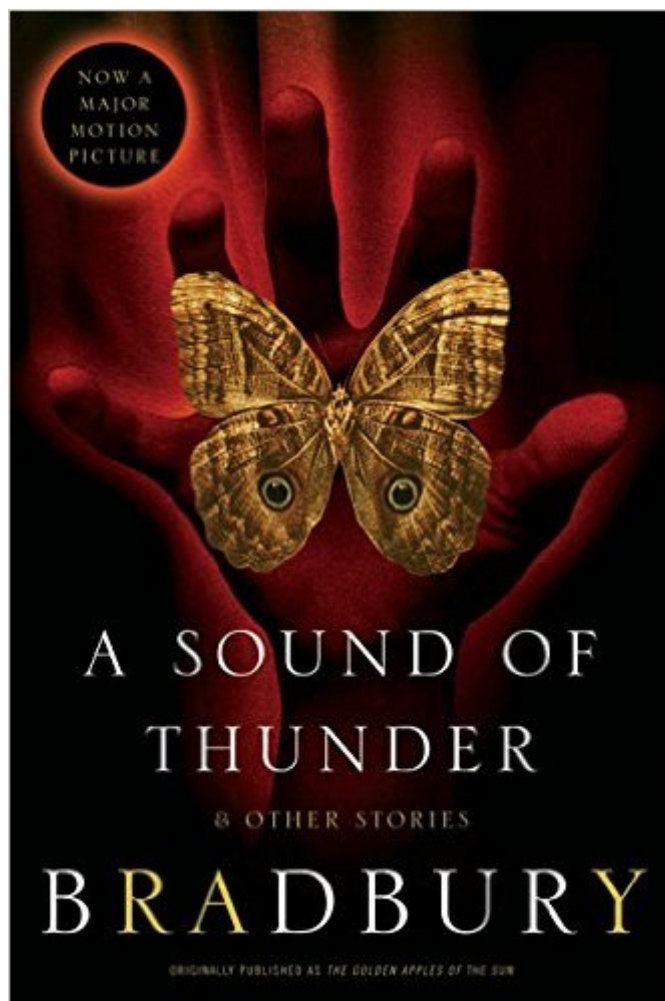


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A Sound Of Thunder And Other Stories



Synopsis

With his disarmingly simple style and complex imagination, Ray Bradbury has seized the minds of American readers for decades. This collection showcases thirty-two of Bradbury's most famous tales in which he lays bare the depths of the human soul. The thrilling title story, *A Sound of Thunder*, tells of a hunter sent on safari -- sixty million years in the past. But all it takes is one wrong step in the prehistoric jungle to stamp out the life of a delicate and harmless butterfly -- and possibly something else much closer to home ...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'*A Sound of Thunder & Other Stories*' is a collection of Ray Bradbury short stories published between 1943 and 1956. Originally published as '*The Golden Apples of the Sun*,' the collection features 32 of Bradbury's best short stories. In '*The Fog Horn*,' the inspiration for the 1953 black and white science fiction classic '*The Beast From 20,000 Fathoms*,' the nameless protagonist and his boss are putting in a night's work at a remote lighthouse when the resonating fog horn attracts one of many 'mysteries of the sea.' In the futuristic tale '*The Pedestrian*,' Bradbury presents an eerie tale that might make you think twice before you step outside for an evening walk. And in '*A Sound of Thunder*' upon which the Peter Hyams film of 2005 is loosely based - very, very loosely - Time Safari, Inc. promises safaris anywhere in time to hunt prehistoric animals. Every precaution is implemented to avoid a time paradox and disturbing history, based on the principle that even the slightest change can cause major changes in the future. Travelers may only shoot animals already predestined for death by natural causes or circumstances at the exact moment and are required to

stay on a path that hovers above the ground. Unfortunately for the protagonist, he unintentionally deviates from the path and takes one small errant step...Ray Bradbury, perhaps best-known today for his work 'Fahrenheit 451', had once seized the minds of American readers for decades and inspired many more to follow in his literary footsteps. His stories have been the basis of screenplays for the classic television series 'The Twilight Zone' and 'The Outer Limits,' and feature films such as François Truffaut's brilliantly visionary film 'Fahrenheit 451.' His stories are at once imaginatively complex yet simplistic in literary style. If you love science fiction - the imaginative, visionary, thought-provoking, classic form of science fiction - Ray Bradbury is a must for your personal collection.

Ray Bradbury is one of the greatest American Science Fiction writers of all time. Yet he does not portray huge battle scenes and alien invasions. He rather, achieves something unique by enthralling the reader without the traditional flash of Science Fiction. Bradbury wrote the story "R" is for rocket about a family that has little money and dreams of one day riding in a rocket ship. It is the future and rocket travel is a reality, yet a large expense. The father knows he will never be able to give his children this gift. So he instead buys a broken old rocket and puts on an elaborate hoax to give his sons the gift of space travel. This is a very realistic style of science fiction. Bradbury takes you and gives you the common man's perspective from another age. This perspective is then used to drive home the moral of his sorted little tales. He uses low diction and familiar settings to allow the reader to bond with the characters. Then the reader is shown how the characters' lives are drastically different than theirs. The result of this difference is usually technology. Now the reader experiences the effects first hand due to the relation to the characters. Relatable characters are the strong point of Bradbury's writing and it is what gives him the ability to entertain with simpler shorter stories.

This is indeed a wonderful collection of some of Bradbury's best short stories, but as pointed out by other reviewers, it is exactly the same collection as "The Golden Apples of the Sun", simply reissued under a different title as a movie tie-in (reputed to be one of the worst movies ever made). If you already have "Golden Apples", don't be fooled by the publisher into thinking this is a new and different book. It's hard enough as it is to collect Bradbury stories without getting a lot of duplication.

It's a collection of old Bradbury stories...for the genre it was cutting age, but you have to realize these stories were written a long time ago and by today's standard aren't quite that amazing, astonishing,

scientifically accurate, ect...but for the time, good stuff

Ray Bradbury's genius is probably best summarized as introducing a concept that you no longer regard as science fiction but rather as common sense. *A Sound of Thunder*, written in 1952, involves time travel with the expressed purpose of hunting extinct animals. The safari guides appear to be aware of the concept that minuscule, infinitesimally small changes, in the past, can alter future events. One of the hunters, a Mr. Eckels, panics at the site of a live T. rex and inadvertently steps on and kills a butterfly. 60+ million years later, the effects are felt. Fast forward to chaos theory and that the flap of a butterfly's wings on one continent can affect weather thousands of miles away. RB invented this! L. Sprague de Camp wrote a similar story "A Gun for Dinosaur" in 1956, about a safari company that will, in exchange for large sums of money, allow you to hunt dinosaurs. The characters are more concerned with local and immediate consequences and not future events. Both stories are interesting, in their own way.

In my youth, I'd read "Fahrenheit 451" and some other Bradbury books. I had never explored his short stories. This was a birthday gift and was enthralling. I began with the titular piece, "A Sound of Thunder." The other stories are well written, timeless and entertaining. A nice addition to my library.

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