

year of the flood margaret atwood

Year of the Flood Margaret Atwood: An In-Depth Exploration

Year of the Flood Margaret Atwood is a phrase that immediately draws attention to one of the most compelling works in contemporary speculative fiction—Margaret Atwood's novel "The Year of the Flood." Published in 2009, this novel is a key component of Atwood's MaddAddam trilogy and offers a complex and layered vision of a dystopian future. The book explores themes of environmental degradation, bioengineering, societal collapse, and the resilience of human and non-human life. This article delves into the novel's themes, characters, narrative structure, and its significance within Atwood's oeuvre and the broader landscape of science fiction and dystopian literature.

Understanding the Context of "The Year of the Flood"

Margaret Atwood's Literary Background

Margaret Atwood, a renowned Canadian author, has long been celebrated for her incisive explorations of societal issues, often blending speculative fiction with literary depth. Her works frequently examine gender, ecology, power, and technology. "The Year of the Flood" continues this tradition, imagining a future shaped by human hubris and ecological neglect.

Publication and Trilogy Placement

Released in 2009, "The Year of the Flood" is the second book in the MaddAddam trilogy, preceded by "Oryx and Crake" (2003) and followed by "MaddAddam" (2013). While each novel can stand alone, together they construct a comprehensive narrative about a post-apocalyptic world caused by genetic engineering and environmental disaster.

Plot Overview and Narrative Structure

Core Plot and Setting

The novel is set in a near-future North America ravaged by ecological catastrophe and

societal upheaval. It follows the lives of several characters—primarily two women, Toby and Ren—who are survivors of the pandemic and corporate-driven environmental destruction. The story alternates between their perspectives, weaving a tapestry of personal histories, ecological warnings, and philosophical reflections.

Dual Timeline and Interwoven Narratives

"The Year of the Flood" employs a dual narrative structure, moving between the present post-disaster world and flashbacks revealing the characters' pasts. This technique allows Atwood to explore how individual choices, corporate greed, and environmental neglect culminated in the current crisis.

Themes and Motifs in "The Year of the Flood"

Environmental Collapse and Climate Change

- Depiction of a world suffering from climate change-induced disasters
- Collapse of ecosystems and weather patterns
- Impact on human society and wildlife

Atwood vividly illustrates the consequences of environmental neglect, warning of a future where ecological systems are irreparably damaged.

Bioengineering and Genetic Modification

- Creation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and artificial life forms
- Designing animals and plants for corporate profit and utility
- Ethical dilemmas surrounding genetic manipulation

The novel explores how bioengineering, initially seen as a technological advancement, becomes a double-edged sword leading to unforeseen disasters.

Corporate Power and Consumer Culture

- Dominance of biotech companies and corporate interests

- Consumerism and commodification of nature
- Loss of individual autonomy to corporate entities

Atwood critiques the unchecked expansion of corporate influence, emphasizing its role in environmental degradation and societal fragmentation.

Religious and Cultural Symbols

The novel employs religious imagery and references, such as the God's Gardeners—a fictional eco-religious community—highlighting themes of spiritual ecology and the search for meaning amid chaos.

Characters and Their Significance

Toby and Ren

- **Toby:** A former member of the God's Gardeners, she embodies resilience and hope. Her narrative reflects themes of environmental activism and survival.
- **Ren:** A young woman entangled in the biotech industry, she represents the conflicted individual caught within a corrupt system.

Other Notable Characters

- Jimmy, a charismatic leader and follower of the God's Gardeners
- Adam One, the spiritual leader of the Gardeners, advocating sustainability and reverence for nature
- Crake, the scientist responsible for creating the catastrophic bioengineered plague, central to the novel's plot

Symbolism and Literary Devices

Religious and Mythological References

Atwood weaves religious symbolism throughout the novel, portraying the God's Gardeners as a quasi-religious movement and using biblical allusions to comment on ecological salvation and apocalypse.

Use of Nature and Technology as Dual Symbols

Nature often symbolizes purity, resilience, and the sacred, while technology and bioengineering represent human hubris and destruction. The interplay between these symbols underscores the novel's central conflicts.

Metaphors of Flood and Renewal

- The title itself alludes to biblical and mythological floods as catalysts for cleansing and rebirth.
- The floods in the novel symbolize both destruction and the possibility of renewal.

Significance within Margaret Atwood's Body of Work

Continuity and Innovation

"The Year of the Flood" builds upon themes introduced in "Oryx and Crake," such as genetic engineering and ecological collapse, but expands on spiritual and cultural questions. It demonstrates Atwood's ongoing concern with environmental issues and human morality.

Critique of Technological Progress

Atwood's portrayal of bioengineering as both a marvel and a menace reflects her skepticism about unchecked technological progress. Her nuanced approach invites readers to consider ethical implications and responsibility.

Critical Reception and Cultural Impact

Literary Acclaim

- Praised for its imaginative scope and literary craftsmanship
- Noted for its urgent ecological warnings and philosophical depth

Influence on Environmental Discourse

The novel has contributed to discussions about climate change, bioethics, and sustainability, resonating with activists and policymakers alike.

Adaptations and Media Presence

While direct adaptations have been limited, "The Year of the Flood" remains influential within literary and environmental circles, inspiring debates and further creative works.

Conclusion: The Enduring Relevance of "The Year of the Flood"

As a compelling piece of speculative fiction, Margaret Atwood's "The Year of the Flood" serves as both a warning and a reflection on contemporary societal trajectories. Its layered narrative, rich symbolism, and urgent themes make it a vital read for understanding the complex interplay between humanity and the environment. The novel's exploration of ecological collapse, bioengineering, and resilience continues to resonate, urging readers to contemplate the future we are shaping—one flood, one disaster at a time. Ultimately, Atwood's work challenges us to consider whether we can find hope amid chaos and how we might forge a sustainable path forward.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of Margaret Atwood's 'Year of the Flood'?

The novel explores themes of environmental collapse, ecological disaster, survival, and the resilience of human and non-human life in a post-apocalyptic world.

How does 'Year of the Flood' connect to Margaret Atwood's 'Oryx and Crake'?

'Year of the Flood' is a companion novel to 'Oryx and Crake,' set in the same dystopian

universe, focusing on different characters and perspectives within the same post-apocalyptic timeline.

Who are the main characters in 'Year of the Flood'?

Key characters include Toby, a former animal rights activist; Ren, a young woman seeking safety; and the God's Gardeners, a religious group committed to environmental sustainability.

What role do the God's Gardeners play in the story?

The God's Gardeners serve as a central group promoting ecological harmony and spiritual beliefs centered around environmental preservation, providing insight into alternative responses to ecological crises.

When was 'Year of the Flood' published, and how was it received?

'Year of the Flood' was published in 2009 and received critical acclaim for its compelling storytelling, ecological themes, and its extension of the 'Oryx and Crake' universe.

What inspired Margaret Atwood to write 'Year of the Flood'?

Atwood was inspired by contemporary environmental issues, genetic engineering, and societal responses to ecological crises, imagining a future shaped by these challenges.

What are some of the key environmental issues highlighted in the novel?

The novel addresses issues such as climate change, genetic modification of organisms, corporate influence over food and environment, and ecological degradation.

Is 'Year of the Flood' suitable for readers interested in environmental dystopias?

Yes, the novel offers a thought-provoking portrayal of ecological collapse and human resilience, making it highly relevant for readers interested in environmental dystopias.

How does Margaret Atwood use science fiction elements in 'Year of the Flood'?

Atwood incorporates speculative science, genetic engineering, and futuristic technologies to explore possible ecological and societal futures within her dystopian setting.

Additional Resources

Year of the Flood: A Deep Dive into Margaret Atwood's Visionary Dystopian Saga

Introduction

Margaret Atwood's *Year of the Flood* stands as a compelling testament to her mastery in blending speculative fiction with incisive social commentary. Published in 2009 as the second book in her MaddAddam trilogy, this novel offers a sprawling, layered narrative that explores themes of environmental collapse, bioengineering, corporate greed, and human resilience. In this article, we will dissect the novel's core elements, its thematic richness, narrative structure, and the reasons it continues to resonate with readers and critics alike. Whether you're a long-time Atwood aficionado or new to her dystopian universe, this review aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of what makes *Year of the Flood* a pivotal work in contemporary speculative fiction.

Overview of Year of the Flood: Setting and Context

Futuristic Earth: A World on the Brink

Year of the Flood is set in a near-future Earth ravaged by ecological disaster, corporate dominance, and a series of pandemics. The novel takes place in a post-apocalyptic landscape, where the remnants of humanity cling to survival amidst environmental degradation and societal upheaval.

The setting is primarily within the confines of the God's Gardeners, a cult-like eco-religious

community that advocates for environmental sustainability, and the wider corporate-controlled world that has succumbed to bioengineering excesses. The novel's timeline overlaps with that of Oryx and Crake, the first book in the trilogy, but focuses more intimately on the lives within the Gardeners, providing a microcosm of resistance and hope.

The MaddAddam Trilogy: A Broader Narrative Arc

Year of the Flood is part of Atwood's larger MaddAddam trilogy, which includes:

- Oryx and Crake (2003): Introduces the dystopian world and key characters like Jimmy (Snowman) and Crake.**
- The Year of the Flood (2009): Focuses on the community of the God's Gardeners and the events leading up to the ecological collapse.**
- MaddAddam (2013): Concludes the saga with themes of rebirth, genetic engineering, and the rebuilding of society.**

This trilogy explores the repercussions of unchecked scientific experimentation and corporate greed, emphasizing the importance of ecological stewardship.

Thematic Analysis: Core Ideas and Concerns

Environmental Collapse and Climate Change

Atwood's depiction of ecological disaster is both vivid and plausible, serving as a warning about the trajectory of current environmental policies. The novel explores:

- Species Extinction: Many species have vanished, illustrating the irreversible damage caused by habitat destruction and pollution.**
- Climate Disruption: Rising sea levels, unpredictable weather, and resource shortages create a chaotic backdrop.**
- Environmental Religions: The God's Gardeners embody a spiritual approach to ecology, emphasizing sustainability, conservation, and reverence for nature, contrasting with corporate exploitation.**

Bioengineering and Genetic Manipulation

A central theme is the ethical and societal implications of genetic engineering. Key aspects include:

- Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs):** The novel's bioengineering projects produce new species and organisms, some of which escape control.
- Crake's Creations:** The character Crake develops the Crakers, genetically designed humans meant to be more environmentally adapted and devoid of destructive impulses.
- Pandemic and Biosecurity:** The novel examines how bioengineering can both threaten and potentially save humanity, raising questions about playing God.

Corporate Power and Consumerism

Atwood critiques the dominance of multinational corporations, highlighting:

- Consumer Culture:** The proliferation of branded, genetically engineered products reflects rampant consumerism.
- Corporate Ethics:** Companies prioritize profits over environmental or social responsibility, leading to ecological and societal crises.

- **Biotech as Commodity:** Genetic engineering becomes a commodified industry, contributing to inequality and environmental harm.

Resilience and Human Spirit

Despite the bleak setting, Atwood underscores human resilience through her characters' struggles and hope:

- **Community and Belief:** The God's Gardeners symbolize a community striving for harmony with nature.
- **Memory and Narration:** The narrative's multiple perspectives demonstrate adaptability and resilience.
- **Rebirth Potential:** The novel hints at the possibility of renewal and the importance of stewardship for future generations.

Narrative Structure and Style

Multiple Perspectives and Interwoven Narratives

Year of the Flood employs a multi-layered narrative, primarily through the viewpoints of two pivotal characters:

- Toby: A former member of the God's Gardeners, whose perspective offers insight into the community's philosophy and her personal journey.**
- Ren: A rebellious young woman connected to the bioengineering world, representing the younger generation's perspective and complicity.**

This dual narrative approach allows Atwood to explore different facets of the same event, enriching the reader's understanding of the complex world.

Intertextuality and Literary Devices

The novel is rich in literary techniques:

- Intertextual References: Biblical allusions, eco-spiritual texts, and science fiction tropes intertwine, creating layered meanings.**
- Symbolism: The Flood itself symbolizes both literal ecological disaster and metaphorical cleansing or rebirth.**
- Imagery: Vivid descriptions of devastated**

landscapes and bioengineered creatures evoke visceral responses and emphasize the stakes.

Writing Style and Accessibility

Atwood's prose balances clarity with poetic richness. Her narrative voice is both engaging and contemplative, making complex scientific and philosophical ideas accessible without sacrificing depth.

Character Analysis: Key Figures and Their Significance

Toby

- Represents the pragmatic survivor and moral center.**
- Embodies eco-activism and spiritual reverence for nature.**
- Her resilience highlights themes of hope and perseverance.**

Ren

- **A rebellious youth involved in bioengineering projects.**
- **Symbolizes the reckless pursuit of progress and its consequences.**
- **Her journey reflects the generational tensions around technology and ethics.**

Crake

- **A genius scientist with a god-complex.**
- **Represents the dangers of unchecked scientific hubris.**
- **His creations and plans serve as catalysts for the novel's central crises.**

Adam One

- **The spiritual leader of the God's Gardeners.**
- **Embodies ecological wisdom and moral guidance.**
- **His teachings contrast with corporate greed and environmental neglect.**

Critical Reception and Influence

Year of the Flood received widespread acclaim for its prescient themes and literary craftsmanship. Critics praised Atwood's ability to craft a compelling narrative that doubles as a cautionary tale, emphasizing the importance of ecological stewardship.

- Awards and Recognitions:** The novel was shortlisted for several literary awards, including the Governor General's Award.
- Influence on Environmental Discourse:** The book has been cited in discussions on climate change, bioethics, and sustainability.
- Cultural Impact:** Its depiction of bioengineered humans and ecological collapse has entered popular discourse, inspiring documentaries, academic analyses, and environmental activism.

Conclusion: Why Year of the Flood Matters

Margaret Atwood's Year of the Flood is more than just a dystopian novel; it is a mirror held up to our own society's trajectory. Its meticulous world-building, complex characters, and layered themes make it a profound meditation on humanity's relationship with nature, technology, and ethics.

The novel challenges readers to consider:

- The consequences of environmental neglect.**
- The ethical boundaries of scientific progress.**
- The importance of community, spirituality, and resilience in facing global crises.**

As a product of Atwood's sharp intellect and poetic prose, Year of the Flood remains an essential read for those interested in speculative fiction's capacity to explore urgent societal issues. It urges us to reflect on our choices today, emphasizing that the future is, in part, shaped by the actions we take now.

Final Verdict: An indispensable addition to any literature lover's collection, Year of the Flood stands as a visionary warning wrapped in compelling storytelling—an unmissable exploration of a possible future that feels

disturbingly close to our present.

Year Of The Flood Margaret Atwood

year of the flood margaret atwood: The Year of the Flood Margaret Atwood, 2010

year of the flood margaret atwood: The Year of the Flood Margaret Atwood, 2010-07-27

From the Booker Prize-winning author of *Oryx and Crake*, the first book in the MaddAddam Trilogy, and *The Handmaid's Tale*. Internationally acclaimed as ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR by, amongst others, the *Globe and Mail*, the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, and the *Village Voice*. In a world driven by shadowy, corrupt corporations and the uncontrolled development of new, gene-spliced life forms, a man-made pandemic occurs, obliterating human life. Two people find they have unexpectedly survived: Ren, a young dancer locked inside the high-end sex club Scales and Tails (the cleanest dirty girls in town), and Toby, solitary and determined, who has barricaded herself inside a luxurious spa, watching and waiting. The women have to decide on their next move—they can't stay hidden forever. But is anyone else out there?

year of the flood margaret atwood: The Year of the Flood Margaret Atwood, 2010 Adam One, the kindly leader of the God's Gardeners, predicted the waterless flood. Now it has occurred, obliterating most human life. By turns dark, tender, violent, & hilarious, 'The Year of the Flood' is a testament to Atwood's visionary power.

year of the flood margaret atwood: The Year of the Flood Margaret Atwood, 2009-09-07

The long-awaited new novel from Margaret Atwood. *The Year of the Flood* is a dystopic masterpiece and a testament to her visionary power.

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year of the flood margaret atwood: Maddaddam Trilogy Box Margaret Atwood, 2014-08-12

Collects three novels featuring a world that has been devastated by ecological and scientific disasters.

year of the flood margaret atwood: *Margaret Atwood's 'Year of the Flood'. Meanings of Climate Change* Verena Bär, 2013-07-04 Seminar paper from the year 2012 in the subject Didactics for the subject English - Literature, Works, grade: 1,0, University of Bayreuth, language: English, abstract: In her book *The Year of the Flood* (YOF) the Canadian author Margaret Atwood gives us an insight in how our future might look like and this foresight is not so unthinkable at all. The novel is placed in what is today the United States of America, probably somewhere on the East Coast. The time it is set in a not so far away future where the Apocalypse had already occurred. The plot is situated around the two main characters Toby and Ren who give us insights into the pre-apocalyptic time throughout the book. The environment which is portrayed is disturbed in many ways: the effects of a global climate change are apparent; society has split up into different groups. YOF is centered in the pleeblands where the lower social classes are situated. The picture of the society we get is that it is in an 'unhealthy condition'. It has mainly lost its ethics and moral and there is an increased willingness of violence not only by individuals but also by the leading CorpSeCorps forces, a private security firm. Eventually, the whole human race is extinguished by a pandemic and only a few survive. Next to Toby and Ren, the survivors mainly consist of the members of eco-activist groups. Now, they have to face the question of survival and have to deal with a new species of 'man' – the Crakers.

year of the flood margaret atwood: Margaret Atwood's Dystopian Fiction Sławomir Kuźnicki, 2017-05-11 This volume details Margaret Atwood's dystopian novels through the themes of the ambivalent ethics of science and technology, the position of women in the male-dominated world, and the ambiguous role played by religion and spirituality. The book's unique and original approach places Atwood's fiction within the contemporary world, with all the problems of our fast-changing reality. Furthermore, it provides an excellent reading of her dystopias in a broader, humanist context, with an emphasis on the social, cultural and political issues that have been important for both her, the writer, and us, the readers.

year of the flood margaret atwood: The MaddAddam Trilogy Bundle Margaret Atwood, 2014-08-12 A trilogy bundle (three ebooks in one) of the internationally celebrated speculative fiction trilogy from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Handmaid's Tale*. Across three stunning novels—*Oryx and Crake*, *The Year of the Flood*, and *Maddaddam*—the best-selling, Booker Prize-winning novelist projects us into a near future that is both all too familiar and beyond our imagining. In *Oryx and Crake*, a man struggles to survive in a world where he may be the last human. In search of answers, he embarks on a journey through the lush wilderness that was so recently a great city, until powerful corporations took mankind on an uncontrolled genetic engineering ride. In *The Year of the Flood* the long-feared waterless flood has occurred, altering Earth as we know it and obliterating most human life. And in *Maddaddam* a small group of survivors band together with the Children of Crake: the gentle, bioengineered quasi-human species who will inherit this new earth. Set in a darkly plausible future shaped by plagues, floods, and genetic engineering, these three novels take us from the end of the world to a brave new beginning. Thrilling, moving, and a triumph of imagination, the *Maddaddam Trilogy* confirms the ultimate endurance of humanity, community, and love.

year of the flood margaret atwood: The MaddAddam Trilogy Margaret Atwood, 2013-08-27 From Booker Prize-winner and #1 national bestseller Margaret Atwood, *The MaddAddam Trilogy* is so utterly compelling, so prescient, so relevant, so all-too-likely-to-be-true, that readers may find their view of the world forever changed after reading it. This is Margaret Atwood at the absolute peak of her powers. With breathtaking command of her brilliantly conceived material, and with her customary sharp wit and dark humour, she projects us into an outlandish yet wholly believable realm populated by characters who will continue to inhabit our dreams long after the last chapter. In the tradition of *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Oryx and Crake* and *The Year of the Flood* envision a near future that is both beyond our imagining and all too familiar: a world devastated by uncontrolled genetic engineering and a widespread plague, with only a few remaining humans fighting for survival. Combining adventure, humour, romance and superb storytelling that is at once dazzlingly inventive and grounded in a recognizable world, *MaddAddam* is a moving and dramatic conclusion to this internationally celebrated dystopian trilogy.

year of the flood margaret atwood: Margaret Atwood: An Introduction to Critical Views of Her Fiction Gina Wisker, 2011-12-29 Margaret Atwood is an internationally renowned, highly versatile author whose work creatively explores what it means to be human through genres ranging from feminist fable to science fiction and Gothic romance. In this timely new study, Gina Wisker reassesses Atwood's entire fictional output to date, providing both original analysis and a lively overview of the criticism surrounding her work. *Margaret Atwood: An Introduction to Critical Views of Her Fiction*: - Covers all of Atwood's novels as well as her short stories. - Surveys the critical reception of her fiction and the fascinating debates developed by key Atwood critics. - Explores the main approaches to reading Atwood's work and examines issues such as her interventions in genre writing and ecology, as well as her feminism, post-feminism and narrative usage, both conventional and experimental. Concise and approachable, this is an ideal volume for anyone studying the fiction of this major contemporary writer.

year of the flood margaret atwood: The Fiction of Margaret Atwood Fiona Tolan, 2022-09-22 Winner of the 2023 Atwood Society Award for Best Book on Atwood and Her Work Margaret Atwood

is one of the most significant writers working today. Her writing spans seven decades, is phenomenally diverse and ambitious, and has amassed an enormous body of literary criticism. In this invaluable guide, Fiona Tolan provides a clear and comprehensive overview of evolving critical approaches to Atwood's work. Addressing all of the author's key texts, the book deftly guides the reader through the most characteristic, influential, and insightful critical readings of the last fifty years. It highlights recurring themes in Atwood's work, such as gender, feminism, power and violence, fairy tale and the gothic, environmental destruction, and dystopian futures. This is an indispensable companion for anyone interested in reading and writing about Margaret Atwood.

year of the flood margaret atwood: The MaddAddam Trilogy Series 3 Books Set - Oryx and Crake, the Year of the Flood, MaddAddam by Margaret Atwood Margaret Atwood, 2014-08-12

year of the flood margaret atwood: Study Guide Supersummary, 2019-11-06 SuperSummary, a modern alternative to SparkNotes and CliffsNotes, offers high-quality study guides for challenging works of literature. This 138-page guide for The Year Of The Flood by Margaret Atwood includes detailed chapter summaries and analysis covering 78 chapters, as well as several more in-depth sections of expert-written literary analysis. Featured content includes commentary on major characters, 25 important quotes, essay topics, and key themes like Sexual Objectification of Women as a Product of Social Inequality and Human Impact on the Environment and Climate Change.

year of the flood margaret atwood: Margaret Atwood's Apocalypses Karma Waltonen, 2015-01-12 Margaret Atwood's Apocalypses features essays by established and new Atwood scholars on Atwood's poetry, The Handmaid's Tale, and the famous MaddAddam trilogy. Readers will encounter ways to trace the theme of apocalypse through decades of Atwood's work, and lenses through which to view various fictional apocalypses, including disability studies, theology, and ecofeminism.

year of the flood margaret atwood: Religious Horror and the Ecogothic Kathleen Hudson, Mary Going, 2024-06-10 Religious Horror and the Ecogothic explores the intersections of Anglophone Christianity and the Ecogothic, a subgenre that explores the ecocritical in Gothic literature, film, and media. Acknowledging the impact of Christian ideologies upon interpretations of human relationships with the environment, the Ecogothic in turn interrogates spiritual identity and humanity's darker impulses in relation to ecological systems. Through a survey of Ecogothic texts from the eighteenth century to the present day, this book illuminates the ways in which a Christianized understanding of hierarchy, dominion, fear, and sublimity shapes reactions to the environment and conceptions of humanity's place therein. It interrogates the discourses which inform environmental policy, as well as definitions of the "human" in a rapidly changing world.

year of the flood margaret atwood: The Ongoing End: On the Limits of Apocalyptic Narrative Michael Titlestad, David Watson, 2018-11-08 The world keeps turning to apocalypticism. Time is imagined as proceeding ineluctably to a catastrophic, perhaps revelatory conclusion. Even when evacuated of distinctly religious content, a broadly ecclesial structure persists in conceptions of our precarious life and our collective journey to an inevitable fate—the extinction of the human species. It is commonly believed that we are propelled along this course by human turpitude, myopia, hubris or ignorance, and by the irreparable damage we have wrought to the world we inhabit. Yet, this apprehension is insidious. Such teleological convictions and crises-laden narratives lead us to undervalue contingent, hesitant and provisional forms of experience and knowledge. The essays comprising this volume concern a range of writers' engagements with apocalyptic reasoning. Extending from a reading of Percy Bysshe Shelley's 'Triumph of Life' to critiques of contemporary American novels, they examine the ways in which 'end times' reasoning can inhibit imaginative reflection, blunt political advocacy or – more positively – provide a repertoire for the critique of complacency. By gathering essays concerning a wide range of periods and literary dispositions, this volume makes an important contribution to thinking about apocalypticism in literature but also as a social and political discourse. This book was originally published as a special issue of Studia

Neophilologica.

year of the flood margaret atwood: Reading between the Borderlines Gillian Roberts, 2018-12-30 Is Superman Canadian? Who decides, and what is at stake in such a question? How is the Underground Railroad commemorated differently in Canada and the United States, and can those differences be bridged? How can we acknowledge properly the Canadian labour behind Hollywood filmmaking, and what would that do to our sense of national cinema? Reading between the Borderlines grapples with these questions and others surrounding the production and consumption of literary, cinematic, musical, visual, and print culture across the Canada-US border. Discussing a range of popular as well as highbrow cultural forms, this collection investigates patterns of cross-border cultural exchange that become visible within a variety of genres, regardless of their place in any arbitrarily devised cultural hierarchy. The essays also consider the many interests served, compromised, or negated by the operations of the transnational economy, the movement of culture's raw material across nation-state borders in literal and conceptual terms, and the configuration of a material citizenship attributed to or negotiated around border-crossing cultural objects. Challenging the oversimplification of cultural products labelled either Canadian or American, Reading between the Borderlines contends with the particularities and complications of North American cultural exchange, both historically and in the present.

year of the flood margaret atwood: *War and Words* Wojciech Drąg, Jakub Krogulec, Mateusz Marecki, 2016-05-11 Despite the vast body of texts inspired by warfare – from *The Iliad* to *Maus* – war writing is perpetually haunted by the notions of unrepresentability and inadequacy. *War and Words* examines the methods, conventions and pitfalls of constructing verbal accounts of military conflict in literature and the media. This multifocal study draws on a wide array of theoretical perspectives, including feminism, posthumanism, masculinity, trauma, spatiality and media studies, and brings together such diverse material as canonical literature, war veterans' testimonies, imaginative fiction, computer games, English curricula, and Al-Qaeda's propaganda pieces. In five consecutive sections – “Spreading War Propaganda”, “Reconstructing War Spaces”, “Envisioning War”, “Gendering War”, and “Teaching War” – the contributors consider war in its manifold aspects: as an ideological tool used for propaganda purposes, as a spatial reconstruction performed for the critical reassessment of past conflicts, as a projection (or extrapolation) of possible future conflicts and their social repercussions, as a political statement to deconstruct the oppressive nature of violence, and, finally, as a didactic tool to foster empathy. This collection will appeal primarily to academics specialising in English and American literature, but also to those researching media, gender, and game studies.

year of the flood margaret atwood: Futures of the Human Subject Sławomir Koziół, 2022-09-07 *Futures of the Human Subject* focuses on the representation of the effects of technology use on human subjectivity in several recent near-future science fiction novels. Sharing the idea that human subjects are constructed in the world in which they exist, this volume inscribes itself in the wider field of posthumanism which contests the liberal humanist notion of people as self-contained, autonomous agents. At the same time, it is the first substantial study of literary representations of the human subject carried out within the conceptual framework of Foucault-inflected philosophy of technical mediation, which examines the nature of the relation between people and specific technologies as well as the way in which this relation affects human subjectivity. As such, the book may help readers to exercise more effective control over the way in which they are constituted as subjects in this technologically saturated world.

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