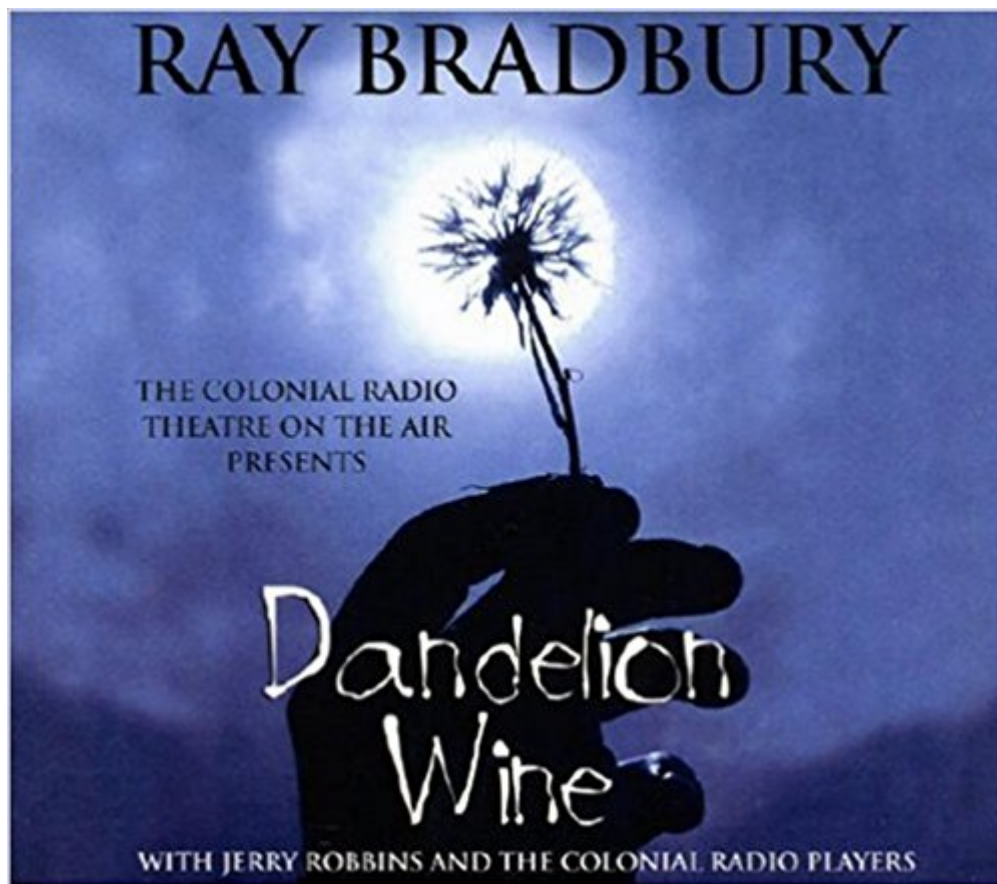




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Dandelion Wine (The Colonial Radio Theatre On The Air - Full Cast Dramatization)



Synopsis

Winner of the Gold Ogle Award for Best Science Fiction/Fantasy Audio Production Ray Bradbury's endearing, lyrical tale of boyhood and an idyllic Midwestern summer *is presented here as a full-cast audio dramatization by The Colonial Theatre on the Air, complete with sound effects and a brilliant music score. Twelve-year-old Douglas Spaulding knows Green Town, Illinois, is as vast and deep as the whole world that lies beyond. For Douglas, summer is a pair of new tennis shoes, the first harvest of dandelions for Grandfather's renowned intoxicant, the distant clang of the trolley bell on a hazy afternoon. But as young Douglas is about to discover, summer can be more than the repetition of established rituals that hold time at bay. It can be a best friend moving away, a human time machine that can transport you back to the Civil War, or a sideshow automaton able to glimpse the bittersweet future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I've just played for the second time your production of Dandelion Wine and it's fabulous. I'm so very proud of it . . . This production is simply incredible." --Ray Bradbury
"I applaud Colonial Radio Theater for opting to produce from Bradbury's play . . . [and] for the full-on audio production, which makes this one of the most lively and energetic Bradbury productions for many years . . . The audio production is extravagant, and benefits from some strong performances and an extensive musical score . . . Dandelion Wine sounds something like a film soundtrack, with multiple layers of voice, effects, ambience and music." --Phil Nichols, Bradbury scholar
"YAs will relate to Doug's love of

movies, his first crush, and his desire for a brand-new pair of trendy sneakers from the local shop . . . hauntingly powerful.” --Kliatt”I applaud Colonial Radio Theater for opting to produce from Bradbury’s play . . . [and] for the full-on audio production, which makes this one of the most lively and energetic Bradbury productions for many years . . . The audio production is extravagant, and benefits from some strong performances and an extensive musical score . . . Dandelion Wine sounds something like a film soundtrack, with multiple layers of voice, effects, ambience and music.” --Phil Nichols, Bradbury scholar”YAs will relate to Doug’s love of movies, his first crush, and his desire for a brand-new pair of trendy sneakers from the local shop . . . hauntingly powerful.” --Kliatt

RAY BRADBURY, one of the most popular science fiction writers in the world, is the author of more than five hundred short stories, novels, plays, and poems. He has won many awards, including the Grand Masters Award from the Science Fiction Writers of America. Born August 22, 1920 in Waukegan, Illinois he graduated from a Los Angeles high school in 1938. Although his formal education ended there, he became a ”student of life,” selling newspapers on L.A. street corners from 1938 to 1942, spending his nights in the public library and his days at the typewriter. He became a full-time writer in 1943, and contributed numerous short stories to periodicals before publishing a collection of them, *Dark Carnival*, in 1947. His reputation as a writer of courage and vision was established with the publication of *The Martian Chronicles* in 1950, which describes the first attempts of Earth people to conquer and colonize Mars, and the unintended consequences. Next came *The Illustrated Man* and then, in 1953, *Fahrenheit 451*, which many consider to be Bradbury’s masterpiece, a scathing indictment of censorship set in a future world where the written word is forbidden.

For the reviewers who gave this less than five stars, I want to ask do you really love and understand Ray Bradbury and his stories? Ray himself gave a very exuberant stamp of approval of this adaption of his wonderful book, *Dandelion Wine*. The story is not read word for word, it is even better! It is a dramatization that includes all the important key points of his book that we loved and the actors and the music and sound effects were fabulous! This dramatization was everything I had hoped it would be, it touched my heart even more than reading the story did. I highly recommend this adaption and if you truly love Ray Bradbury and this beloved story, you will understand and love this CD. I will treasure this always.

Set in Green Town, Illinois, 1928, this is the story of Douglas Spaulding, age 12, and his younger brother Tom. Through these boys, the older poised at the edge of puberty, we experience the daily magic of life in their town and all the wonderful citizens, both young and old, with whom they spent their days. The Colonial Radio Theatre performers conveyed both the youth and vitality of the kids, as well as the eccentricity and wisdom of the older people. This item is the play, not the novel. I read readers' reviews which indicate to me that I really want to read the novel, while bearing in mind that the two pieces are separate - apples and oranges. Ray Bradbury wrote a sequel to *Dandelion Wine*, *Farewell Summer* in 2007 which takes up where the first novel ended. There are also two other works set in the Green Town of other times. I highly recommend this audio presentation of *Dandelion Wine* for the way in which the performers captured the spirit of small town life 87 years ago. Really, listening to this play was like opening that bottle of *Dandelion Wine* from 1928 and drinking deeply of its magical essence.

I taught summer school this year, and I use this to "break the ice." We listened to the chapter about buying new shoes as a summer tradition and how "new shoes would make [him] run faster." *Dandelion Wine* is more memoir, although it has some elements of fantasy in it. It's a feel-good book about being a kid, enjoying summer, and recognizing that life is passing but that what's in the here and now is as precious as the "Dandelion Wine" that the old people make and drink while you (as a kid) hang out under the porch listening to their stories. It's a coming of age book, while at the same time, being a snapshot of childhood. This story, because it's set in the early 1900's, is timeless. It's a chance to think about endless summer. I paired it with the Beach Boys (which for my sophomores are equally old and classic!!!) and it was a hit.

A missed opportunity, too much left out too many changes

The soundtrack was difficult to understand and the theme did not closely follow the book. After trying to listen to the CD a few different times, I donated it to a local charity for resale.

Bought the CD's to listen to the book. The CD's seem to have a theatrical adaptation of the book. It's confusing from to listen to it and seems quite a bit shortened from the book. The book is 273 pages, but the reading is only 1.5 CD's

This is not an audio production of the Bradbury novel *Dandelion Wine*, as I had expected. Rather, it

is a production of his play of the same name, which deviates significantly from the book. What made listening to it problematic is the fact that the children in the cast of characters sound so similar that you never are sure who is speaking, and the sound effects without visuals only serve to further confuse the listener. I could not even get through the first act. Upon returning it, the publisher graciously refunded my money.

Boring!

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