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Farewell Summer (Greentown Book 3)

By Ray Bradbury



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Farewell Summer (Greentown Book 3) By Ray Bradbury

In a summer that refuses to end, in the deceiving warmth of earliest October, civil war has come to Green Town, Illinois. It is the age-old conflict: the young against the elderly, for control of the clock that ticks their lives ever forward. The first cap-pistol shot heard 'round the town is dead accurate, felling an old man in his tracks, compelling town elder and school board despot Mr. Calvin C. Quartermain to marshal his graying forces and declare total war on the assassin, thirteen-year-old Douglas Spaulding, and his downy-cheeked cohorts. Doug and his cronies, however, are most worthy adversaries who should not be underestimated, as they plan and execute daring campaigns—matching old Quartermain's experience and cunning with their youthful enthusiasm and devil-may-care determination to hold on forever to childhood's summer. Yet time must ultimately be the victor, with valuable revelations for those on both sides of the conflict. And life waits in ambush to assail Doug Spaulding with its powerful mysteries—the irresistible ascent of manhood, the sweet surrender to a first kiss . . .

One of the most acclaimed and beloved of American storytellers, Ray Bradbury has come home, revisiting the verdant landscape of one of his most adored works, *Dandelion Wine*. More than fifty years in the making, the long-awaited sequel, *Farewell Summer*, is a treasure—beautiful, poignant, wistful, hilarious, sad, evocative, profound, and unforgettable . . . and proof positive that the flame of wonder still burns brightly within the irrepressible imagination of the incomparable Bradbury.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. This poignant, wise but slight "extension" of the indefatigable Bradbury's semiautobiographical *Dandelion Wine* picks up the story of 12-year-old Douglas Spaulding in October of 1928, when the warmth of summer still clings to Green Town, Ill. As in his episodic 1957 novel, Bradbury evokes the rhythms of a long-gone smalltown America with short, swift chapters that build to a lyrical meditation on aging and death. Playing at war, the imaginative Douglas and his friends target the town's elderly men, and the outraged 81-year-old bachelor Calvin C. Quartermain attempts to organize a counterattack against the boys' mischief. Rebelling against their elders—and the specter of age and death—Douglas and his gang steal the old men's chess pieces before deciding that Time, as embodied by the courthouse clock, is their true nemesis. The story turns on a gift of birthday cake that triggers Douglas and Quartermain's mutual recognition: "He had seen *himself* peer forth from the boy's eyes." Soon thereafter, Douglas's first kiss and new, acute awareness of girls serves as the harbinger of his inevitable adulthood. Bradbury's mature but fresh return to his beloved early writing conveys a depth of feeling. *Look for a Q&A with Bradbury in the Aug. 21 issue.*

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Ray Bradbury, now in his mid-80s, explains in his postscript that the original *Dandelion Wine* manuscript included much of the material in *Farewell Summer*. His publisher at the time thought the book too long, and advised Bradbury to shelve the latter half. He certainly took the advice to heart. Fifty years later, here comes this satisfying denouement, one that speaks to themes of youth, aging, memory, and regrets. Reviewers praise *Farewell Summer* as an ideal swan song for a storied career that produced award-winning works like *Fahrenheit 451* and *Something Wicked This Way Comes* and earned Bradbury the prestigious National Medal of Arts.

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From [Booklist](#)

Ray Bradbury's *Dandelion Wine* has aged remarkably well, losing none of its nostalgic charm during the 49 years since its first printing. Writing sequels is something entirely new in Bradbury's long career of perpetual creativity, and so his return to Green Town, Illinois, and the escapades of the author's boyhood alter ego, Douglas Spaulding, is surprising as well as welcome. Whereas *Dandelion Wine* takes the form of a series of interconnected tales, *Farewell Summer* tells one unbroken story set during an autumnal heat wave in the year Douglas turns 14. Lamenting summer's sudden passage, he and his childhood cronies decide to wage "war" against the senior tenants of the stately houses lining Green Town's cavernous ravine. Intending to stop time in its tracks, the gang purloins chess pieces from the town square and sabotages the workings of the courthouse clock with fireworks. None of these antics sits too well with town elder statesman Calvin C. Quartermain, who launches his own brand of psychological warfare against the boys, which culminates in Douglas' first kiss. A final showdown between the two rivals finds both moving toward an unexpected, mutually enlightening truce. While Bradbury aficionados may find the novel's brief length somewhat disappointing, they'll find, too, that his prose remains masterfully precision-tuned. A touching meditation on memories, aging, and the endless cycle of birth and death, and a fitting capstone, perhaps, to a brilliant career. *Carl Hays*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Vincent Overly:

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book in which improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with education and learning books but if you want feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining like comic or novel. Often the Farewell Summer (Greentown Book 3) is kind of reserve which is giving the reader erratic experience.

Louis Clark:

The particular book Farewell Summer (Greentown Book 3) has a lot of information on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was written by the very famous author. Mcdougal makes some research before write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you can find the point easily after scanning this book.

Betty Terry:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray anyone, why because this Farewell Summer (Greentown Book 3) book written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book which might be understand by anyone who all read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your hunger then you still uncertainty Farewell Summer (Greentown Book 3) as good book not simply by the cover but also from the content. This is one publication that can break don't ascertain book by its deal with, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick this specific!? Oh come on your reading through sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

Marylou Beauregard:

Within this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability in doing something more are more valuable than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple way to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to experience a look at some books. One of several books in the top listing in your reading list will be Farewell Summer (Greentown Book 3). This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Hillside can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

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