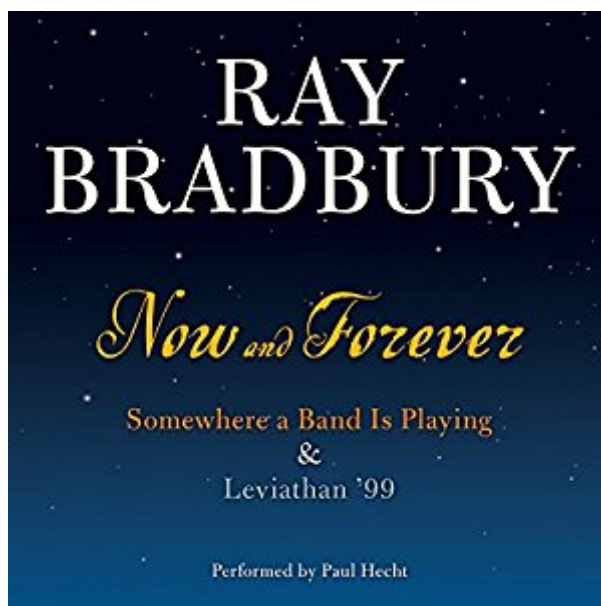


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Now And Forever: Somewhere A Band Is Playing & Leviathan '99



Synopsis

A journalist bearing terrible news leaps from a still-moving train into a small town of wonderful, impossible secrets.... The doomed crew of a starship follows their blind, mad captain on a quest into deepest space to joust with destiny, eternity, and God himself.... Now and Forever is a bold new work from an incomparable artist whose stories have reshaped America's literary landscape. Two bewitching novellas - each distinctly different yet uniquely Bradbury - demonstrate the breathtaking range of his undimmed talent and the irrepressible vitality of the mind, spirit, and heart of America's preeminent storyteller.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bradbury removes me from this century and to a place inside an RCA sound stage. 'Somewhere a Band is Playing' has rolling descriptions of an idealized community, adrift in time. James Cardiff steps off the train, inexplicably happy. There are sights: horse carriage, old residences, manicured lawns, old-fashioned pantry/kitchens and ice boxes with drip pans beneath. Tastes, too: fresh baked goods, omelettes, soup and wine. Sensations: chill of ice in your hand, rocker on front porch and shady interior rooms. Laughter, but no children, beauty without artificial aid, a lover that disappears before dawn. Mysterious and wonderful wine. This haunts like the movie 'Somewhere in Time' (Collector's Edition). Then Bradbury was in his 'Moby Dick' mode as he wrote Leviathan '99. Fantastic. Mental breakdown of a Captain chasing his own whale in space; it knows him, the crew (good and bad), will not go without taking them with it. So that would have been an excellent

Halloween epic- could still be, with our CGI and robot cameras. Even better than *Space Cowboys*. Get this if you read prose and poetry aloud for others!

Ray Bradbury's *Now and Forever* contains two novellas: *Somewhere a Band is Playing* and *Leviathan '99*. *Somewhere a Band is Playing* is about a writer finding himself in a small town in the Arizona desert. Almost nobody has died in over 100 years, but all remain youthful. Reading this story is like caressing velvet: it is soft and compelling. Bradbury at his best. *Leviathan '99* is Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* transferred to outer space. The Leviathan is a massive comet that may collide with Earth and the rocket ship captain, years previously blinded by the comet, is determined to prevent the occurrence even if it kills him and all his crew. The story's interest is peaked with the knowledge that Bradbury wrote the screen play for the 1956 movie *Moby Dick* starring Gregory Peck. An excellent adaptation of a classic to another time and place.

Bradbury is always a joy to read. He paints pictures with his words, and is always very cleverly didactic. Keeps you so busy with his left hand (plot, characters, story development) that you don't see what he's doing with his right, until the very end, when the moral instruction becomes clear. So unlike Classic Star Trek episodes, where the moral instruction is rudely obvious and in your face.

I love Ray Bradbury. Without hesitation I can say he's my favorite author. And stories like "Somewhere A Band Is Playing" and "Leviathan '99" are the reason why. While Ray's particular brand of flowing, poetical prose can be a little ham handed at times, it's often beautiful and part of the magic of reading his tales. I definitely recommend this novel to Bradbury fans and fans of fantasy and science fiction.

I bought this primarily for my wife because she was whining that she really liked the Air Supply song "The Great Pioneer" and hadn't been able to find the CD that it was on for many years. I did a quick search and after almost buying the wrong album, stumbled on this 2-CD combo of *Now and Forever* and *Air Supply*. Turns out the song she wanted was on the *Air Supply* album and not *Now and Forever* as she thought, but no matter. Once we received the set and threw it into our CD transport, we were simply taken aback at how awesome the songs sounded. Yes, not all of the songs were necessarily big hits, but nearly all of them were at least pleasant and we were very impressed by the sound quality overall. I still don't know if the digital remastering is primarily responsible for this result,

but compared to our 1990s vintage greatest hits CD there was no comparison. I highly recommend this set to any Air Supply fan and/or anyone simply wanting to hear some superb sounding music.

Somewhere a Band is playing is just like a big and beautiful poem, really enjoyable, another perfect tale from the great Bradbury. Leviathan 99 felt kind of forced and a off in some ways, thats why I'm giving it 4 stars, but still a most if you enjoy Bradbury work.

Books should make us think and "Somewhere a Band is Playing" certainly invites the reader to think about life, death, eternity, choices, love etc. It's a novella that needs to be read a few times in order to not miss all that Bradbury is asking of the reader. I loved Chapter 14 which consists of two sentences. "Nef was not at breakfast, or lunch, or dinner. He went to bed hungry." You'll have to read the book to understand all that a fine writer like Mr. Bradbury conveys in those two sentences.

I had been searching for the "Air Supply" Album/CD for quite some time and was really never able to locate it. Having finally found it, I immediately played that CD over the "Now and Forever" CD. Just by hearing the music on that CD, made the purchase well worth it. There were songs that most Air Supply Fans have not heard in quite some time and are certainly not as popular as their Hits that are popular amongst Generation X. Nonetheless, I do believe that there are Songs here that deserve another chance at more radio airplay or that Fans either buy the CD or listen to one of their Friends CD. You will not be disappointed!

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