

## Perchance to Dream: Selected Stories

By Charles Beaumont

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### Perchance to Dream: Selected Stories By Charles Beaumont

**The profoundly original and wildly entertaining short stories of a legendary *Twilight Zone* writer, with a foreword by Ray Bradbury and an afterword by William Shatner**

It is only natural that Charles Beaumont would make a name for himself crafting scripts for *The Twilight Zone*—for his was an imagination so limitless it must have emerged from some other dimension. *Perchance to Dream* contains a selection of Beaumont's finest stories, including seven that he later adapted for *Twilight Zone* episodes.

Beaumont dreamed up fantasies so vast and varied they burst through the walls of whatever box might contain them. Supernatural, horror, noir, science fiction, fantasy, pulp, and more: all were equally at home in his wondrous mind. These are stories where lions stalk the plains, classic cars rove the streets, and spacecraft hover just overhead. Here roam musicians, magicians, vampires, monsters, toreros, extraterrestrials, androids, and perhaps even the Devil himself. With dizzying feats of master storytelling and joyously eccentric humor, Beaumont transformed his nightmares and reveries into impeccably crafted stories that leave themselves indelibly stamped upon the walls of the mind. In Beaumont's hands, nothing is impossible: it all seems plausible, even likely.

"[Beaumont's] imagination, as *Perchance to Dream* amply shows, was more than most writer's enjoy in the longest of lifetimes." -**NPR**

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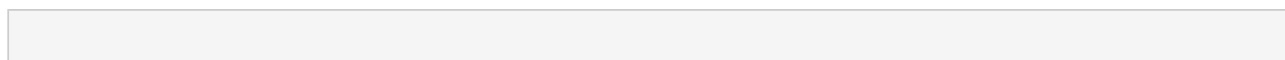
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## Editorial Review

### Review

"This fresh collection of Beaumont's weird fiction is rife with fantastical tropes and twist endings...Twist endings get a bad rap in our oh-so-sophisticated millennium, but in *Perchance to Dream*, they're in the hands of a master...Throughout the book, Beaumont challenges perception, norms, and our smug reliance on appearances, using supernatural and science-fictional elements to drive home his points — sometimes gently, sometimes jarringly...[Beaumont's] imagination, as *Perchance to Dream* amply shows, was more than most writer's enjoy in the longest of lifetimes."

-*NPR*

"Beaumont's stories offer flashes of true horror, subverting shock value with vertiginous questions about good, evil and human nature."

—*The Seattle Times*

"Creepy, melancholy short stories from the mid-20th-century master...Each with its satisfying twist, often surprisingly surprising, these stories charm and entertain."

-*Kirkus*

"In every genre he explored, Beaumont wrote with style, with a sure sense of his characters. His stories are often haunting, and though their concerns are ever enduring, they provide a clear window into the fears and hopes of his time."

—*Dean Koontz*

"The name of Charles Beaumont will be honored and recognized for generations yet to come."

—*Robert Bloch*

"Terrifically creepy pieces that almost always end with a twist...Beaumont deserves the wider audience this volume can provide."

—*Library Journal*

"As a writer, Beaumont never seemed particularly concerned with observing the hard boundary lines of genre, and sometimes slipped over it and across again with gleeful abandon. As a writer of imaginative fiction, Beaumont was especially adept at the use of fiction as an object lesson, using it as a mirror to force readers to confront their own complacency and small-mindedness. In Beaumont's hands, wishes become nightmares, and the road to hell is always paved with good intentions."

—*Suvudu*

"This is a worthwhile and important collection, preserving an author's work for a new generation of readers. Read them. Get angry. Be shocked. Laugh. Charles Beaumont's work will certainly provoke your imagination."

—*Weird Fiction Review*

### About the Author

**Charles Beaumont** (1929–1967) was the author of three collections of short stories and two novels. He penned twenty-two episodes of *The Twilight Zone*, considered some of the show's finest.

**Ray Bradbury** (1920–2012) was the author of hundreds of short stories and nearly fifty books, as well as numerous poems, essays, operas, plays, teleplays, and screenplays. His works include *Fahrenheit 451* and *The Martian Chronicles*.

**William Shatner** has cultivated a career spanning more than fifty years as an award-winning actor, director, producer, writer, and recording artist. In 1962, he earned his first starring role in Roger Corman's *The Intruder*, written by Charles Beaumont. His career highlights include the iconic role of Captain James T. Kirk in the *Star Trek* television series and movies.

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#### **Wendy Kroll:**

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