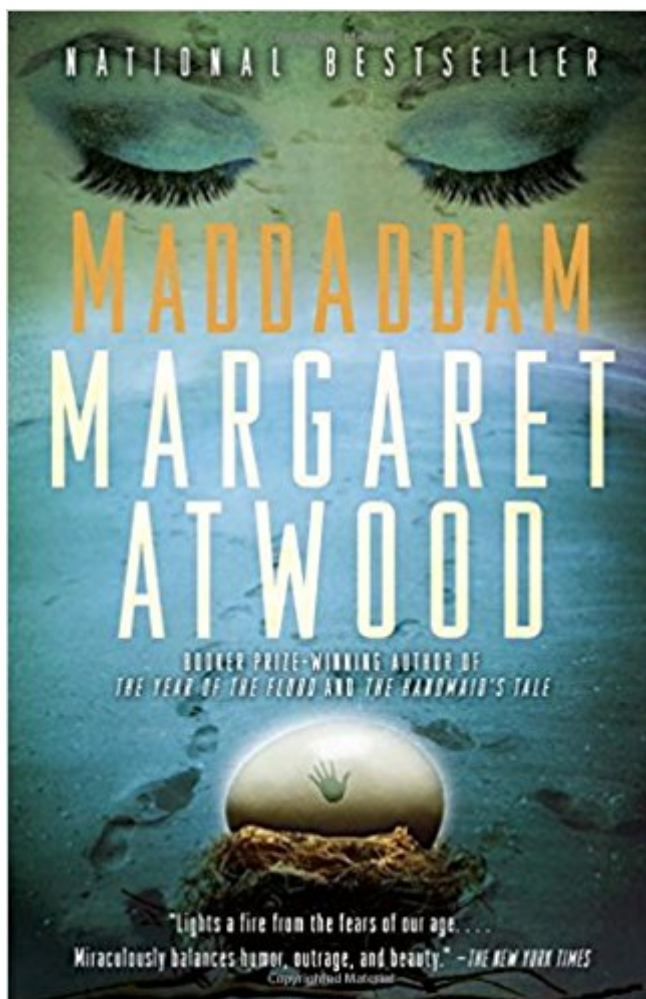


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MaddAddam (The Maddaddam Trilogy)



Synopsis

From the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Handmaid's Tale* In this final volume of the internationally celebrated *MaddAddam* trilogy, the *Waterless Flood* pandemic has wiped out most of the population. Toby is part of a small band of survivors, along with the Children of Crake: the gentle, bioengineered quasi-human species who will inherit this new earth. As Toby explains their origins to the curious Crakers, her tales cohere into a luminous oral history that sets down humanity's past and points toward its future. Blending action, humor, romance, and an imagination at once dazzlingly inventive and grounded in a recognizable world, *MaddAddam* is vintage Atwood—a moving and dramatic conclusion to her epic work of speculative fiction. *New York Times* Notable Book, *Washington Post* Notable Book, *Best Book of the Year*: *The Guardian*, *NPR*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Globe and Mail*, *GoodReads Reader's Choice*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An *Best Book of the Month*, September 2013: Margaret Atwood's genius is fed by her appetite for synthesis: she sees every consequential cultural and tech trend (the realized and the possible) and spins them out into a near-future that's both freakishly strange and horrifyingly plausible. *MaddAddam* concludes the trilogy she started with *Oryx and Crake* and *The Year of the Flood*, simultaneously set stories of the survivors (and the late creator) of a deliberately

unleashed plague that left a few ragged stragglers—the fever-dreaming Snowman, remnants of a peaceful God’s Gardeners cult and eco-warrior MaddAddamites, psychotic escapees from the Painball arena, and humanity’s bioengineered “replacements”—the bizarrely placid Crakers—all bushwhacking through a trashed world of animal mash-ups (including some wicked-smart Pigoons). Depending on your outlook, she’s a scathing satirist, an alarmist, or an oracle. But the world she imagines feels near enough that you won’t soon forget it. --Mari Malcolm --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Starred Review. The final entry in Atwood’s brilliant MaddAddam trilogy roils with spectacular and furious satire. The novel begins where *Oryx and Crake* and *The Year of the Flood* end, just after most of the human species has been eradicated by a man-made plague. The early books explore a world of terrifying corporate tyranny, horrifying brutality, and the relentless rape of women and the planet. In *Oryx and Crake*, the pandemic leaves wounded protagonist Jimmy to watch over the Crakers, a humanoid species bioengineered to replace humankind by the man responsible for unleashing the plague. In *The Year of the Flood*, MaddAddamites wield science to terrorize corporate villains while God’s Gardeners use prayer and devotion to the Earth to prepare for the approaching cataclysm. Toby, a God’s Gardener and key character in the second book, narrates the third installment, in which a few survivors, including MaddAddamites, God’s Gardeners, Jimmy, and the Crakers, navigate a postapocalyptic world. Toby is reunited with Zeb, her MaddAddamite romantic interest in *Year of the Flood*, and the two become leaders and defenders of their new community. The survivors are a traumatized, cynical group with harshly tested self-preservation skills, but they have the capacity for love and self-sacrifice, which in a simpler story would signal hope for the future of humankind. However, Atwood dramatizes the importance of all life so convincingly that readers will hesitate to assume that the perpetuation of a species as destructive as man is the novel’s central concern. With childlike stubbornness, even the peaceful Crakers demand mythology and insist on deifying people whose motives they can’t understand. Other species genetically engineered for exploitation by now-extinct corporations roam the new frontier; some are hostile to man, including the pigoons—a powerful and uniquely perceptive source of bacon and menace. Threatening humans, Crakers, and pigoons are Painballers—former prisoners dehumanized in grotesque life-or-death battles. The Crakers cannot fight, the bloodthirsty Painballers will not yield, and the humans are outnumbered by the pigoons. Happily, Atwood has more surprises in store. Her vision is as affirming as it is cautionary, and the conclusion of this

remarkable trilogy leaves us not with a sense of despair at mankind's failings but with a sense of awe at humanity's barely explored potential to evolve. Agent: Vivienne Schuster, Curtis Brown Literary Agency (U.K.). (Sept.) --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Margaret Atwood is one of my favorite authors. (If you haven't read *The Handmaid's Tale*, you really need to order it now). Her stories about possible future worlds are riveting and always contain enough plausibility for me to completely suspend my skepticism. Even though these future scenarios are often difficult and dire, her characters adapt and navigate them with pragmatic cleverness - and even humor. I recently finished this last book of the trilogy and find myself still thinking about the characters. I don't want to let them go.

Really great conclusion to an amazing trilogy. Atwood is a goddess of literature. Ten years after the release of the first book in the Maddaddam trilogy (*Oryx and Crake*) and four years after the release of the second book in the trilogy (*Year of the Flood*), Margaret Atwood releases the final book in her apocalyptic/post-apocalypse series - *Maddaddam*. When Atwood first released *Oryx and Crake*, the post-apocalypse wasn't as fun and romanticized as it is right now - hard to imagine I know but: the *Walking Dead* was not yet on TV, *Red Dawn* had not yet been remade, and main stream romance publishing houses weren't regularly releasing post-apocalypse romance themed books. I think it is fair to say that in 2003, the apocalypse was not yet the rage. It is interesting that when the series ends, *Maddaddam* finds itself nestled on bookshelves next to other mainstream and best sellers that deal with the what-happens-when-society-collapses. Atwood is a visionary. But *Maddaddam* and the trilogy is not just about the collapse of society, it is about so much more. Each book in the trilogy is told from a different point of view and at a different point in time, yet it is the same story and the same characters. The entire story is told in the present, but it is done with memory and flashbacks of the characters. Each book is about the time before the collapse of the world's society and each book is also about the time after the societal collapse. There are no zombies, no aliens, no floods and the moon didn't fall out of the sky. Instead Atwood's book (and series) is really a critique of what she sees as a major movement in our culture and our world - corporate control and dominance. Can you imagine a world where the corporations call the shots? Where the governments are so weakened that the corporations are the ones truly running things? What if the motivation to earn profit by those at the top of the corporation is what ruled the world? And these corporations controlled all scientific endeavors and the production of all food? Hmmmmmm These are the topics explored by the *Maddaddam* trilogy and Atwood does this

with really well developed characters, an amazingly intricately built (but believable) future world. Atwood began writing about this topic in the early 2000s. She is such a visionary (yes I have written that word twice now in this review -- but remember her book *The Handmaid's Tale*?, yeah she is brilliant). But it is also about relationships with our fathers and mothers. It is about sexuality, desire and how gender roles are constructed. The series takes on concepts of the building of myth and religion. And it is also funny. "Rebecca's having a cup of what they've all agreed to call coffee." But you know what it is not? The post-apocalypse is not fun and it is not romantic. In Atwood's imagined world, there is no coffee, there is no abundant supplies free for the taking and even with the majority of the population gone it is hard to find food. Empty buildings are dangerous as untended electrical wires and water pipes often mal-function causing fires and flooding. City centers can be filled with tainted water and structurally unsound buildings due to lack of human maintenance. Without family members around to support us and no hope for the future, motivation is hard to maintain: "Daytime becomes irrelevant. You can get careless, you can overlook details, you can lose track. These days she'll find herself upright, in the middle of the room, one sandal in her hand, wondering how she got there; or outside under a tree, watching the leaves rattle, then prodding herself: Move. Move now. Get moving. You need to But what exactly is it that she needs to do?" I would categorize this series as both literary fiction and science fiction. Readers who enjoy Margaret Atwood books or readers who read science fiction/post-apocalypse books to think about broader concepts beyond just the story would enjoy this trilogy. Fans of the first two books may be slightly disappointed by the beginning of *MaddAddam*, but stick with it. The story does start slow and has a different feel but it is very rewarding and addicting.

Great book and epic ending to a wonderful trilogy. I read the first two books- *Oryx and Crake* and *Year of the Flood*- for school, but I loved them enough that I wanted the third to finish off the trilogy. It was a really fast read which was amazing and fit right in with the rest of the trilogy. I would highly recommend this book, along with the others. Overall, it is a great, thought-provoking book.

I have only recently become a Margaret Atwood fan. I love science fiction, alternate reality and books of that genre. My first experience with this author was "*The Handmaid's Tale*", and I must admit I was instantly hooked on the narrative style of writing. A few of the phrases in this book were a bit overused, but all in all... I loved the story. The book leaves a satisfying end to the trilogy, But I feel that there is also room to expand upon the story should she so desire in the future. I would not mind a few more books set in this universe, but if *MaddAddam* is the end, I can certainly feel as

though the story has been completed. If you are reading this review as a consideration to purchase the book... do yourself a favor and make sure to read the first two prior to embarking on this one. There is just so much backstory in those books which makes this one all the more satisfying.

First, let me say that if you haven't read *Oryx and Crake* and *The Year of the Flood*, you should start there. Both are excellent books, and there's no reason to try to skip straight to this one. You can read those two in either order, but this one really should come last. *Oryx and Crake* was published first, but, if you're turned off by the idea of a really bleak dystopian fiction, consider starting with *The Year of the Flood* to ease yourself in. I'm not sure anyone who has read the first two books needs much more motivation to read *MaddAddam*, but I'll say a bit more just in case. *MaddAddam* picks up right where *Year of the Flood* left off (minutes after where *Oryx and Crake* left off) and follows the story of the survivors as they begin to rebuild. However, like the first two books, much of the story takes place in the past. Atwood devotes the majority of the novel's pages to the back story of one of the survivors we met in *Year of the Flood*. Having heard that this book tells the story of what happens after the first two books, I must admit that I was a bit disappointed to have Atwood spend so much time in the past. But, as I read, I realized that the way she ties the story of the past into the story of the future is what makes this novel so brilliant. As much as I'd love to elaborate, I think it's better to let readers experience that development at their pace. Just know, if you're wondering why she's spending so much time in the past, that she has a plan. This third book is definitely more similar in tone to *Year of the Flood* than it is to *Oryx and Crake*. Although some of it is dark, it's suffused with humor. And, the story of a group of survivors attempting to rebuild is hopeful. I should warn that the role of the pigeons in this one was a bit too much for me and almost caused me to round down to four stars. I don't want to say more about it than that. It's just that, as much as I loved everything else in this book (and the two before it), I couldn't help rolling my eyes at the pigeons in this one.

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