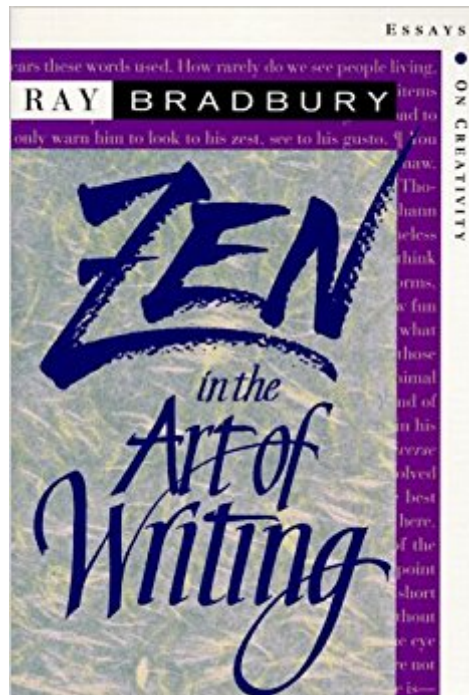


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Zen In The Art Of Writing: Essays On Creativity



Synopsis

"Bradbury, all charged up, drunk on life, joyous with writing, puts together nine past essays on writing and creativity and discharges every ounce of zest and gusto in him."--Kirkus Reviews
"Zen and the Art of Writing is purely and simply Bradbury's love song to his craft."--Los Angeles Times

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ray Bradbury is my favorite author. He is a true American treasure that not enough people know about. Most people only know him from Fahrenheit 451: A Novel, but there is so much more to read in Ray Bradbury's world. Try reading The Illustrated Man, Something Wicked This Way Comes, The Martian Chronicles, I Sing the Body Electric: And Other Stories, Dandelion Wine (Grand Master Editions), and one of my favorites, Bradbury Stories: 100 of His Most Celebrated Tales. If you ever need to be inspired in your writing, read this book. He will draw the passion of writing out of you, remind you why we do what we do, and slowly build you a blueprint on how to do it daily. I highly commend this book for any writer and any level.

The essays in this book are, and Ray Bradbury admits this, written from the perspective of a person who MUST write: "I have learned, on my journeys, that if I let a day go by without writing, I grow uneasy." All eleven essays were previously published, over the 30 years prior to the collection's original 1994 publication. There is a little bit of repetition in the stories because of that, but not

enough to be annoying. The essays are, for the most part, rah-rah, get your imagination out cheerleading. Bradbury writes in direct sentences, with lots of energy and plenty of exclamation points. An important lesson is to take your experiences, especially your fears, and use them in your creations. He gives many examples of how this worked in his own writing. I found the most interesting tip in the final essay (the last chapter is poetry): "Remember: PLOT is no more than footprints left in the snow AFTER your characters have run by on their way to incredible destinations. PLOT is observed after the fact rather than before. It cannot precede action. It is the chart that remains when an action is through." I think plot and action and characters are more of a balancing act, but I understand what he's saying and it's something to keep in mind. I have to admit, though, that I thought "The Martian Chronicles" could have used a lot more PLOT. Overall, I liked Stephen King's *On Writing: 10th Anniversary Edition: A Memoir of the Craft* a bit better, but the first part of King's book is a biography which, though interesting, isn't about writing. For me, "Zen in the Art of Writing" is 3.6 stars rounded up to 4. Happy Reader

Bradbury has always been a mystery to me--his ability to write so well so fast while entertaining and making us think--and I've wanted to know more about his approach to writing. It's here, and it's different, and it's whipped my head around to see the craft in a different light. I'm positive I read this a long time ago and thought, Oh everything in it is somewhere buried in my mind. Perhaps I have, but I was different then and didn't realize what a gem of a book it is. There are no strict formulas in this book, which I appreciate, but many lights in the dark that help lead the way. Anyone with a curiosity about Bradbury's thinking or the craft of writing should find this as enjoyable as I did.

I don't know of any other writer whose work influenced me to want to be a writer more than Ray Bradbury. It wasn't just his amazing imagination and his ability to transport you into his fantastic worlds, but also his love of humanity, and his excitement for life. You could always tell he put his heart and soul into everything he wrote. This book is a treasure for Bradbury fans, as it basically gives a behind-the-scenes look at this most talented man. I had the great pleasure of hearing him speak in person twice in my life, and each time, I couldn't wait to hurry home to write something. This book will be an inspiration to any fan of Bradbury's work, and is highly recommended for any writer wishing to improve upon their craft.

This book is a good read for writers of any genre (including non-fiction). I wish I had found this book earlier in my life. Bradbury uses a series of lectures to talk about finding your voice, self-confidence,

and "zest" for writing. I'll admit I am a graduate student and when I need encouragement to go finish that paper for publication, I turn to this book and read a chapter -- any chapter -- for inspiration. All that being said, why on Earth would I give this 4/5 stars? Because if you're looking for a guide on writing, this is really not it. View this book as a TED talk, and it's totally worth 5 stars. If you're looking for advice on how to polish your writing, you may want to consider something else. In a nutshell, I'm not sure this book is as universally relatable as a more basic style guide is but it's an excellent addition to your bookshelf -- especially if you need an inspirational boost.

I'd heard of RB and even held a few of his books in hand a time or two, but never read them. This book, which I originally checked out of the library is right down my alley in that it's a personal statement about writing by an accomplished writer! Can't get much better than that, into the inner processes of their outlook and motivations. As with a few books a year that I have checked out, some are worth it to me to own, this book is one of them as his philosophy and cheerfulness will brighten your day and give you not only motivation to write but a purpose and mission to write as well!

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