

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury, Book review by Jacob Jung

In a world where scriptures are unlawful, the scholars that were once raised up high into the air for their knowledge can choose two things. Either be held in captivity so their knowledge won't spread, or choose to be a martyr and burn with their scriptures and knowledge. In this country with no ethics, firemen, who were meant to fight fires in order to provide general welfare among the people, mercilessly burn down any scripture and houses of the book holders, and anything that stops them could expect to become nothing more than ashes. Guy Montag is one of these firemen, pouring endless rains of venomous kerosene and lighting them up to show flames of anger and fury. In this period of people fearing firemen, one girl, Clarisse McClellan, is peculiarly off. She doesn't show a single bit of fear towards Montag. She approaches him and makes the simple minded fireman with questions such as if he is happy. In the modern world, happiness is being constantly questioned with the increasing use of digital media. In the world Montag resides in, however, the burning of books causes this question. This makes Montag bewildered and angry. When he enters his home with his thoughts, he sees his wife Mildred with two pale eyes and an expression full of death. He immediately compares her with Clarisse, bright and full of energy and life. But something seems off, as when he reaches out to Mildred, his foot hits an object. When he looks down, he sees a container that was once filled with medication. Mildred has attempted suicide. As Montag calls the emergency hospital, the responders, without a doctor, rush in with cigarettes in their mouths. Furious, Montag demands to know why the responders are so unprofessional. They respond that there were too many incidents like these. Montag ponders. If events like these happen commonly, are we truly happy? Is the society really putting us first? He hears Clarisse and another man laughing and so joyous. What is their secret of happiness? He looks at the ventilator grill. Maybe, just maybe, he should take those out. What are "those"? How many of "those" are there? Will the ferocious fireman betray his society as a typical and powerful citizen into a traitor? Or will he continue burning books without thought? Read the book to find out.

In the highly decorated, figurative language and action-packed novel Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury predicts the future quite accurately. Although this book is highly difficult to understand and point out the figurative languages, I enjoyed this book phenomenally well and would give a 5/5 in terms of rating. This book is very mature and very meaningful, showing that we should think outside of the box highly. This book, along with Montag and Clarisse's thoughts, changes the thoughts and viewpoints of the reader as well. This book also shows the importance of books and knowledge, and once you dive in into Ray Bradbury's thoughts, you will never be able to swim out.