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Green Shadows, White Whale: A Novel Of Ray Bradbury's Adventures Making Moby Dick With John Huston In Ireland



Synopsis

In 1953, the brilliant but terrifying titan of cinema John Huston summons the young writer Ray Bradbury to Ireland. The apprehensive scribe's quest is to capture on paper the fiercest of all literary beasts -- Moby Dick -- in the form of a workable screenplay so the great director can begin filming. But from the moment he sets foot on Irish soil, the author embarks on an unexpected odyssey. Meet congenial IRA terrorists, tippling men of the cloth, impish playwrights, and the boys at Heeber Finn's pub. In a land where myth is reality, poetry is plentiful, and life's misfortunes are always cause for celebration, *Green Shadows, White Whale* is the grandest tour of Ireland you'll ever experience -- with the irrepressible Ray Bradbury as your enthusiastic guide.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Do whatever you can to LISTEN to this book as read by RAY BRADBURY himself. The Audio version is the only way to enjoy this. Ray Bradbury's impression of John Huston is hilarious. Plan a long trip in your old car that has a cassette player and listen to this on the way. You won't want to stop for gas or bathroom breaks. We laughed out loud! Listening to Ray Bradbury's Irish brogue during this book has been some of the most entertaining moments I've experienced in my life.....if you're into that kind of thing, you know hilarious moments. *Green Shadows, White Whale*

Green Shadows, White Whale is a tale about Ray Bradbury's travels in Ireland while helping John Huston write the screenplay for *Moby Dick*. The writing is absolutely wonderful. I have read many books in my life but I have rarely read one so beautifully written and well composed. There were

paragraphs and passages that I read over two and three times simply because they were so tasty. The story is broken up into chapters which comprise little subplots of their own. This makes for easy reading because you can read a chapter or two at a time and still enjoy the entire book. Read this book.

Ray Bradbury was a science fiction icon, but there's a reason he didn't write "The Playboy of the Western World" or "Finnegan's Wake." The dialogue is all you get from this book. The rest of the book is a thin vehicle to get you from one conversation to the next. There are few descriptions and few insights. The dialogue itself is very humorous at parts, and in others it's obvious that this is Bradbury writing how the conversations should have gone, not how they really went. I've thoroughly enjoyed other works by Bradbury, but this wasn't one of them.

Green Shadows is a memoir of the time Bradbury spent in Ireland in the 1950's working on a screenplay for Moby Dick. Most of the book deals with his impression of Ireland and the Irish, as recounted in personal experiences, possibly embellished with poetic license. His dealings with director John Huston make up the subject for the rest of the book. Like Bradbury, I am a fan of Huston's movies. Huston's wide-ranging choice of subject matter and his ability to translate literary work to the screen are impressive. Unfortunately, the portrait Bradbury draws of Huston reveals a character who is usually filled with bonhomie but who can easily veer into sly bullying - a fascinating man, but one who may be difficult to work with. At the same time, Bradbury is courageous enough to reveal his own vulnerabilities in such a situation. I found the book to be engaging throughout and very well written.

for the life of me i cannot understand why this book is out of print. i found it by chance in a used bookstore, and it was the greatest discovery of my life. this is a fantastic tale, about so much more than bradbury's experiences writing the screenplay for moby dick. it expresses in its eloquent and beautiful language a deeply moving, realistic optimism and love for life. it makes you want to go out and sing and dance and shout from mountaintops and do all those other things they do in songs. and above all it makes you want to share it with others.

This is the best book you'll never read. Bradbury is on everyone's favorite author list (if you read), but this is special. He never wanted to write about Ireland, or about Huston, but like all his books, the dreams and visions haunted him until he did, and then he wrote the story to match his dreams,

all in short story clumps. This is my favorite book of all time, and I ordered this one to replace the one I wore out. If our most trying experiences make us who we are, this is what made Bradbury who he was. Just brilliant!

Green Shadows, White Whale - Ray Bradbury - [08-22-2015 - 0628]In 1953 Ray Bradbury (1920-2012) resided in Ireland at the request of film director John Huston. His task was to write the screenplay for the movie Moby Dick. In 1992 the novel "Green Shadows, White Whale" was published. Bradbury incorporated 11 Irish stories that integrated his experiences writing the screenplay and dealing with the towering ego on John Huston. I found this book very entertaining and full of Irish wit and humor.

Read this book when I was much younger and loved it (definitely 5* then, now 4 3/4*). Actually, I love almost anything Irish, and that hasn't changed. Decided to reread GS,WW after a trip to Ireland. My slightly revised impression is that while very well written, the book seems to be trying a bit too hard to impress through descriptions and similes. While it does not go into Irish history at all, it shows insights into and love of the Irish character ("character" emphasized). Learned quite a bit about John Ford, a fascinating character whom I had only known through his films. GS,WW is often serious and thought-provoking, but is filled with many humorous and even laugh-out-loud incidents. A fun read.

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