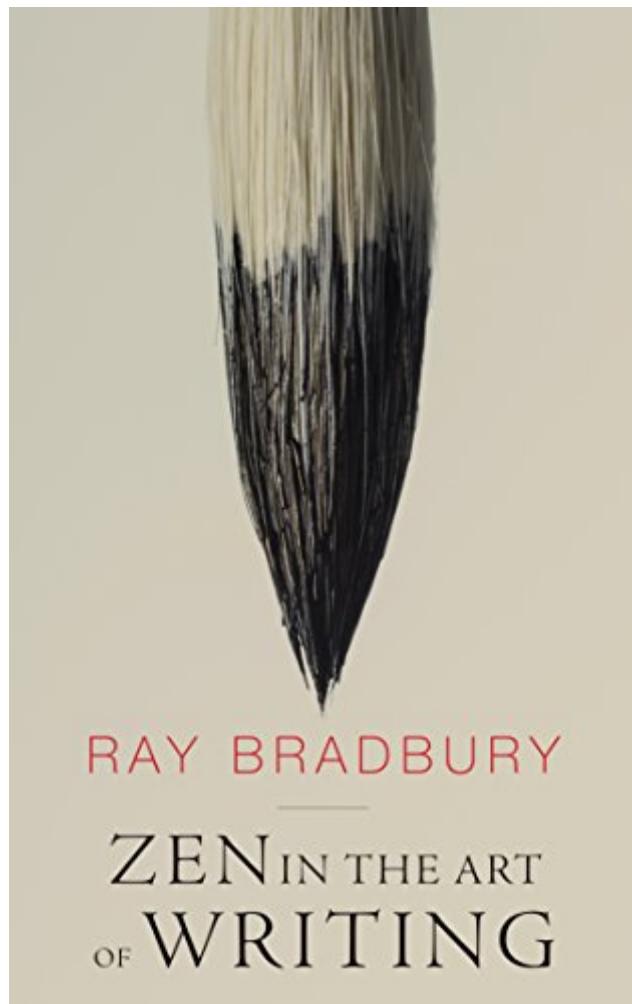


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Zen In The Art Of Writing



Synopsis

Ray Bradbury presents *Zen in the Art of Writing*, a collection from one of the most legendary voices in science fiction and fantasy on how his unbridled passion for creating worlds of infinite impossibilities made him a master of the craft. Part memoir, part philosophical guide, the essays in this book teach the joy of writing. Rather than focusing on the mechanics of putting words on paper, Bradbury's zen is found in the celebration of storytelling that drove him to write every day. Imparting lessons he has learned over the course of his exuberant career, Bradbury inspires with his infectious enthusiasm. Bringing together eleven essays and a series of poems written with his own unique style and fervor, *Zen in the Art of Writing* is a must read for all prospective writers and Bradbury fans.

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Customer Reviews

Ray Bradbury's book is actually a collection of previously published essays, pulled together under one roof. Some of the essays were originally book intros while others were published in other books or magazines. I purchased the book without reading the advertising blurb, seeking to learn

secrets from one of my favorite authors. Alas, one of the most prolific and descriptive writers is extremely mundane in his advice to aspiring writers. In short, WORK, RELAXATION, DON'T THINK (caps are Mr. Bradbury's). Obviously, work is the operative word here, and if you haven't already been writing on a regular basis, he suggests one to two thousand words a day, every day, for the next twenty years. Have an initial goal of one short story a week, fifty-two a year. What does Mr. Bradbury believe this will bring about? I believe that eventually quantity will make for quality. So if the book is not a teaching manual, why should one purchase it? Fans of Ray Bradbury will enjoy the intuitive methods he used to create his stories and books. It was interesting to see how everyday events could produce a spark that he would turn into something wonderful. Writers reading between the lines will learn that each writer must discover his own road to creativity. Mr. Bradbury can point in the right direction, but it is each prospective author's duty to forge his or her own way. Along the way, the author shares with us his experiences as he worked his way into becoming a writer as well as the people who helped and shared and celebrated those success with him. Very enjoyable read. Five stars.

This lyrical and prosaic collection of essays and poetry has so many gems. Not just snippets that capture the imagination, but actionable advice and a clear look inside the mind of a truly talented man.

I've always enjoyed Ray Bradbury's writing. This book explores the creative process. It mainly deals with literature, but could apply to any writing.

I heard about this book from Stephen King "On Writing". The King had so high praises and it didn't disappoint. This is a great starter book for anyone who is looking to unlock their minds to the world of Writing!!!

Ray Bradbury was one of my earliest writer heroes. I read a lot of his work when I was a teenager and young man. Along with Asimov, Clarke, Aldiss, Heinlein and Wyndham he was one of the authors who created my love of science fiction. I hadn't come across this collection of essays aimed at other writers in the genre until a couple of weeks ago, when I happened on a post on the blog, Books: Publishing, Reading, Writing, about the blogger's rereading of Zen in the Art of Writing. I was at once inspired to buy a copy. More importantly, as a writer, I was inspired to read it. Ray Bradbury's work is poetic, exciting, evocative,

enthralling. So I assumed his ideas on writing would be as rewarding, and I was right. The book consists of a series of dated essays that recount his experiences, influences, motivations and encounters as a writer. You will not find advice on technique or marketing, language or grammar, story structure or characterisation in these pages, although some of these topics are tangentially referred to along the way. This is a book about what it is to be a writer, what drives that urge to put words on paper, what matters to the author. I've been writing fiction in various forms for more years than I care to consider. Without knowing it, I've approached my writing in the same way that Ray Bradbury approached his, except I lacked the luck to be writing in America at the time he started. It was the golden age of science fiction, when the reading public suddenly began to understand that science fiction, far from being a genre for kids who liked comic books, was and is actually a field full of ideas, questions and possible solutions. I was interested to note that Ray advises his readers of this book to acquire a copy of another of my favourite writing books; *Becoming a Writer* by Dorothea Brande. Along with the more recent work by Stephen King, *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*, these are the only books I urge would-be authors to read before they attempt their first work. Reading this book has re-ignited my early enthusiasm for writing. Not that I ever lost the urge, but that, over the years, the motivation can dim a little. Ray's words of wisdom, written in his effortlessly poetic style, empower authors with his idea that the prime emotion you should feel when writing is excitement. If you feel this, the reader will be infected with the same exhilaration. And, it's true. The emotional state of the writer seeps onto the page, no matter what the scene describes, how the character feels. It is the writer's state of mind that creeps into the mind of the reader. That's why honesty is fundamental to good fiction. Any attempt to dupe the reader with an author's false feelings will seep onto the page and undo that effort. I'm so pleased I came across this book. I wish I'd read it earlier. It's good to know that, instinctively, I've been following Ray Bradbury's advice and suggestions for much of my writing life, but reading this book has inspired me to renew my approach to the work of the author, to make sure I enjoy the work and pass on my enthusiasm to my readers. Thank you Ray Bradbury. I'll now revisit your back catalogue and find the works of yours I didn't read as a young man and see how many I can read now that I'm older.

This is a skeleton crew of essays, biopic of Bradbury's paramount experience in writing. Quote the PInk - all you have to do is change everything you are. You'll find no system or lifehacks here. Only poetry and inspiration.

This book reminds me of another book that I enjoyed. That being "On Writing" by Stephen King. It's sort of funny. When I first read "On Writing" I knew nothing of Stephen King's writing, I had not yet read any of it. It was a strange thing to read an author's book on writing without ever having read any of that author's actual writing. Be that as it may, I really enjoyed it. And now I've done it again. This is, strangely enough, my first Ray Bradbury book. As was the case with King's book however, it didn't detract from the experience. You can sense from this book Bradbury's passion behind his writing, just as you could King's. This is a man who has spent his lifetime writing because it's what he loves to do. So naturally he has written a book about that writing. I have a feeling that, just like King, this little book will propel me forward into Bradbury's writing and that I have some wonderful future-experiences ahead of me.

I recommend this book for writers as well as fans of Bradbury. Not only do we get to read about Bradbury's process and inspiration, but we get some good advice along the way. I have found Bradbury's writing accessible since I first read him in high school. He can tell us some pretty complex messages in easy to understand ways.

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