



Stone Mattress: Nine Wicked Tales

By Margaret Atwood

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Stone Mattress: Nine Wicked Tales By Margaret Atwood

A Best Book of the Year: NPR, *BookRiot*

In this extraordinary collection, Margaret Atwood gives us nine unforgettable tales that reveal the grotesque, delightfully wicked facets of humanity.

“Alphinland,” the first of three loosely linked tales, introduces us to a fantasy writer who is guided through a stormy winter evening by the voice of her late husband. In “Lusus Naturae,” a young woman, monstrously transformed by a genetic defect, is mistaken for a vampire. And in the title story, a woman who has killed four husbands discovers an opportunity to exact vengeance on the first man who ever wronged her.

By turns thrilling, funny, and thought-provoking, *Stone Mattress* affirms Atwood as our greatest creator of worlds—and as an incisive chronicler of our darkest impulses.

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Stone Mattress: Nine Wicked Tales By Margaret Atwood Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, September 2014: “Stop trying to pimp me out to all these groupies,” a famous author and infamous cad utters in “Revenant,” one of three cleverly interconnected tales that begin Margaret Atwood’s superbly sardonic *Stone Mattress*. He is referring to an impending visit from an infatuated graduate student who is supposedly writing a thesis about his sonnets...which aren’t really sonnets (long story). Naveena—her name, he derisively but accurately points out, “sounds like cheese food slices. Or better—like a hair-removal cream”—is insufferable enough to be sure. The depiction makes yours truly nervous to be writing this review, but it’s all part of the fun, and these tales *are* fun, which is odd considering the sinister current that runs through many of them. But it’s as if the reader is privy to some sort of inside joke. This is especially evident in “The Dead Hand Loves You,” when Atwood playfully skewers the horror genre then gleefully indulges in it, and the ominously tongue-in-cheek “Torching the Dusties.” Fans of Margaret Atwood will certainly delight in this collection. But beware, the *Stone Mattress* will make groupies of old and new readers alike. —*Erin Kodicek*

Review

“Eclectic, funny, vibrant, terrifying, beautiful, and utterly delightful.” —*The Boston Globe*

“A tour de force of wit, style, and discernment.” —*O, The Oprah Magazine*

“Astonishing. . . . Powerful. . . . I loved these strange, sharp and wild stories.” —Meg Wolitzer, NPR

“Pure, simple and stunning. . . . Endearing, subtle, quite brilliant.” —*San Francisco Chronicle*

“Powerful. . . . Witty and frequently biting, *Stone Mattress* is keen to the ways in which we choose, all our lives, to love and to hurt—and in Atwood’s world these two actions are always choices, creating consequences for which we will one day be held to account.” —*The New York Times Book Review*

“[These] stories have the caustic wit and giddy deviance . . . along with the probing interiority and flinty insights of Atwood’s novels.” —*Minneapolis Star Tribune*

“Danc[es] over the dark swamps of Horror on the wings of satirical wit. . . . Look at these tales . . . as eight icily refreshing arsenic Popsicles followed by a baked Alaska laced with anthrax, all served with impeccable style and aplomb. Enjoy!” —Ursula K. Le Guin, *Financial Times*

“Stylish, acerbic and wickedly funny. . . . With wit, sympathy and precision, Atwood draws readers into a reflective frame of mind.” —*The Miami Herald*

“The collection is surprisingly unsettling, gripping and at once laugh-out-loud hilarious. It attains its laudable goal: Myths last over time, and the stories in this book have that very quality. They are timeless, memorable and quite simply fun.” —*Chicago Tribune*

“Absorbing. . . . Impressive. . . . Stone mattresses make for restless sleep, but in this elegant collection,

everyone expresses that restlessness differently.” —*The A.V. Club*

“Powerful. . . . Extraordinary. . . . Realism and ridiculousness, play and deadly seriousness, are held in fine balance throughout.” —*The Guardian* (London)

“Wise and witty. . . . Atwood writes essentially intellectual fiction, spryly coiled around solid themes, yet borrowing the amusements of pulp genres, from science fiction to horror.” —*The Times Literary Supplement* (London)

“Compelling. . . . Astonishing. . . . Atwood illuminates heavy themes with a lightness of touch, giving insight not only into the nature of stone but the trials and tribulations of flesh and blood.” —*The Observer* (London)

“A collection rich in sly humour and pulpy thrills.” —*The Telegraph* (London)

“This collection of short stories is charged with a delightful cheekiness, as well as a full awareness of the subjectivity of notions of justice and value. . . . Witty, weird, chirpily irreverent, somewhat hard-hearted, and hugely insightful.” —*The Independent* (London)

“[Atwood’s] ability to surprise and her sparkling language are on full display. . . . *Stone Mattress* not only showcases its author’s talents at their most refined, it also affords a glimpse behind the curtain to the woman working the megaphone.” —*The Globe and Mail* (Toronto)

“Wickedly funny, mordantly observed ruminations on how the sexes interact. . . . With *Stone Mattress*, Atwood brilliantly returns to her literary roots as a deliciously funny observer of the human comedy.” —*The Toronto Star*

About the Author

Margaret Atwood, whose work has been published in thirty-five countries, is the author of more than forty books of fiction, poetry, and critical essays. In addition to *The Handmaid’s Tale*, her novels include *Cat’s Eye*, short-listed for the 1989 Booker Prize; *Alias Grace*, which won the Giller Prize in Canada and the Premio Mondello in Italy; *The Blind Assassin*, winner of the 2000 Booker Prize; *Oryx and Crake*, short-listed for the 2003 Man Booker Prize; *The Year of the Flood*; and her most recent, *MaddAddam*. She is the recipient of the *Los Angeles Times* Innovator’s Award, and lives in Toronto with the writer Graeme Gibson.

www.margaretatwood.ca

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Enrique Myers:

Do you among people who can't read enjoyable if the sentence chained inside straightway, hold on guys this kind of aren't like that. This *Stone Mattress: Nine Wicked Tales* book is readable through you who hate the perfect word style. You will find the info here are arrange for enjoyable looking at experience without leaving also decrease the knowledge that want to deliver to you. The writer associated with *Stone Mattress: Nine Wicked Tales* content conveys objective easily to understand by lots of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the written content but it just different in the form of it. So , do you continue to thinking *Stone Mattress: Nine Wicked Tales* is not loveable to be your top collection reading book?

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Often the book Stone Mattress: Nine Wicked Tales will bring you to the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book you just read, this book very suited to you. The book Stone Mattress: Nine Wicked Tales is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

Willie Thacker:

The book with title Stone Mattress: Nine Wicked Tales has lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of help after read this book. This book exist new information the information that exist in this guide represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to you to be aware of how the improvement of the world. That book will bring you within new era of the syndication. You can read the e-book with your smart phone, so you can read this anywhere you want.

Thomas Obrien:

In this era which is the greater person or who has ability in doing something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple way to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to get a look at some books. One of the books in the top listing in your reading list is actually Stone Mattress: Nine Wicked Tales. This book that is qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking upward and review this book you can get many advantages.

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