

best margaret atwood novels

best margaret atwood novels is a title that resonates with readers worldwide, especially those passionate about literary fiction that challenges societal norms, explores complex characters, and envisions compelling futures. Margaret Atwood, a renowned Canadian author, has crafted a prolific career spanning decades, with a diverse array of novels that have cemented her reputation as one of the most influential writers of contemporary literature. Her works often blend dystopian themes, feminist perspectives, and sharp social commentary, making her novels not only compelling stories but also thought-provoking reflections on the world we live in. If you're new to her writing or a longtime fan seeking to explore her most acclaimed works, this guide will delve into some of the best Margaret Atwood novels, highlighting their themes, significance, and what makes each of them a must-read.

Overview of Margaret Atwood's Literary Style

Before diving into specific novels, it's essential to understand Atwood's distinctive style and thematic interests. Her writing is characterized by:

- Dystopian and speculative fiction: Many of her novels imagine future societies that critique current social, political, and environmental issues.
- Feminist perspectives: Atwood often explores gender roles, power dynamics, and women's rights.
- Rich symbolism and layered storytelling: Her narratives are complex, often employing allegory and metaphor.
- Sharp social critique: Her works interrogate issues such as authoritarianism, environmental degradation, and cultural shifts.

Her versatility as a writer allows her to traverse genres from historical fiction to science fiction, all while maintaining a distinctive voice that challenges and engages readers.

Top Margaret Atwood Novels You Must Read

1. The Handmaid's Tale (1985)

Overview:

Arguably Atwood's most famous work, *The Handmaid's Tale* is a dystopian novel set in the totalitarian republic of Gilead, where women's rights have been drastically curtailed. The story follows Offred, a Handmaid who is forced into reproductive servitude, reflecting fears about gender oppression and religious extremism.

Themes:

- Gender oppression and control
- Religious fundamentalism

- Power and resistance
- The dangers of authoritarian regimes

Significance:

This novel has become a cultural touchstone, inspiring a successful television adaptation and sparking debates about reproductive rights and authoritarianism worldwide. It's a must-read for understanding Atwood's critique of societal structures.

2. Oryx and Crake (2003)

Overview:

The first book in the MaddAddam trilogy, *Oryx and Crake* is a speculative science fiction novel that explores a post-apocalyptic future shaped by genetic engineering, corporate greed, and environmental collapse. The protagonist, Snowman, is among the last humans alive, reflecting on the events that led to the catastrophe.

Themes:

- Genetic modification and bioethics
- Corporate influence and environmental degradation
- Humanity's hubris and consequences of technological advancement

Significance:

This novel is a chilling exploration of a possible future, raising important questions about scientific responsibility and ecological sustainability. It's praised for its imaginative scope and incisive social critique.

3. The Blind Assassin (2000)

Overview:

Winner of the Booker Prize, *The Blind Assassin* is a multi-layered story that interweaves the life of Iris Chase and the fictional story she writes, which is embedded within her own narrative. The novel explores themes of memory, storytelling, and family secrets.

Themes:

- Memory and perception
- Class and gender roles
- Literature and storytelling as a means of understanding life

Significance:

This richly textured novel showcases Atwood's mastery in blending genre and narrative complexity, offering a profound meditation on storytelling's power.

4. Cat's Eye (1988)

Overview:

Cat's Eye follows Elaine Risley, an artist reflecting on her childhood and her complex relationships with her mother and childhood friends. The novel examines memory, identity, and the lingering effects of childhood trauma.

Themes:

- Childhood and memory
- Artistic expression
- Female friendship and rivalry

Significance:

It's celebrated for its nuanced portrayal of female psychology and its poetic prose, making it a seminal work on personal history and self-discovery.

5. The Year of the Flood (2009)

Overview:

Another entry in the MaddAddam trilogy, *The Year of the Flood* revisits the dystopian world after ecological and societal collapse. The story follows characters navigating survival and exploring themes of faith, community, and resilience.

Themes:

- Environmental catastrophe
- Religious and spiritual beliefs
- Community and survival

Significance:

This novel expands Atwood's exploration of ecological themes and offers a hopeful perspective amidst dystopian despair, emphasizing human resilience.

Other Notable Margaret Atwood Novels

While the above are some of her most acclaimed, other novels also deserve mention:

- *Alias Grace* (1996): A historical novel based on a real-life 19th-century murder case, exploring themes of memory, justice, and gender.
- *The Edible Woman* (1969): Her debut novel, examining consumerism and women's roles in society.
- *MaddAddam Trilogy* (*Oryx and Crake*, *The Year of the Flood*, *MaddAddam*): A comprehensive dystopian saga about ecological collapse and human survival.

Why Margaret Atwood's Novels Are Essential Reading

Atwood's novels are more than storytelling; they serve as mirrors and warnings, urging readers to reflect on current societal trajectories. Her ability to blend literary excellence with urgent themes makes her works both intellectually stimulating and emotionally resonant. Whether exploring dystopian futures or intimate personal stories, her novels challenge readers to think critically about issues such as gender equality, environmental sustainability, and political power.

Conclusion

In exploring the best Margaret Atwood novels, it becomes clear that her works are vital contributions to contemporary literature, offering insightful commentary wrapped in captivating narratives. From the chilling dystopia of *The Handmaid's Tale* to the speculative universe of *Oryx and Crake*, her novels continue to inspire, provoke, and resonate across generations. Whether you're interested in feminist literature, environmental issues, or dystopian fiction, Atwood's novels provide a rich tapestry of ideas and stories that will stay with you long after the last page. Dive into her works, and discover why she remains one of the most influential writers of our time.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some of Margaret Atwood's most acclaimed novels?

Some of Margaret Atwood's most acclaimed novels include *'The Handmaid's Tale'*, *'Oryx and Crake'*, *'Alias Grace'*, *'The Blind Assassin'*, and *'The Year of the Flood'*.

Which Margaret Atwood novel is considered a dystopian classic?

'The Handmaid's Tale' is considered a dystopian classic and has gained renewed popularity through its television adaptation.

What is Margaret Atwood's most recent novel?

As of 2023, Margaret Atwood's most recent novel is *'The Heart Goes Last'*, published in 2015. However, she continues to publish new works and essays regularly.

Which Margaret Atwood novel explores themes of environmentalism and biotech?

'Oryx and Crake' is renowned for its exploration of environmental collapse, biotechnology, and dystopian themes.

Are Margaret Atwood's novels suitable for new readers or best for seasoned readers?

Margaret Atwood's novels are accessible to both new and seasoned readers, offering compelling storytelling and thought-provoking themes that appeal to a wide audience.

Additional Resources

Best Margaret Atwood Novels

Margaret Atwood stands as one of the most influential and versatile writers of contemporary

literature. With a career spanning over five decades, Atwood's novels explore themes of gender, power, environmental crises, dystopian futures, and human resilience. Her distinctive narrative voice, inventive storytelling techniques, and sharp social commentary have earned her critical acclaim and a dedicated global readership. This article aims to provide a comprehensive review of her most celebrated novels, analyzing their themes, significance, and impact on literature and society.

Introduction to Margaret Atwood's Literary Legacy

Before diving into her best works, it's essential to understand the literary landscape Atwood has shaped. Known for her poetic prose and acute social critique, Atwood's novels often blend speculative fiction with sharp observations of contemporary issues. Her storytelling is characterized by complex characters, layered narratives, and a probing exploration of moral dilemmas. Recognized with numerous awards—including the Booker Prize, the Golden Booker, and the Arthur C. Clarke Award—her oeuvre reflects a writer deeply engaged with the pressing questions of her time.

Top Margaret Atwood Novels: An In-Depth Overview

Each of Atwood's major novels offers a unique window into her thematic preoccupations and stylistic evolution. Below, we explore her most influential works, highlighting their plot structures, themes, and cultural significance.

1. The Handmaid's Tale (1985)

Overview:

Arguably Margaret Atwood's most iconic novel, *The Handmaid's Tale* is a dystopian masterwork set in the theocratic society of Gilead. It follows Offred, a Handmaid whose sole purpose is to reproduce in a society where fertility has plummeted.

Themes and Significance:

This novel is a chilling extrapolation of gender oppression, religious extremism, and authoritarian control. Atwood constructs a society that, while fictional, echoes real-world concerns about the erosion of women's rights and the rise of fundamentalist ideologies. Its portrayal of reproductive rights and state surveillance has made it a touchstone for feminist discourse and political activism.

Impact:

The Handmaid's Tale has transcended its literary roots, inspiring a successful television adaptation, protests, and debates about civil liberties. Its influence is evident in discussions about bodily autonomy and government overreach, making it a prescient warning for future generations.

2. Oryx and Crake (2003)

Overview:

This novel marks the beginning of Atwood's MaddAddam trilogy. It is a science fiction narrative set in

a post-apocalyptic world, narrated by Snowman, who reflects on humanity's downfall caused by genetic engineering and corporate greed.

Themes and Significance:

Oryx and Crake explores bioethics, environmental degradation, and the consequences of unchecked scientific hubris. It questions the ethics of genetic manipulation and examines how corporate monopolies could shape human evolution. Atwood's portrayal of a genetically altered world raises urgent questions about the direction of biotechnology and environmental stewardship.

Impact:

The novel is praised for its imaginative scope and philosophical depth. It has contributed significantly to conversations about bioengineering and environmental sustainability, positioning Atwood as a visionary thinker in speculative fiction.

3. The Blind Assassin (2000)

Overview:

Winner of the Booker Prize, *The Blind Assassin* is a multi-layered narrative that combines a family saga with a fictional novel within a novel. It explores the lives of the Iris family across decades, revealing secrets and tragedies.

Themes and Significance:

This novel delves into memory, storytelling, and the nature of truth. Its intricate structure and rich character development exemplify Atwood's mastery in blending genres. The novel also examines class, gender roles, and the passage of time, offering a nuanced critique of 20th-century social dynamics.

Impact:

The Blind Assassin is celebrated for its literary craftsmanship and complex narrative layers. It is often regarded as one of Atwood's most accomplished works and a quintessential example of her ability to intertwine personal and societal histories.

4. Cat's Eye (1988)

Overview:

A semi-autobiographical novel, *Cat's Eye* traces the life of Elaine Risley from childhood through adulthood, focusing on her relationships with childhood friends and her experiences with artistic expression.

Themes and Significance:

The novel explores memory, childhood trauma, gender identity, and the process of artistic creation. Atwood's introspective prose examines how early experiences shape identity and perceptions of others.

Impact:

Cat's Eye is regarded as one of her most emotionally resonant novels, providing insights into female friendship and the complexities of personal development. It's a profound meditation on the lasting

effects of childhood and the resilience required to forge one's identity.

5. The Edible Woman (1969)

Overview:

Atwood's debut novel, *The Edible Woman*, is a satirical look at consumer culture and female autonomy. It follows Marian McAlpin, who begins to feel increasingly alienated from her own identity and body.

Themes and Significance:

The novel tackles themes of consumerism, societal expectations of women, and identity crisis. Its satirical tone critiques the societal pressures that confine women and the commodification of their bodies.

Impact:

While less dystopian than her later works, *The Edible Woman* established Atwood's reputation as a sharp social critic and innovative storyteller. It remains relevant as a commentary on gender roles and societal conformity.

Analyzing Atwood's Literary Style and Themes

Margaret Atwood's novels are distinguished by their rich prose, layered narratives, and profound thematic depth. Her style often combines poetic language with precise social critique, creating works that are both intellectually stimulating and emotionally engaging.

Narrative Techniques:

- Use of multiple perspectives and unreliable narrators
- Intertwining stories within stories (as seen in *The Blind Assassin*)
- Incorporation of speculative elements grounded in real-world issues

Recurring Themes:

- Gender and power dynamics
- Environmental degradation and ecological crises
- The ethics of technological advancement
- Memory, identity, and storytelling
- Societal control and individual agency

Her ability to blend speculative fiction with contemporary social issues makes her novels not only compelling reads but also important cultural commentaries.

Conclusion: Margaret Atwood's Enduring Influence

Margaret Atwood's novels have left an indelible mark on literature and society. From dystopian visions that warn of authoritarian tendencies to introspective explorations of identity and memory, her work challenges readers to reflect on the present and consider possible futures. Her novels are

not merely stories; they are thoughtful provocations that demand engagement and critical reflection.

As new generations encounter her writings, Atwood's influence continues to grow. Her ability to anticipate societal shifts and articulate complex human experiences ensures her place as a literary giant for years to come. Whether exploring the oppressive regimes of *The Handmaid's Tale*, the ethical dilemmas of genetic engineering in *Oryx and Crake*, or the intricate tapestry of personal history in *The Blind Assassin*, Margaret Atwood remains an essential voice in contemporary literature—one whose best novels will continue to resonate and inspire debate well into the future.

Best Margaret Atwood Novels

best margaret atwood novels: Good Bones and Simple Murders Margaret Atwood, 2010-12-31 Margaret Atwood's *Good Bones and Simple Murders* (published originally as *Murder in the Dark*) are now available together in this beautiful one-volume collector's edition. This compilation is a concentrated burst of the trademark wit and virtuosity of Atwood's bestselling novels, brilliant stories, and insightful poetry. Among the miniatures gathered here are Gertrude offering Hamlet a piece of her mind, the real truth about the Little Red Hen, a reincarnated bat explaining how Bram Stoker got *Dracula* all wrong, and five home-economist methods of making a man. Atwood has fashioned an enthralling collection of parables, monologues, prose poems, condensed science fictions, reconfigured fairy tales, and other diminutive masterpieces, punctuated with charming illustrations by the author. A feast of comic entertainment, *Good Bones and Simple Murders* is Atwood at her wittiest, most thoughtful, and most provoking.

best margaret atwood novels: The Margaret Atwood 4-Book Bundle Margaret Atwood, 2016-03-01 Four of Margaret Atwood's best novels, in one volume! In *The Handmaid's Tale*, a multi-award-winning, bestselling novel, Margaret Atwood has created a stunning Orwellian vision of the near future. This is the story of Offred, one of the unfortunate "Handmaids" under the new social order who have only one purpose: to breed. In Gilead, where women are prohibited from holding jobs, reading, and forming friendships, Offred's persistent memories of life in the "time before" and her will to survive are acts of rebellion. Provocative, startling, prophetic, and with Margaret Atwood's devastating irony, wit, and acute perceptive powers in full force, *The Handmaid's Tale* is at once a mordant satire and a dire warning. *The Blind Assassin*: "Ten days after the war ended, my sister Laura drove a car off a bridge." These words are spoken by Iris Chase Griffen, married at eighteen to a wealthy industrialist but now poor and eighty-two. Iris recalls her far from exemplary life, and the events leading up to her sister's death, gradually revealing the carefully guarded Chase family secrets. Among these is "The Blind Assassin," a novel that earned the dead Laura Chase not only notoriety but also a devoted cult following. Sexually explicit for its time, it was a pulp fantasy improvised by two unnamed lovers who meet secretly in rented rooms and seedy cafés. As this novel-within-a-novel twists and turns through love and jealousy, self-sacrifice and betrayal, so does the real narrative, as both move closer to war and catastrophe. Margaret Atwood's Booker Prize-winning sensation combines elements of gothic drama, romantic suspense, and science fiction fantasy in a spellbinding tale. In *Alias Grace*, Atwood takes us back in time and into the life of one of the most enigmatic and notorious women of the nineteenth century. Grace Marks has been convicted for her involvement in the vicious murders of her employer, Thomas Kinnear, and Nancy Montgomery, his housekeeper and mistress. Some believe Grace is innocent; others think her evil or insane. Now serving a life sentence, Grace claims to have no memory of the murders. Dr. Simon Jordan, an up-and-coming expert in the burgeoning field of mental illness, is engaged by a group of reformers and spiritualists who seek a pardon for Grace. He listens to her story while bringing her closer and closer to the day she cannot remember. What will he find in attempting to unlock her

memories? Is Grace a female fiend? A bloodthirsty femme fatale? Or is she the victim of circumstances? And finally, *The Robber Bride*, inspired by *The Robber Bridegroom*, a wonderfully grisly tale from the Brothers Grimm in which an evil groom lures three maidens into his lair and devours them, one by one. But in her version, Atwood brilliantly recasts the monster as Zenia, a villainess of demonic proportions, and sets her loose in the lives of three friends, Tony, Charis, and Roz. All three have lost men, spirit, money, and time to their old college acquaintance, Zenia. At various times, and in various emotional disguises, Zenia has insinuated her way into their lives and practically demolished them. To Tony, who almost lost her husband and jeopardized her academic career, Zenia is 'a lurking enemy commando.' To Roz, who did lose her husband and almost her magazine, Zenia is 'a cold and treacherous bitch.' To Charis, who lost a boyfriend, quarts of vegetable juice and some pet chickens, Zenia is a kind of zombie, maybe 'soulless' (Lorrie Moore, *New York Times Book Review*). In love and war, illusion and deceit, Zenia's subterranean malevolence takes us deep into her enemies' pasts.

best margaret atwood novels: *Moral Disorder and Other Stories* Margaret Atwood, 2008-02-12 From the bestselling author of *The Handmaid's Tale* and *The Testaments* • This brilliant collection of connected short stories strings together several decades of moments in the life of one woman—as an ambitious girl in the 1930s, as a young professional coming of age in the uncertain '50s and '60s, and as half of a couple growing old together. In a series of vividly evoked settings that span cities, backwoods, and farm country, we see this woman contending over time with an unstable sister, a married lover, aging parents, mystifying stepchildren, vulnerable farm animals, and her own changing self. By turns funny, lyrical, earthy, shocking, and deeply personal, *Moral Disorder* displays Margaret Atwood's celebrated storytelling gifts and unmistakable style to their best advantage.

best margaret atwood novels: *The Handmaid's Tale* Margaret Atwood, 2010-12-10 An instant classic and eerily prescient cultural phenomenon, from "the patron saint of feminist dystopian fiction" (*New York Times*). Now an award-winning Hulu series starring Elizabeth Moss. In this multi-award-winning, bestselling novel, Margaret Atwood has created a stunning Orwellian vision of the near future. This is the story of Offred, one of the unfortunate "Handmaids" under the new social order who have only one purpose: to breed. In Gilead, where women are prohibited from holding jobs, reading, and forming friendships, Offred's persistent memories of life in the "time before" and her will to survive are acts of rebellion. Provocative, startling, prophetic, and with Margaret Atwood's devastating irony, wit, and acute perceptive powers in full force, *The Handmaid's Tale* is at once a mordant satire and a dire warning.

best margaret atwood novels: *Old Babes in the Wood* Margaret Atwood, 2023-03-07 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • From the bestselling, award-winning author of *The Handmaid's Tale* and *The Testaments*, a dazzling collection of short stories that look deeply into the heart of family relationships, marriage, loss and memory, and what it means to spend a life together If you consider yourself an Atwood fan and have only read her novels: Get your act together. You've been missing out." —The *New York Times Book Review*, Rebecca Makkai, best-selling author of *The Great Believers* Margaret Atwood has established herself as one of the most visionary and canonical authors in the world. This collection of fifteen extraordinary stories—some of which have appeared in *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times Magazine*—explore the full warp and weft of experience, speaking to our unique times with Atwood's characteristic insight, wit and intellect. The two intrepid sisters of the title story grapple with loss and memory on a perfect summer evening; "Impatient Griselda" explores alienation and miscommunication with a fresh twist on a folkloric classic; and "My Evil Mother" touches on the fantastical, examining a mother-daughter relationship in which the mother purports to be a witch. At the heart of the collection are seven extraordinary stories that follow a married couple across the decades, the moments big and small that make up a long life of uncommon love—and what comes after. Returning to short fiction for the first time since her 2014 collection *Stone Mattress*, Atwood showcases both her creativity and her humanity in these remarkable tales which by turns delight, illuminate, and quietly devastate.

best margaret atwood novels: *The Bad News* Margaret Atwood, 2018-10-02 "We don't like

bad news, but we need it. We need to know about it in case it's coming our way." This delicious, contemptuous and poignant micro-story is the first in the acclaimed collection, *Moral Disorder*, from towering author and #1 New York Times Bestseller, Margaret Atwood. The bad news arrives in the form of a paper, which Tig carries up the stairs to Nell who is wallowing in bed. A year from now, they won't remember the details, but for now, the bad news sits between the aging couple as they prepare their breakfast together and Nell imagines them in Southern France as the barbarians invade Rome on what is beautiful day, safe and quiet, for now, from the bad news coming their way. A Vintage Shorts Selection. An ebook short.

best margaret atwood novels: *The Testaments* Margaret Atwood, 2020 The Republic of Gilead is beginning to rot from within. At this crucial moment, two girls with radically different experiences of the regime come face to face with the legendary, ruthless Aunt Lydia. But how far will each go for what she believes?

best margaret atwood novels: Great Short Books Kenneth C. Davis, 2023-09-19 An entertaining guide to some of the best short novels of all time looks at works from the eighteenth century to the present day, spanning multiple genres, cultures, and countries--

best margaret atwood novels: Moral Disorder Margaret Atwood, 2009-03-31 In these ten dazzling interrelated stories Atwood traces the course of a life and also the lives intertwined with it, while evoking the drama and the humour that colour common experiences—the birth of a baby, divorce and remarriage, old age and death. With settings ranging from Toronto, northern Quebec, and rural Ontario, the stories begin in the present, as a couple no longer young situate themselves in a larger world no longer safe. Then the narrative goes back in time to the forties and moves chronologically forward toward the present. In "The Art of Cooking and Serving," the twelve-year-old narrator does her best to accommodate the arrival of a baby sister. After she boldly declares her independence, we follow the narrator into young adulthood and then through a complex relationship. In "The Entities," the story of two women haunted by the past unfolds. The magnificent last two stories reveal the heartbreaking old age of parents but circle back again to childhood, to complete the cycle. By turns funny, lyrical, incisive, tragic, earthy, shocking, and deeply personal, *Moral Disorder* displays Atwood's celebrated storytelling gifts and unmistakable style to their best advantage. This is vintage Atwood, writing at the height of her powers.

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best margaret atwood novels: The Blind Assassin Margaret Atwood, 2009 Ten days after the war ended, my sister Laura drove a car off a bridge. Thus begins *The Blind Assassin*, Margaret Atwood's Booker Prize-winning novel. Laura Chase's older sister Iris, married at eighteen to a politically prominent Industrialist but now poor and eighty-two, is living in Port Ticonderoga, a town dominated by their once-prosperous family before the First War. While coping with her unreliable body, Iris reflects on her far from exemplary life, in particular the events surrounding her sister's tragic death. Chief among these was the publication of *The Blind Assassin*, a novel which earned the dead Laura Chase not only notoriety but also a devoted cult following- as Iris says, she herself lives 'in the long shadow cast by Laura'. Sexually explicit for its time, *The Blind Assassin* describes a risky affair in the turbulent thirties between a wealthy young woman and a man on the run. During their secret meetings in rented rooms, the lovers concoct a pulp fantasy set on the Planet Zycron. As the

invented story twists through love and sacrifice and betrayal, so does the real one, as events in both move closer to war and catastrophe. By turns lyrical, outrageous, formidable, compelling and funny, this is a novel filled with deep humour and dark drama. It is Margaret Atwood at her breathtaking best.

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best margaret atwood novels: *Engendering Genre* Reingard M. Nischik, 2010-10-27 Winner of the 2010 Margaret Atwood Society Best Book Prize. In *Engendering Genre*, renowned Margaret Atwood scholar Reingard M. Nischik analyzes the relationship between gender and genre in Atwood's works. She approaches Atwood's oeuvre by genre – poetry, short fiction, novels, criticism, comics, and film – and examines them individually. She explores how Atwood has developed her genres to be gender-sensitive in both content and form and argues that gender and genre are inherently complicit in Atwood's work: they converge to critique the gender-biased designs of traditional genres. This combination of gender and genre results in the recognizable Atwoodian style that shakes and extends the boundaries of conventional genres and explores them in new ways. The book includes the first in-depth treatment of Atwood's cartoon art as well as the first survey of her involvement with film and concludes with an interview with Margaret Atwood on her career "From Survival woman to Literary Icon". Published in English.

best margaret atwood novels: *The Best Novels of the Nineties* Linda Parent Leshner, 2015-11-17 This reader's guide provides uniquely organized and up-to-date information on the most important and enjoyable contemporary English-language novels. Offering critically substantiated reading recommendations, careful cross-referencing, and extensive indexing, this book is appropriate for both the weekend reader looking for the best new mystery and the full-time graduate student hoping to survey the latest in magical realism. More than 1,000 titles are included, each entry citing major reviews and giving a brief description for each book.

best margaret atwood novels: *Motherhood in Margaret Atwood's novels* Ronja Thiede, 2019-05-28 Bachelor Thesis from the year 2018 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1,3, Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, language: English, abstract: The aim of this bachelor thesis is to contribute to research on how feminist perspectives on motherhood are portrayed in North American fictional writing. For this purpose, I will use close reading techniques to analyze Margaret Atwood's novels *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Cat's Eye* and *Oryx and Crake* to show that all three foster a feminist view on motherhood. I will argue that in the novels Atwood recognizes motherhood as both a source of oppression and a source of empowerment. Additionally, I will demonstrate how she dismantles the myth of perfect motherhood by portraying disrupted mother-child relationships, authentic maternal experiences and the subjectivity of mother figures that would traditionally be regarded as "bad" mothers.

best margaret atwood novels: *The Tent* Margaret Atwood, 2006 One of the world's most celebrated authors, Margaret Atwood has penned a collection of smart and entertaining fictional essays, in the genre of her popular books *Good Bones* and *Murder in the Dark*, punctuated with wonderful illustrations by the author. Chilling and witty, prescient and personal, delectable and tart, these highly imaginative, vintage Atwoodian essays speak on a broad range of subjects, reflecting the times we live in with deadly accuracy and knife-edge precision.

best margaret atwood novels: *Margaret Atwood* Coral A. Howells, 2005-04-26 This

introduction covers Atwood's work from the end of the 1960s to the present, drawing out her recurring themes of Canadian identity and the wilderness, the representation of women and female bodies, and history and its narration. Winner of the Margaret Atwood Society Best Book in 1997, the second edition is thoroughly revised and updated. It includes new chapters covering Atwood's recent novels *Alias Grace*, *The Blind Assassin*, and *Oryx and Crake*, and her 2002 book on writing *Negotiating with the Dead*.

best margaret atwood novels: Cat's Eye by Margaret Atwood (Book Analysis) Bright Summaries, 2019-05-20 Unlock the more straightforward side of Cat's Eye with this concise and insightful summary and analysis! This engaging summary presents an analysis of Cat's Eye by Margaret Atwood, which follows the acclaimed painter Elaine Risley as she returns to her native Toronto for a retrospective of her work. Hanging over her visit is the shadow of her relationship with Cordelia, who viciously bullied her when they were both children, with lasting effects on Elaine and her ability to bond with other women. She finds herself reflecting on their shared past and on the troubles Cordelia has faced in the intervening years: indeed, while Elaine has seemingly flourished, Cordelia has been plagued by mental illness and often finds herself lonely and isolated. The novel is a vivid meditation on memory, the lasting effects of childhood trauma and the power of the past to shape the present. Find out everything you need to know about Cat's Eye in a fraction of the time! This in-depth and informative reading guide brings you: • A complete plot summary • Character studies • Key themes and symbols • Questions for further reflection Why choose BrightSummaries.com? Available in print and digital format, our publications are designed to accompany you on your reading journey. The clear and concise style makes for easy understanding, providing the perfect opportunity to improve your literary knowledge in no time. See the very best of literature in a whole new light with BrightSummaries.com!

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