Douglas is about to discover, summer can be more than the repetition of established rituals whose mystical power holds time at bay. It can be a best friend moving away, a human time machine who can transport you back to the Civil War, or a sideshow automaton able to glimpse the bittersweet future. Come and savor Bradbury's priceless distillation of all that is eternal about boyhood and summer.

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Tantor Audio; Unabridged CD edition (December 2, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1400118239

ISBN-13: 978-1400118236

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.1 x 5.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 599 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,279,126 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \( B \) > Bradbury, Ray](#) #2828 in [Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction](#) #3352 in [Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy](#)

## Customer Reviews

World-renowned fantasist Ray Bradbury has on several occasions stepped outside the arenas of horror, fantasy, and science fiction. An unabashed romantic, his first novel in 1957 was basically a love letter to his childhood. (For those who want to undertake an even more evocative look at the dark side of youth, five years later the author would write the chilling classic *Something Wicked This Way Comes*.) *Dandelion Wine* takes us into the summer of 1928, and to all the wondrous and magical events in the life of a 12-year-old Midwestern boy named Douglas Spaulding. This tender,

openly affectionate story of a young man's voyage of discovery is certainly more mainstream than exotic. No walking dead or spaceships to Mars here. Yet those who wish to experience the unique magic of early Bradbury as a prose stylist should find *Dandelion Wine* most refreshing. --Stanley Wiater --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This 1957 gem is the latest in Avon's ongoing series of Bradbury reprints. This sweet little hardcover features the full text of the novel—the story of one magical summer in the life of 12-year-old Douglas Spaulding—along with an introduction by the author. Without flash or best-sellerdom, Bradbury has emerged as one of this country's great writers, and libraries lacking a quality hardcover of his beloved novel should jump on this. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ray Bradbury is usually one of my October go-to writers. To sit by an open window on an autumn evening reading *Something Wicked This Way Comes* is to experience a literary overdose; a sensory explosion of leaves, skies, and enchantment. Prior to reading *Dandelion Wine*, I had no idea Bradbury could weave this sort of magic during the hot, stifling summer months. Reading *Dandelion Wine* was not so much about reading about the impressions one hot summer left on a sensitive, young Illinois boy, but more about reliving the experiences and impacts hot Virginia summers left on young Terry Ferrell. The further I read into the novel, the less I saw of the excitable Douglas Spaulding. Instead, I saw 12 year old me running through the pages with blades of freshly mowed grass sticking to wet toes, while finding magic in every branch and twig in the little woods beside the house. Douglas's grandfather transformed into my grandfather, taking me on rides on the back of his tractor to feed the cows and collect the hens' eggs. Douglas's summer traditions and memories became my own recollections. From a traditional reader's standpoint, this is a wonderful novel and one that should be added to your summer reading list. I'll even go far enough and suggest this novel deserves a place on the shelf right beside *The Cather in the Rye* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and maybe even more deservedly so. Bradbury constructs passages and events that make all of us feel like a twelve year old boy in the summer of 1928. It is this ingenious construction and combination of syntax, symbols, and senses that the novel almost warps from a novel into a carefully and intricately laid map of suggestions guaranteed to lead the reader back to their lost and maybe slightly forgotten summers of youthful magic. Upon reading the very last sentence of this novel, I had tears in my eyes. The type of tears that are little bittersweet, wet flecks of crystal, maybe chipped from a hot July ice block, that come from when you are reunited with someone you

have not seen for years and are then forced to say goodbye again all too soon. Like the first day of a new school year, the goodbye you thought you had an endless summer to put off saying comes quicker than you ever thought possible. But, in the end, you are glad you had chance, no matter how short.

Wasn't sure what to expect with this book, but it felt like a lazy afternoon while I sat in my hammock, and drank lemonade whenever I got thirsty. I purchased the audible, and enjoyed it. Nice stories about a small town, and the people who lived there, told through the eyes of a young boy who is at that awareness level that he is somebody, and not just a child. Bradbury wrote this so well, it just kept me in that great soothing mindset that we all attribute to summer reading. But, it truly was much more than that for me. I spent most of my summers in a small town, and of course, this book re-envisioned that setting for me all over again. Plan to also purchase the paper copy.

This is a very good book by Ray Bradbury, about a boy's vision of the summer in a small town in the US. It is not scifi and not even a novel per se, just a collection of memories of different occurrences as seen by a little boy. Most of the chapters are short stories themselves, and could be read separately. Bradbury masters the ability to bring the reader into his world and memories.

The glories of summer for a young boy in a small town in the middle of the last century, told in short stories. Well-written in sort of Norman-Rockwell-like settings. However, buried in the middle of the book there is one gem of a story, focused on the boy's friend, a local newspaper reporter who becomes fascinated by a VERY interesting older lady in the town, that stands by itself as possibly one of the best short stories in American Literature: an astoundingly well-written gem!

This is my 7th or 8th copy of *Dandelion Wine*. My favorite book of all time. Leads you through the lives of two boys, Tom and Douglas, and their adventures, as well as the ones of the colorful characters in their northern Illinois town. Ray Bradbury weaves the story within your imagination, touching upon fun summertime memories we all have as kids, such as childhood friends, the smell of freshly cut grass, the enigma of old people (when you're 12 everyone older than 18 is old), new sneakers that seem to have super powers, and so much more!

Classic Bradbury - somewhat in the lyric mode of "The Martian Chronicles", but set on earth during a long-ago summer. Dandelions are made into wine to keep the beauty and sunshine of summer

around for use during the winter. The Happiness Machine exists here as well as scarier things. Remember the feel of brand new sneakers after a winter of heavy brogans. This book brings nostalgia for a time that may or may not have existed in your life. I prescribe this to be read during a winter blizzard, wrapped in a cosy blanket, drinking hot tea or cocoa.

A boy on the cusp of manhood searches for the meaning of life in a small town in 1928. The words flow like honey from the mind of Ray Bradbury and lead you into that boy's mind. The stories are as intoxicating as Dandelion wine and will satisfy your thirst for entertainment all the way to the end of the book.

The format of this edition is WONDERFUL! The size makes it so easy to hold- the paper quality is the best, print type great! I bought all Bradbury titles that were available. Ray Bradbury is America's premier 20th century sci-fi writer- however he best writes of the inner workings of humankind. Dandelion Wine gives the reader a glimpse of Bradbury's later works. This book is the quintessential summer read- he perfectly captures the freedom that being young in summertime brings. This coming of age book presents the gamut of emotions that human's possess and the age that this is discovered. The relationship between Douglas and Tom is a perfect piece of growing up as brothers as they encounter the world of small town America, Greentown, in the freedom of summer.

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