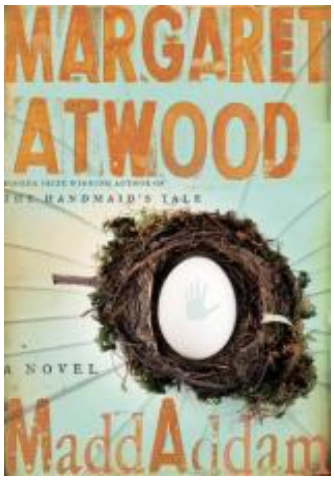
MaddAddam

by Margaret Atwood



About the Book

Bringing together ORYX AND CRAKE and THE YEAR OF THE FLOOD, this thrilling conclusion to Margaret Atwood's speculative fiction trilogy points toward the ultimate endurance of community, and love.

Months after the Waterless Flood pandemic has wiped out most of humanity, Toby and Ren have rescued their friend Amanda from the vicious Painballers. They return to the MaddAddamite cob house, newly fortified against man and giant pigoon alike. Accompanying them are the Crakers, the gentle, quasi-human species engineered by the brilliant but deceased Crake. Their reluctant prophet, Snowman-the-Jimmy, is recovering from a debilitating fever, so it's left to Toby to preach the Craker theology, with Crake as Creator. She must also deal with cultural misunderstandings, terrible coffee, and her jealousy over her lover, Zeb.

Discussion Guide

1. Why are Adam and Zeb so different? Or are they more similar than they first seem?

2. The MADDADDAMites set about building a basic community for themselves, one that meets the need for food, clothing, shelter, and an energy source. If you were in this position, would you do things differently? Should children be taught elementary survival skills?

3. What comment, if any, do you think Margaret Atwood is making about environmentalism in this book, through organizations like Bearlift? Or does Bearlift suffer simply from the human flaws that appear in all organizations, no matter how well-meaning?

4. The Internet has an almost physical presence in MADDADDAM --- the ?lilypads,? the game Intestinal Parasites. Do you think this is where the Internet is heading? Is it becoming a ?real? entity of its own?

5. Is Toby right to trust Zeb? Do you think his feelings for Toby are genuine?

6. Toby teaches Blackbeard to write. Is that a good thing or a bad thing? What consequences do you think this will have for the Crakers and their new world?

7. Margaret Atwood?s trilogy often portrays humans and our future grimly, but it is also both funny and profane. Is Atwood?s gallows humor effective?

8. What parallels do you see between the events of MADDADDAM and recent events in our real world? Are Atwood?s three dystopian books exaggerated or could they really be our future?

9. Despite having seemed violent and disposed to eat humans, the Pigoons ultimately display more compassion than many of the humans in MADDADDAM. Is that because the Pigoons are animals, or is it because of the implanted human tissue in their brains?

10. The Crakers seek stories from Jimmy and Toby to explain the world around them. What do these stories say about how myths are formed? Is the desire for religion innate within us? What do you think MADDADDAM is saying about our need for gods and how religions are created?

11. How important is language in shaping and changing history and rumour into myth? Discuss the way gods form in Toby?s monologues to the Crakers --- including the one named for a swear word?

12. Religion and our need for belief is a key concern in MADDADDAM. What does the Church of PetrOleum say about Atwood?s view of religion? Has religion become a commodity?

13. How do you think the hybrid babies will turn out? Will they be more human or Craker, and which would be best for the future of Earth?

14. Is Atwood?s view of humanity ultimately negative? Is there hope at the end of MADDADDAM, and if there is, where does it come from?

Author Bio

Margaret Atwood is the author of more than 50 books of fiction, poetry and critical essays. Her novels include CAT'S EYE, THE ROBBER BRIDE, ALIAS GRACE, THE BLIND ASSASSIN and the *MaddAddam* trilogy. Her 1985 classic, THE HANDMAID'S TALE, was followed in 2019 by a sequel, THE TESTAMENTS, which was a global #1 bestseller and won the Booker Prize.

Atwood has won numerous awards, including the Arthur C. Clarke Award for Imagination in Service to Society, the Franz Kafka Prize, the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, the PEN America Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize. In 2019, she was made a member of the Order of the Companions of Honour for services to

litera-ture. She lives in Toronto.

Critical Praise

"The final entry in Atwood?s brilliant *MaddAddam* trilogy roils with spectacular and furious satire ... 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."

? *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"Ten years after ORYX & CRAKE rocked readers the world over, Atwood brings her cunning, impish, and bracing speculative trilogy --- following THE YEAR OF THE FLOOD --- to a gritty, stirring, and resonant conclusion ... Atwood is ascendant, from her resilient characters to the feverishly suspenseful plot involving battles, spying, cyberhacking, murder, and sexual tension ... The coruscating finale in an ingenious, cautionary trilogy of hubris, fortitude, wisdom, love, and life?s grand obstinacy."

? *Booklist*

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