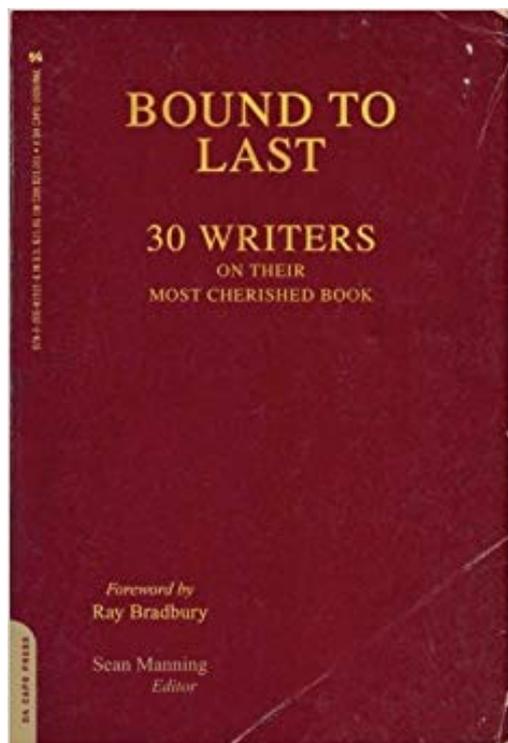


## Bound to Last: 30 Writers on Their Most Cherished Book *by* Ray Bradbury, Sean Manning



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Lovers of the printed book, arise! Thirty of today's top writers are here to tell you you're not alone.



## Reviews of the **Bound to Last: 30 Writers on Their Most Cherished Book** *by* Ray Bradbury, Sean Manning

**Llbery**

I Love this book. I bought it on kindle, but halfway through I realized I wanted to make notes in the margins, plus have easy access to read selections to my students(kindles are kind of clunky when you try to find notes and bookmarks. There IS still room for the printed book!!!), so I also ordered it in book form. I raved about it at my book club last night, so it will be our next discussion book. Read it.

Laura Moe  
Under The Veil

**Fesho**

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Except for Ray Bradbury who wrote the introduction, I knew none of the writers, although I did know some of the "cherished books" in their essays. So I had the pleasure of discovering authors in addition to reading about works so dear to them some of which were also new finds. I have given the book to friends and family with a hearty recommendation.

**Roru**

I read "Bound to Last" one or two entries at a time. I absolutely love the diversity of authors, books, and reasons for choosing one book over another as a "favorite." Reading the entries tells as much about each of the book chosen, the writer of the piece, how that writer views books and life, and the sheer joy of knowing that books exist in this world. I think the title is particularly appropriate for those of us who enjoy the marvels of the Internet, but ALWAYS want the pleasure of holding a bound book in our hands. Mike Rummel, San Diego.

**Nalaylewe**

This is the collections that one will come back to time and time again if you love reading and love books, a never ending source of pleasure

**Reggy**

My wife is happy with this book and was exactly what she wanted !!! A true bibliophile and a great book to match !!

**Galanjov**

At the risk of offending some, let me begin by saying that a multitude of readers question whether an e-book can really be called a book at all. In the minds of avid readers, those who simply have to read a certain number of pages every day in order to feel whole, e-books are little more than electronic files stashed somewhere on the drives of those little e-reading gadgets they carry when traveling. And they only use those gadgets because they cannot figure out how to carry comfortably a dozen books while on the road. They know e-books are a poor substitute for the real thing, but e-books, after all, do beat back pain.

If you recognize yourself in any of what I have said so far, you really need to get your hands on Bound to Last: 30 Writers on Their Most Cherished Book. This little volume, edited by Sean Manning, explains precisely why e-books can never compare to the real thing. All of us, I suspect, have one or two favorite books on our shelves, books that we are as much emotionally attached to as anything else we own. But, think about that for a second. One's favorite books, the ones carried around during a lifetime of relocations, are not necessarily favorites because of what is between their covers. They are just as likely to be favorites because of all the memories attached to their acquisition, or where they were first read, or what family member owned them first, or because they were a gift from a favorite teacher, relative, or long lost friend. As the back cover of Bound to Last puts it, we love this kind of book "because of its significance as a one-of-a-kind, irreplaceable object."

Following Ray Bradbury's foreword and Sean Manning's introduction, thirty diverse writers share

their feelings about the one book in their lives they most cherish. The actual book choices range all the way from The Bible to The Carpetbaggers, with stops along the way to hear about emotional bonding with copies of many of the classics, favorite children's books, anthologies, a biography, modern novels, and even one cookbook. Remember, it is not necessarily their contents that make these books so special to their owners.

For Philipp Meyer, author of one of my favorite recent novels, American Rust, that book is For Whom the Bell Tolls. Meyer, a high school dropout, was fortunate to grow up surrounded by books. He was lucky, too, that the books were hardbacks and paperbacks, books he could browse at leisure as he developed his reading skills. Reading For Whom the Bell Tolls for the first time changed him forever. Suddenly, he recognized the difference between popular novels and what the best books have to offer. Meyer says that he "recently donated that copy to the library at my graduate writing center. It's forty-five years old, and tattered, but it continues to be read. Whereas my Kindle, forty-five years from now, will be buried in a landfill under approximately eleven million other Kindles."

For Jim Knipfeel the book is Mason & Dixon, not so much because of its contents but because it is the last book he "was able to read in normal fashion." Knipfeel went blind while reading Mason & Dixon and had to finish the last 60 pages of the book via its audio version. For him, "it will always be The Last Book, in more ways than one."

For West African Chris Abani, that book is James Baldwin's Another Country, the book that inspired him to become the writer he is today. Abani discovered the book on his parents' bookshelf when he was ten years old and he still recognizes the coffee stain he placed on page 72 back in 1992. Abani recently read this copy of Another Country for the twentieth time and he says that it was a struggle to keep it from falling apart. Recognizing that it was time to acquire another copy, but not wanting to replace his relic with another paper copy, Abani searched everywhere for an electronic copy for his iPad. He reports that his search was unsuccessful and that "this makes me sad and extremely happy."

These are my favorite pieces in Bound to Last, but they are just the beginning of what this book has to offer. This is one that book lovers will want to read more than once - a book that deserves a place of honor on their bookshelves. Come on, you know who you are.

### **Togar**

A serviceable read if the premise of 30 writers espousing on their most 'cherished' book appeals to you. Writing is good overall, but the collected authors run the gamut from established to obscure which may or may not be a good thing depending on your preferences. This is a good looking book though - nice stiff cover with blatant design homage to 'Catcher in the Rye.'

Is reading more part of your resolutions for 2011? This is the perfect book to help you with your selections. A great source to keep always.

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