

The Martian Chronicles



Summary of the “Martian Chronicles” Book

Martian Chronicles is a collection of twenty-eight science fiction stories by Ray Bradbury linked together by a conductive wire that is the future colonization and conquest of Mars by terrestrial beings.

From January 1999 to October 2026, humans carry out a series of space travel to reach Mars and colonize it because of the difficult life on the planet Earth dominated by pollution and wars.

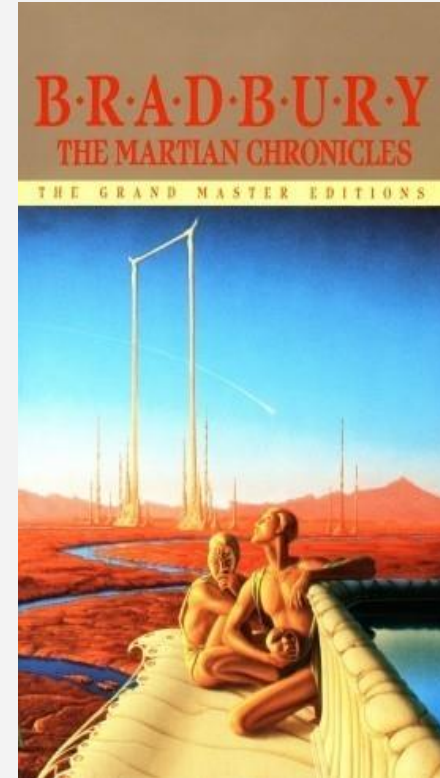
The events are divided into several episodes with countless characters who, in one way or another, will have a different approach to life on the red planet and with its mysterious inhabitants.

Mars represents hope, a place where to start from scratch, creating a new solid and virtuous society, but man is a machine of destruction, which tries to impose its authority.....

A book that reflects on man's tendency to destroy his new discoveries and the balance around them.

The story is repeated, as in the centuries of European colonization beyond the ocean.

-Michela Scarponi



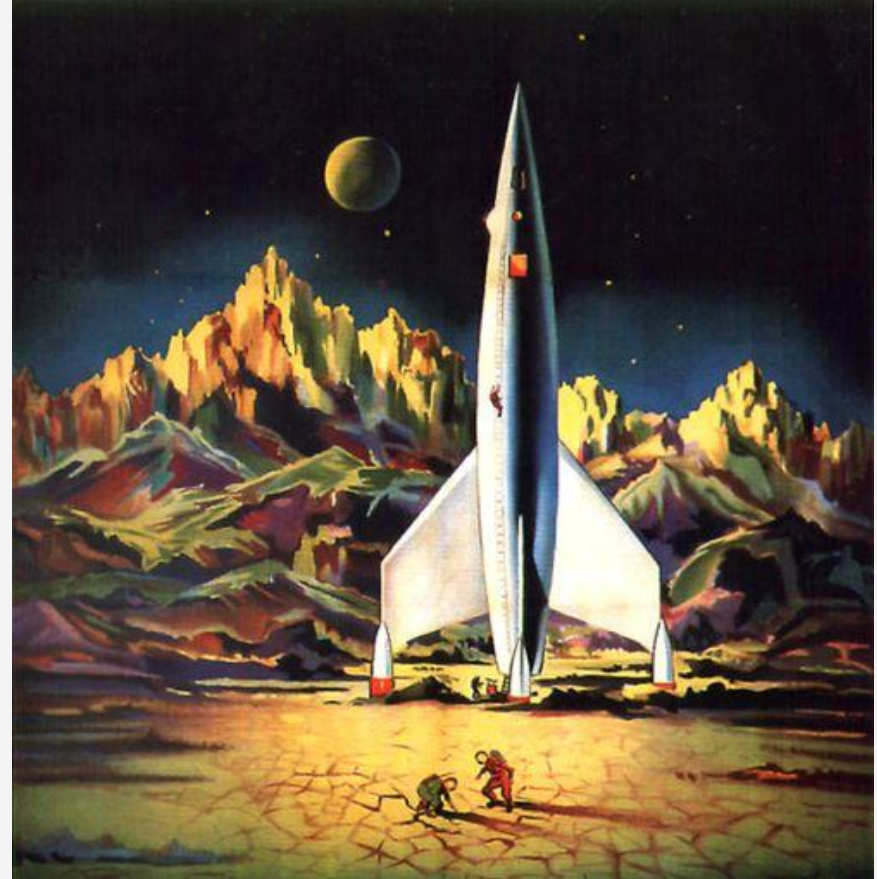
January 1999: Rocket summer

During the Ohio's winter, when it was very cold, a long wave of warmth crossed the small town and changed the climate.

This flooding of hot air was appointed by the people with the name of "Rocket Summer".

This "rocket" stood in the cold winter and made summer.

-Andrea Antonelli



August 1999: The summer night

It was an evening in summer upon the placid and temperate planet Mars.

In the amphitheatres of a hundred cities on the night side of Mars Martian people met to listen to the serene music of some musicians.

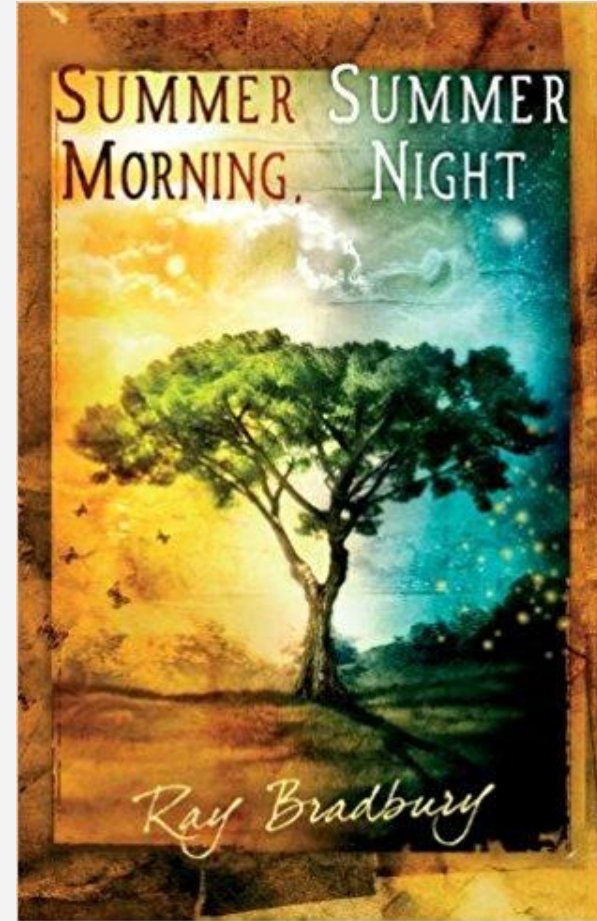
Instead, on a stage a woman sings strange and scary music. Between the public were getting up some people and the singer began to cry and left the stage.

In the middle of the night some people heard children sing in some black alleys in the city.

At some point some women woke up and after listening to these children they said, screaming, that tomorrow morning will happen something terrible.

Instead, the next morning, it was all clear and the only noise it felt was that of a guard who walked singing a strange song.

-Mattia Falcioni



March 2000: The Taxpayer

He went down to the rocket field in the early morning and yelled through the wire fence at the men in uniform that he wanted to go to Mars since in about two years there was going to be a big atomic war and thousands of others like him, anybody with any sense, would get away from Earth.

He also said that the men were probably dead so the men laughed out through the wire screen and they dragged him away .

And just before they sirened over a hill , he saw that the rocket was taking off.

-Asya Ferraresi

MARCH
2000
THE TAXPAYER

"He wanted to go to Mars on the rocket. . . .
He told them he was a taxpayer, his name was
Pritchard, and he had a right to go to Mars."

April 2000: The Third Expedition

Captain John Black and his men landed on Mars in April 2000 for the third voyage on Mars. On the surface of the planet they found a city with oxygen. Only the captain asked like they were from nineteenth century. The captain asked to a girl where they were, she said they were in Green Bluff a city of the Illinois in America and annoyed she went home. Lustig, member of the crew, rang the bell of her house and two member of the crew goes for the exploration of the area.

When they came to the town they noticed that the buildings looked the current year; she replied 1926 so he hypothesized they have travelled in time and they returned at home.

Hinkston, another member of the crew, thought that the city was created to convince them that it was really home. After that Lustig saw his grandparents and they offered a tea to the captain. While they were talking they said that they died 30 years before, but after that they found themselves in that place.

The captain thanked for the drink and went away with Lustig.

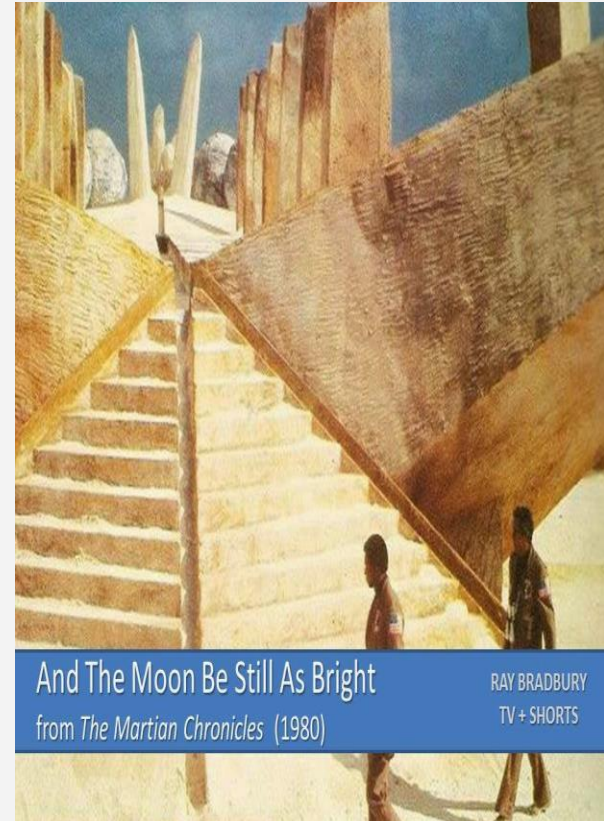
Returning to the ship he discovered that the crew abandoned the ship because they had seen their old relatives. The captain encountered his brother Edward that died many years before. While he was talking to his brother Hinkston and Lustig went to their relatives. Edward said that their parents were waiting them for lunch so they should go. John spent all the day with his family and when he was in bed with his brother he suspected that the city was a trap and his family Martians that assumed the form of their relatives to fool him and his men for make them off guard and kill them.

His suspect were real. -Giacomo Lucasoli e Tommaso Taffi

His

June 2001 - And the Moon Be Still as Bright

A year later when the fourth expedition arrives they discover the entire Martian population died from chicken box brought to them by a prior expedition. Captain Wilder allows his crew to celebrate, but one of them, Spender, the archaeologist in the crew is disgusted by their disrespect. So, Spender leaves the rest of the crew to explore. When he returns, he claims to be a Martian and tries to recruit more of the crew to join him. Spender becomes possessed and kills five of the crew members. Feeling ill, Spender runs into the hills. Wilder finds him and asks why he killed the men. Spender says that he wants to stop humans from setting on mars. When he refuses to back down, Wilder shoots him. Wilder feels guilty for shooting him and then takes it on himself to protect Mars. When he comes across a crewman using the Marian ruins for target practice, he hits him, knocking his teeth out. -Benedetta Moroni



August 2001 - The Settlers

There were many reasons why the men had to come to Mars: they wanted to forget about their past lives, and gain a new lifestyle most of all. The first settlers suffered the loneliness, as there were only few people on the Red Planet. The number of inhabitants of Mars increased only after the first colonizations, proportionally to the number of the colonizers.

-Raffaele Naccarello



December 2001: The green morning

Mars presents terrestrial settlements, that allow some people to reach the red planet, however not all of them are able to support problems related to the rarefaction of the oxygen in the atmosphere, between these there is Benjamin Driscoll. Reclaimed consciousness, although the doctor suggests to return on Earth, he decides to remain, with the objective of creating an atmosphere, that will render the sojourn on the planet available to all. Dreaming of becoming the colony a forest, he have spent the next thirty days to plant seeds or sprouts, waiting the arrival of the rain. One evening, tired of the working day, he camped and his main started to travel, however his thoughts were interrupted immediately by a thunder, sign of rain. So began to fall a subtle rain, increasingly intense and the hope of Benjamin Seemed to become real. Infact, the next morning, he saw a big forest with very high trees, that brought a fresh wave of oxygen. Suddenly, though, he faited.

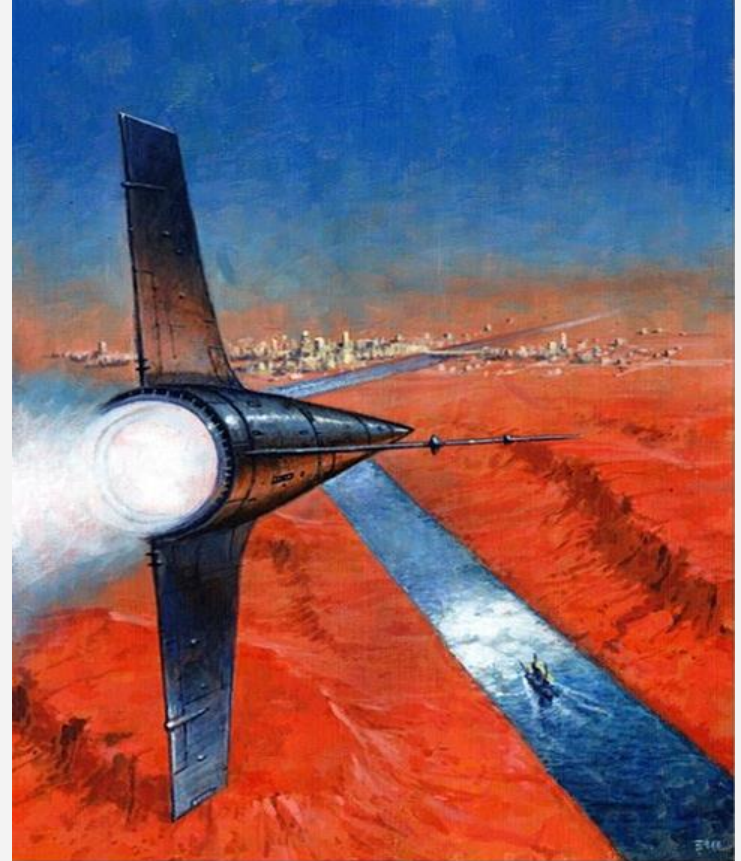
-Giuseppina Nocera



February 2002: The Locusts

People came to Mars by rockets, that were like locusts. The men who arrived to Mars wanted to colonize that planet and they started building new houses and then new cities. In six months twelve small cities were built on Mars, some ninety thousand people came to Mars, and more, on Earth, were getting themselves ready to leave.

-Emanuele Pannozzi



August 2002: Night meeting

Tomas Gomez before going up into the blue hills, stopped for gasoline at the station, where he met Pop and where he started talking with him about Mars and its unusual characteristics.

Then Tomas continue his trip in an absolute silence, there wasn't anyone in that road, this harmony recall in him the Time's smell; so he start thinking about Time's feature and he starts considering him as a physical object.

After he stops in a little promontory and begin drinking coffee, when suddenly he hears a noise and see in the road a strange car, similar to an insect driven by a martian, that stops near him. Tomas and the martian start talking, they speak the same language, but each one see the other transparent, so they begin to tell about their life and their civilization.

Both believe that what the other tell is false and don't exist indeed they hear and see different things; in that moment the dialog converge on the past and on the time: they think that the other came from a different epoch. Indeed each information given from the other deny their knowledge. Therefore they decide to speak about the beautiful night, then they greet and continue their trip believing that they had a mad dream or an insane vision.

October 2002: "The Shore"

The first colonization on Mars brought solitary men, the successive were all different and increasingly intense. Men were used to desolate landscapes, yet they made them a little more welcoming.

Settlements from all countries would have to be settled, but united states had the monopoly of Martian travel, so the successive settlers were also Americans.

The people who came to Mars were tired of their lives and tried to make a new one.

-Marco Piazzi

The



June 2003: Way in the middle of the air

During a hot day in the middle of the summer, *all* the black people of America decide to leave to Mars, with the rocketships they built using their own funds.

Every single one of them starts his exodus, his journey to the rocketship, looking like a black river that invades the streets of America.

There is an angry man, sit in the porch of his hardware that is looking to this epic scene, Samuel Teence.

He starts complaining about *niggers* (as he calls them) with his granfather and some of his friends, angry at the fact that they are leaving to Mars, expressing his hate towards them. He will in particular have to say goodbye to Belter, a man who owns him 50 dollars, and Silly, a young boy who works for him.

During his confront with them, he'll always express his cruelty and hidden jealousy towards black people, trying to convince them that they'll never be able to get to Mars, against the kindness of the two. But at the end, all the men sit on the porch will look at the rocketship rising up in the sky.

This story is of course against racism and it is described a really mean and angry man full of hate. His character is interesting and it is interesting to see how white men get angry as black people decide all to leave, as they were jealous of them and wished to do the same.

-ILARIA RAMAZZOTTI

WAY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE AIR

By RAY BRADBURY

Slowly the black river moved past, an inexorable tide, bound for a strange, unbelievable rendezvous with a fleet of spaceships that was coming to take them to the promised land, to a land in the sky . . .



April 2003 : The Musicians

A group of boy would hike far out into Martian country. They carried with them some odorous food like onion or ham. Their parents told them to not visit the dead town, and they told to the boys that when they came back they would check their shoes. One of the seven boys went through an house's door, in the dead town, and he became the musician, playing the white xylophone bones. Then they visited seventeen houses. When they come back to home their mother controlled their shoes and started beating the boy. This story is strange, but at the same time is really nice.

Niccolò Principi



2004-05: The naming of names

One of the things the colonizers do after their arrival on Mars is giving names to the places in which they arrive and settle.

The first places to be named are the ones where the previous expeditions had landed or tragically ended up and the cities, then also the graveyards receive their own names.

The original Martian names that were written on the milestones destroyed by the rockets were very different from the names given by the colonizers: the first ones had to do with nature and with the traditions of the Martians, the second ones are mechanical and metal names from Earth.

Besides names humans bring something else: in fact the so called sophisticates, that had come to Mars for their interests and for the “atmosphere”, bring also laws, rules, badges and some of the red tape.

In this way they begin to plan people's lives and libraries and to instruct and push about them, but some of the people that had escaped from all this bureaucracy on Earth start to push back.

-Luca Sampaolesi



April 2005: "Usher II"

"Usher" is one of the stories treated in "Martian Chronicles" and who sees as a protagonist William Stendahl an avid book lover, wealthy from an inheritance and who went to Mars to build the home of his dreams: a recreation of Edgar Allan Poe's Usher House.

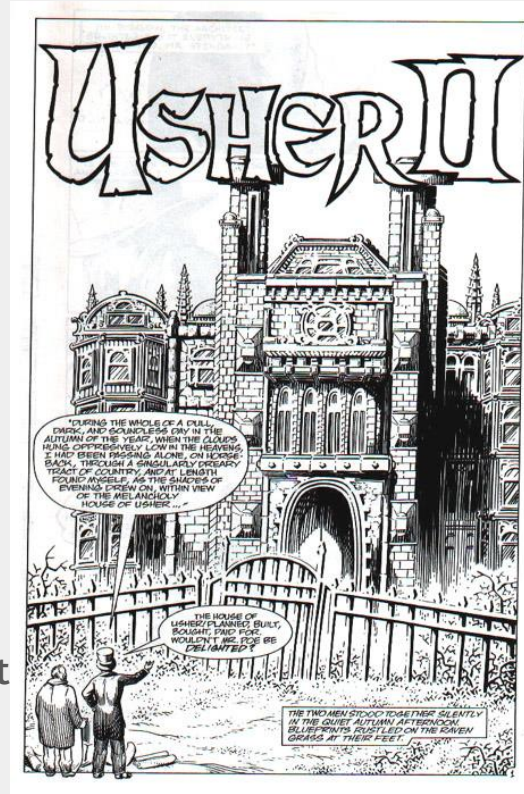
He paid the architect Bigelow with a lot of money for building the house in Mars because Stendahl has been banned from building the house on Earth by the Office of Moral Climate and because fantasy and horror have basically been outlawed on Earth; Stendahl plans revenge by building the house on Mars.

So he and his architect Bigelow designed the seven-room mansion filled with banned creatures, such as vampires and robot.

But after a few years the same people who had banned the fantasy and forbidden the construction of the house come to Mars with the intent of shaving the builder....

So Stendahl with another person that hate the group of Office of Moral Climate run away.

- Michela Scarponi



September 2005: The Martian

In August of 2005, Mars is finally flooded with retirees. By September, LaFarge and his wife Anna have settled in, but they still miss their deceased son, Tom. One night, Tom shows up on their porch. LaFarge has trouble believing that he is real, but Anna does not. She insists that they go into town. Tom is terrified to do so, and when the three arrive, Tom immediately disappears. A family with a lost daughter caught sight of him, and he morphed into their lost daughter. LaFarge goes to look for him, and soon many people are chasing the Martian through town, seeing in him whoever is most on their minds. A policeman sees a criminal. Eventually, the former Tom falls to the ground, melts, and dies, over-strained.

-Leonardo Stilo



November 2005 - The off season

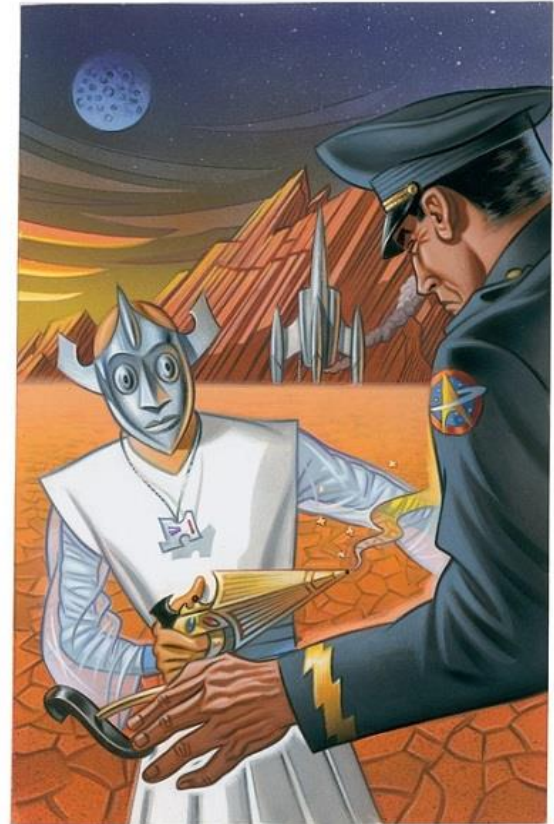
Sam Parkhill, who was on the fourth expedition with Captain Wilder and Spender has opened up a hot-dog stand on Mars.

He is very proud of it and expecting a lot of business.

When his wife, Elma, asks about his old captain, Sam says that since he went a little batty on Mars, they promoted him and he is on an extended flight to Juppiter and Pluto.

His wife is cynical about all the business Sam expects to have. A Martian comes to speak with Sam, who tells the Martian to go or he will give him the Disease. The Martian says he has already had it and is one of the few survivors. Sam won't listen to the Martian and shoots him. His wife sees a fleet of Martian sheep coming, so Sam escapes in a stolen sand ship. The Martians finally catch him, but they only want to give him a message. They tell him that tonight is the night. They give him the deeds to one hundred thousands miles of territory. Then they tell him to make lots of hot-dogs. Sam starts to prepare for the coming immigrants, only to notice the Earth on fire. His wife cynically tells him to get ready for customers. There should be more around in about a million years. Looks like it's going to be an off season.

-Noemi Varano



November 2005 - The watchers

In november 2005 , all the people came out from their houses to watch what was happening in the sky. They saw the green star of Earth there,at nine o'clock Earth seemed to explode,catch fire and burn. All of them were worried but they waited. At midnight the Earth was still there and lots of radios said constantly some different messages of explosion or atomized lands and said screaming "COME HOME;COME HOME"..at three in the morning the luggage-store proprietor glanced up. A lot of people were coming down the street and by dawn the luggage was gone from his shelves.

-

Andrea Antonelli



APRIL 2016: The long years

Hathaway, the physician/geologist who discovered the Martian race, is still living on Mars 25 years later in 2026 with his wife, Alice, two daughters, Marguerite and Susan, and son, John.

Twenty years after the Great War on Earth, Hathaway does not know the state of his home planet.

After the dust storms that rip across the Martian landscape, Hathaway announces he is taking a walk, and travels to a nearby graveyard, where he visits four gravesites and apologises for something he has done.

He spies a flame in the sky and rushes home to his telescope.

He calls his family to look and declares that they are going home.

He reasons that the people on the rocket will need a light to guide them to his location, so he takes a remote control device from his belt and uses it to make the nearby dead town light up.

The rocket arrives, bringing Hathaway's former captain Wilder and two other crewmembers, Hathaway invites Wilder and the crew to dinner with Hathaway's family.

At the meal, Wilder notes that Hathaway's children appear not to have aged since he last saw them, some two decades earlier.

Hathaway, who is in rapidly failing health, confirms Wilder's suspicion that Hathaway's "family members" are, in fact, robots, of Hathaway's own construction.

Once his real wife and children died of an unknown virus, Hathaway constructed robotic replacements to combat his loneliness.

His

robotic family tell Wilder that Hathaway never taught them how to feel sad or to cry. Wilder and his men return to their rocket, leaving Hathaway's "family" behind, to continue "living" as they were. -Asya Ferraresi

He

At

Hathaway

His

August 2026: There will come soft rains

In a post-apocalyptic scenario, we can see a futuristic home, the only that still stands when the rest of the city is destroyed.

The house is full-automatic, it has a lot of robotic servants that do the house works and help the humans that lives in.

But it seems there are no humans in the house.

The robots still work by the way, until a falling tree destroys the wall of the kitchen, setting the home in fire.

The robots try to save the home extinguishing the fire, but the water reserves dry off and the flames devour the habitation, leaving only a wall still standing over the ruins of the fallen house.

-Raffaele Naccarello

There Will Come Soft Rains

By Ray Bradbury



October 2026 THE MILLION-YEAR PICNIC

“The million-year picnic” is the last story belongs to the book “The Martian Chronicles” written by Ray Bradbury.

In this tale the author tell about one of the families that arrived on Mars thanks to a rocket that the father of this family had kept hidden for many years.

In fact William, the father, and his wife had long been planning for this trip to Mars because the Earth was full of war and violence and soon it would be razed to the ground.

William makes believing children Timothy, Robert and Michael to be on vacation, but following the rocket explosion, planned by him, he is forced to tell them the real reason of the migration to this planet.

The children are curious to know the Martians, but their father makes them understand that the Martians are now them, that it was their new world, their new home. -Virgina Palermo

The Million Year Picnic

By RAY BRADBURY

They were supposed to be starting on a picnic, a wonderful day of fun. But there was a gun in the boat, and too much food and equipment. And just behind the veil of vacation—instead of the soft face of laughter—there was something hard and bony and terrifying.



Illustration by LEYDENFROST

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