

ORYX AND CRAKE PLOT

ORYX AND CRAKE PLOT CENTERS ON A DYSTOPIAN NARRATIVE THAT EXPLORES THEMES OF BIOENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHE, AND THE COMPLEXITIES OF HUMAN NATURE. WRITTEN BY MARGARET ATWOOD, THIS NOVEL PRESENTS A POST-APOCALYPTIC WORLD WHERE GENETIC EXPERIMENTATION HAS DRASTICALLY ALTERED LIFE AS WE KNOW IT. THE STORY UNFOLDS THROUGH THE EYES OF SNOWMAN, THE PROTAGONIST, AS HE REFLECTS ON HIS PAST AND THE EVENTS LEADING TO THE COLLAPSE OF CIVILIZATION. KEY ELEMENTS INCLUDE THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SNOWMAN, CRAKE, AND ORYX, EACH SYMBOLIZING DIFFERENT FACETS OF HUMANITY AND SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS. THIS ARTICLE DELVES DEEPLY INTO THE ORYX AND CRAKE PLOT, BREAKING DOWN ITS STORYLINE, CHARACTERS, THEMES, AND THE NOVEL'S BROADER IMPLICATIONS. THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS PROVIDE A DETAILED ANALYSIS, STARTING WITH A PLOT SUMMARY AND MOVING THROUGH CHARACTER EXPLORATION, THEMATIC DISCUSSION, AND THE NOVEL'S SIGNIFICANCE.

- PLOT SUMMARY OF ORYX AND CRAKE
- MAIN CHARACTERS AND THEIR ROLES
- THEMES AND SYMBOLISM IN ORYX AND CRAKE
- SETTING AND WORLD-BUILDING
- IMPACT AND INTERPRETATION OF THE NOVEL

PLOT SUMMARY OF ORYX AND CRAKE

THE ORYX AND CRAKE PLOT IS STRUCTURED AROUND THE LIFE OF SNOWMAN, FORMERLY KNOWN AS JIMMY, WHO IS SEEMINGLY THE LAST HUMAN SURVIVOR AFTER A GLOBAL CATASTROPHE. THE NARRATIVE ALTERNATES BETWEEN SNOWMAN'S PRESENT IN A DEVASTATED WORLD AND FLASHBACKS OF HIS EARLIER LIFE, REVEALING CRUCIAL ELEMENTS THAT LED TO THE DOWNFALL OF HUMANITY. THE STORY BEGINS WITH SNOWMAN NAVIGATING A DANGEROUS LANDSCAPE FILLED WITH GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CREATURES. AS THE PLOT UNFOLDS, IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT CRAKE, SNOWMAN'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND AND A BRILLIANT GENETICIST, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING A NEW SPECIES OF HUMANOID BEINGS CALLED THE CRAKERS. THESE BEINGS WERE DESIGNED TO REPLACE HUMANS, WHO HAD BECOME CORRUPT AND DESTRUCTIVE.

SNOWMAN'S MEMORIES REVEAL HIS COMPLEX RELATIONSHIPS WITH BOTH CRAKE AND ORYX, A MYSTERIOUS WOMAN WHO PLAYS A PIVOTAL ROLE IN THEIR LIVES. THE CLIMAX REVEALS CRAKE'S PLAN TO ERADICATE HUMANITY THROUGH A BIOENGINEERED VIRUS, WHICH SNOWMAN NARROWLY SURVIVES. THE PLOT INTRICATELY WEAVES THEMES OF SCIENTIFIC HUBRIS, ETHICS, AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF UNCHECKED TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT.

CHRONOLOGY AND NARRATIVE STRUCTURE

THE NOVEL'S NON-LINEAR TIMELINE IS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING THE ORYX AND CRAKE PLOT. THE STORY SHIFTS BETWEEN THREE TIMEFRAMES: SNOWMAN'S CURRENT SURVIVAL IN THE POST-APOCALYPTIC WORLD, HIS CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE WITH CRAKE, AND HIS ENCOUNTERS WITH ORYX. THIS STRUCTURE ALLOWS READERS TO PIECE TOGETHER THE BACKSTORY BEHIND THE CATASTROPHIC EVENTS WHILE OBSERVING SNOWMAN'S STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE AND COMPREHEND HIS NEW REALITY.

KEY EVENTS IN THE STORYLINE

- SNOWMAN'S ISOLATION IN A RAVAGED ENVIRONMENT INHABITED BY CRAKERS AND GENETICALLY MODIFIED ANIMALS.
- FLASHBACKS TO SNOWMAN'S YOUTH AND EDUCATION ALONGSIDE CRAKE, HIGHLIGHTING THEIR INTELLECTUAL RIVALRY AND FRIENDSHIP.

- INTRODUCTION OF ORYX, WHOSE ENIGMATIC PAST AND RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH MEN INFLUENCE THEIR DECISIONS.
- CRAKE'S REVELATION AS THE ARCHITECT OF THE APOCALYPSE, MOTIVATED BY HIS DESIRE TO ENGINEER A PERFECT SPECIES.
- THE RELEASE OF A DEADLY VIRUS THAT WIPES OUT HUMANITY, LEAVING SNOWMAN TO CARE FOR THE CRAKERS.

MAIN CHARACTERS AND THEIR ROLES

THE ORYX AND CRAKE PLOT IS HEAVILY DRIVEN BY ITS THREE CENTRAL CHARACTERS: SNOWMAN, CRAKE, AND ORYX. EACH CHARACTER EMBODIES DIFFERENT THEMATIC ELEMENTS AND PERSPECTIVES ON HUMANITY, SCIENCE, AND MORALITY.

SNOWMAN (JIMMY)

SNOWMAN SERVES AS THE NOVEL'S NARRATOR AND PROTAGONIST. FORMERLY KNOWN AS JIMMY, HIS JOURNEY FROM AN ORDINARY BOY TO THE LAST HUMAN SURVIVOR IS CENTRAL TO THE PLOT. SNOWMAN'S REFLECTIONS PROVIDE INSIGHT INTO THE ETHICAL AND EMOTIONAL COMPLEXITIES OF THE STORY. HIS SURVIVAL IS MARKED BY GUILT, CONFUSION, AND A DEEP CONNECTION TO THE CRAKERS, THE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED HUMANOID SPECIES HE NOW PROTECTS.

CRAKE

CRAKE IS A BRILLIANT BUT MORALLY AMBIGUOUS GENETICIST AND SNOWMAN'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND. HE IS THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THE CREATION OF THE CRAKERS AND THE ENGINEERED VIRUS THAT CAUSES HUMANITY'S EXTINCTION. CRAKE REPRESENTS THE DANGERS OF SCIENTIFIC OVERREACH AND THE PURSUIT OF PERFECTION AT THE EXPENSE OF ETHICS. HIS VISION OF A NEW WORLD WITHOUT HUMAN FLAWS DRIVES THE CATASTROPHIC EVENTS THAT DEFINE THE PLOT.

ORYX

ORYX IS A MYSTERIOUS WOMAN WHOSE PAST IS SHROUDED IN AMBIGUITY. SHE HAS A SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE ON BOTH SNOWMAN AND CRAKE. ORYX'S CHARACTER EXPLORES THEMES OF EXPLOITATION, INNOCENCE, AND SURVIVAL IN A CORRUPTED WORLD. HER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TWO MEN ADDS EMOTIONAL DEPTH AND COMPLEXITY TO THE NARRATIVE, HIGHLIGHTING DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF HUMAN NATURE.

THEMES AND SYMBOLISM IN ORYX AND CRAKE

THE ORYX AND CRAKE PLOT IS RICH WITH THEMES AND SYMBOLS THAT EXPLORE THE ETHICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS RAISED BY GENETIC ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION.

SCIENTIFIC ETHICS AND HUBRIS

A PRIMARY THEME IN THE NOVEL IS THE ETHICAL DILEMMAS ASSOCIATED WITH GENETIC MANIPULATION AND SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTATION. CRAKE'S PURSUIT OF CREATING A PERFECT SPECIES CHALLENGES THE MORAL BOUNDARIES OF SCIENCE, ILLUSTRATING THE CONSEQUENCES WHEN HUMANITY ATTEMPTS TO PLAY GOD. THE PLOT CRITIQUES THE BLINDNESS OF TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS WITHOUT ETHICAL CONSIDERATION.

ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHE AND HUMAN IMPACT

THE NOVEL PRESENTS A BLEAK VISION OF THE FUTURE SHAPED BY ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND HUMAN IRRESPONSIBILITY. THE ORYX AND CRAKE PLOT UNDERSCORES THE DESTRUCTIVE IMPACT OF CORPORATE GREED, GENETIC TAMPERING, AND ECOLOGICAL NEGLECT, SUGGESTING A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN THESE FACTORS AND THE APOCALYPSE PORTRAYED IN THE STORY.

HUMAN NATURE AND MORALITY

THROUGH THE CHARACTERS' INTERACTIONS AND THE FATE OF HUMANITY, THE PLOT EXAMINES COMPLEX QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN. THE CRAKERS, DESIGNED TO BE FREE OF HUMAN FLAWS, CONTRAST WITH SNOWMAN'S FLAWED HUMANITY, RAISING ISSUES ABOUT MORALITY, INNOCENCE, AND THE ESSENCE OF LIFE.

SYMBOLISM OF ORYX AND CRAKE

- **ORYX:** SYMBOLIZES INNOCENCE, SURVIVAL, AND EXPLOITATION.
- **CRAKE:** REPRESENTS SCIENTIFIC AMBITION, CONTROL, AND DESTRUCTION.
- **SNOWMAN:** EMBODIES HUMAN FALLIBILITY AND THE STRUGGLE FOR MEANING.

SETTING AND WORLD-BUILDING

THE ORYX AND CRAKE PLOT IS SET IN A NEAR-FUTURE DYSTOPIA WHERE GENETIC ENGINEERING AND CORPORATE POWER DOMINATE SOCIETY. MARGARET ATWOOD'S DETAILED WORLD-BUILDING CREATES A CHILLING AND BELIEVABLE ENVIRONMENT THAT REFLECTS CURRENT SCIENTIFIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS.

POST-APOCALYPTIC LANDSCAPE

AFTER THE RELEASE OF THE ENGINEERED VIRUS, THE WORLD IS LEFT IN RUINS. SNOWMAN NAVIGATES A LANDSCAPE POPULATED BY THE CRAKERS AND ENGINEERED ANIMALS, WHICH SHOWCASES THE CONSEQUENCES OF UNCHECKED SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTATION. THE SETTING EMPHASIZES ISOLATION, SURVIVAL, AND THE BREAKDOWN OF CIVILIZATION.

CORPORATE DOMINATION AND SCIENTIFIC FACILITIES

THE NOVEL FEATURES HIGH-TECH CORPORATE COMPOUNDS WHERE MUCH OF THE GENETIC ENGINEERING TAKES PLACE. THESE CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENTS HIGHLIGHT THE PRIVATIZATION AND COMMODIFICATION OF SCIENCE, ILLUSTRATING A WORLD WHERE PROFIT MOTIVES OVERRIDE ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

IMPACT AND INTERPRETATION OF THE NOVEL

THE ORYX AND CRAKE PLOT HAS BEEN WIDELY ANALYZED FOR ITS PRESCIENT COMMENTARY ON GENETIC ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS, AND THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY. IT SERVES AS A CAUTIONARY TALE ABOUT THE POTENTIAL DANGERS OF SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENT WITHOUT MORAL OVERSIGHT.

LITERARY SIGNIFICANCE

MARGARET ATWOOD'S NOVEL IS CONSIDERED A LANDMARK IN SPECULATIVE FICTION, BLENDING SCIENTIFIC REALISM WITH PROFOUND PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS. THE ORYX AND CRAKE PLOT'S INTRICATE NARRATIVE AND COMPLEX CHARACTERS CONTRIBUTE TO ITS ENDURING RELEVANCE AND CRITICAL ACCLAIM.

INFLUENCE ON POPULAR CULTURE AND SCIENCE DISCUSSIONS

THE THEMES EXPLORED IN THE NOVEL HAVE INFLUENCED DISCUSSIONS ABOUT BIOTECHNOLOGY, GENETIC MODIFICATION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY. ITS PORTRAYAL OF A DYSTOPIAN FUTURE CONTINUES TO RESONATE IN DEBATES ABOUT SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE MAIN PLOT OF 'ORYX AND CRAKE'?

THE MAIN PLOT OF 'ORYX AND CRAKE' FOLLOWS SNOWMAN, THE APPARENT LAST HUMAN SURVIVOR, AS HE REFLECTS ON HIS PAST AND THE EVENTS THAT LED TO A POST-APOCALYPTIC WORLD CAUSED BY GENETIC ENGINEERING EXPERIMENTS CONDUCTED BY HIS FRIEND CRAKE.

WHO ARE THE CENTRAL CHARACTERS IN 'ORYX AND CRAKE'?

THE CENTRAL CHARACTERS ARE SNOWMAN (FORMERLY KNOWN AS JIMMY), CRAKE (A BRILLIANT GENETICIST AND JIMMY'S FRIEND), AND ORYX (A MYSTERIOUS WOMAN CONNECTED TO BOTH MEN).

HOW DOES GENETIC ENGINEERING INFLUENCE THE PLOT OF 'ORYX AND CRAKE'?

GENETIC ENGINEERING IS A KEY ELEMENT IN THE PLOT, AS CRAKE CREATES NEW SPECIES AND BIOENGINEERED VIRUSES THAT ULTIMATELY CAUSE THE COLLAPSE OF SOCIETY, LEADING TO THE DYSTOPIAN WORLD SNOWMAN INHABITS.

WHAT ROLE DOES SNOWMAN PLAY IN 'ORYX AND CRAKE'?

SNOWMAN SERVES AS THE PROTAGONIST AND NARRATOR, PROVIDING INSIGHT INTO HIS MEMORIES AND THE CATASTROPHIC EVENTS THAT RESHAPED THE WORLD, WHILE STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE IN THE NEW REALITY.

HOW DOES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ORYX AND CRAKE AFFECT THE STORY?

THE COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ORYX AND CRAKE DEEPLY INFLUENCES THE STORY, AS ORYX'S MYSTERIOUS PAST AND HER CONNECTION TO BOTH MEN REVEAL THEMES OF MORALITY, EXPLOITATION, AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF SCIENTIFIC HUBRIS.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE POST-APOCALYPTIC SETTING IN 'ORYX AND CRAKE'?

THE POST-APOCALYPTIC SETTING HIGHLIGHTS THE CONSEQUENCES OF UNCHECKED SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, SERVING AS A CAUTIONARY BACKDROP FOR THE NARRATIVE'S EXPLORATION OF HUMANITY AND ETHICS.

DOES 'ORYX AND CRAKE' EXPLORE THEMES OF CORPORATE CONTROL?

YES, THE NOVEL CRITIQUES CORPORATE DOMINANCE OVER SCIENCE AND SOCIETY, ILLUSTRATING HOW PROFIT-DRIVEN MOTIVES CONTRIBUTE TO ETHICAL COMPROMISES AND GLOBAL CATASTROPHE.

HOW DOES THE ENDING OF 'ORYX AND CRAKE' RESOLVE THE PLOT?

THE ENDING IS AMBIGUOUS, WITH SNOWMAN SURVIVING AMONG BIOENGINEERED CREATURES CALLED CRAKERS, SUGGESTING A POTENTIAL FOR A NEW BEGINNING OR THE CONTINUATION OF HUMAN FLAWS, LEAVING READERS TO PONDER THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. *ORYX AND CRAKE*

MARGARET ATWOOD'S DYSTOPIAN NOVEL EXPLORES A POST-APOCALYPTIC WORLD SHAPED BY GENETIC ENGINEERING AND CORPORATE GREED. THE STORY FOLLOWS SNOWMAN, WHO REFLECTS ON HIS PAST WITH HIS ENIGMATIC FRIENDS ORYX AND CRAKE, REVEALING THE DARK CONSEQUENCES OF UNCHECKED SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTATION. THEMES OF BIOETHICS, ENVIRONMENTAL COLLAPSE, AND HUMAN NATURE ARE CENTRAL TO THE NARRATIVE.

2. *THE YEAR OF THE FLOOD*

ALSO BY MARGARET ATWOOD, THIS COMPANION NOVEL TO ORYX AND CRAKE OFFERS A PARALLEL PERSPECTIVE ON THE SAME DYSTOPIAN WORLD. IT FOCUSES ON TWO WOMEN, TOBY AND REN, WHO ARE PART OF A RELIGIOUS GROUP TRYING TO SURVIVE THE ECOLOGICAL CATASTROPHE. THE BOOK DEEPENS THE EXPLORATION OF SURVIVAL, MORALITY, AND HUMANITY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE.

3. *MADDADDAM*

THE FINAL BOOK IN ATWOOD'S TRILOGY, MADDADDAM CONTINUES THE STORY OF THE SURVIVORS IN A GENETICALLY ALTERED WORLD. IT MERGES THE NARRATIVES OF PREVIOUS BOOKS AND INTRODUCES NEW CHARACTERS, OFFERING HOPE AND COMPLEXITY ABOUT REBUILDING SOCIETY. THE NOVEL TACKLES THEMES OF REDEMPTION, COMMUNITY, AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF PLAYING GOD.

4. *BRAVE NEW WORLD*

A CLASSIC DYSTOPIAN NOVEL BY ALDOUS HUXLEY, IT DEPICTS A TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED SOCIETY THAT CONTROLS ITS CITIZENS THROUGH GENETIC MANIPULATION AND CONDITIONING. THE BOOK SHARES THEMES WITH ORYX AND CRAKE, SUCH AS THE ETHICAL DILEMMAS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND LOSS OF INDIVIDUALITY IN A HIGHLY CONTROLLED WORLD.

5. *NEVER LET ME GO*

KAZUO ISHIGURO'S NOVEL TELLS THE STORY OF CLONES RAISED TO PROVIDE ORGANS FOR HUMANS, EXPLORING THEMES OF IDENTITY, HUMANITY, AND ETHICS. LIKE ORYX AND CRAKE, IT QUESTIONS THE MORALITY OF SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENTS AND THEIR IMPACT ON HUMAN LIFE AND RELATIONSHIPS. THE HAUNTING NARRATIVE PROMPTS REFLECTION ON WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN.

6. *STATION ELEVEN*

EMILY ST. JOHN MANDEL'S POST-APOCALYPTIC NOVEL FOLLOWS A TRAVELING SHAKESPEAREAN TROUPE AFTER A DEVASTATING FLU PANDEMIC. THE BOOK EXAMINES SURVIVAL, MEMORY, AND THE PERSISTENCE OF ART IN A COLLAPSED SOCIETY, COMPLEMENTING THE BLEAK YET HOPEFUL TONES FOUND IN ORYX AND CRAKE. IT REFLECTS ON HOW CULTURE ENDURES AMIDST CHAOS.

7. *THE WINDUP GIRL*

PAOLO BACIGALUPI'S SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL IS SET IN A FUTURE THAILAND STRUGGLING WITH BIOENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER. THE STORY DELVES INTO CORPORATE POWER, GENETIC MODIFICATION, AND ECOLOGICAL COLLAPSE, THEMES CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH THOSE IN ORYX AND CRAKE. IT OFFERS A GRIM VISION OF A WORLD RESHAPED BY HUMAN INTERVENTION.

8. *PARABLE OF THE SOWER*

OCTAVIA E. BUTLER'S NOVEL DEPICTS A NEAR-FUTURE AMERICA WHERE SOCIETY HAS BROKEN DOWN DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECONOMIC INSTABILITY. THE PROTAGONIST CREATES A NEW BELIEF SYSTEM TO NAVIGATE THIS CHAOS, EMPHASIZING RESILIENCE AND ADAPTABILITY. THE BOOK'S EXPLORATION OF DYSTOPIA AND SURVIVAL RESONATES WITH ATWOOD'S WORK.

9. *CLOUD ATLAS*

DAVID MITCHELL'S NOVEL WEAVES TOGETHER MULTIPLE INTERCONNECTED STORIES ACROSS DIFFERENT TIME PERIODS, INCLUDING DYSTOPIAN FUTURES. IT EXAMINES THE IMPACT OF ACTIONS OVER TIME, TOUCHING ON GENETIC ENGINEERING, CORPORATE DOMINANCE, AND HUMAN INTERCONNECTEDNESS. THE COMPLEX NARRATIVE STRUCTURE ENRICHES THE THEMES FOUND IN ORYX AND

Oryx And Crake Plot

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oryx and crake plot: *The Cambridge Companion to Margaret Atwood* Coral Ann Howells, 2006-03-30 Margaret Atwood's international celebrity has given a new visibility to Canadian literature in English. This Companion provides a comprehensive critical account of Atwood's writing across the wide range of genres within which she has worked for the past forty years, while paying attention to her Canadian cultural context and the multiple dimensions of her celebrity. The main concern is with Atwood the writer, but there is also Atwood the media star and public performer, cultural critic, environmentalist and human rights spokeswoman, social and political satirist, and mythmaker. This immensely varied profile is addressed in a series of chapters which cover biographical, textual, and contextual issues. The Introduction contains an analysis of dominant trends in Atwood criticism since the 1970s, while the essays by twelve leading international Atwood critics represent the wide range of different perspectives in current Atwood scholarship.

oryx and crake plot: *Margaret Atwood* Harold Bloom, Sterling Professor of Humanities Harold Bloom, 2014-05-14 Presents a collection of critical essays about the works of Margaret Atwood.

oryx and crake plot: *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.

oryx and crake plot: *The Psychology of Love* Michele A. Paludi, 2012-03-09 From arranged marriages to online dating, this four-volume work presents everything from personal accounts to empirical evidence to document what creates love in our culture as well as around the world. The field of biology views love as a hard-wired mammalian drive, akin to thirst and hunger. In contrast, psychology views love from a social and cultural perspective where our drive to find love—and our responses to it—are highly dependent on societal norms. In *The Psychology of Love*, esteemed author and educator Michele A. Paludi examines love through all lenses, thereby providing readers a deeper understanding of the ways we can express caring, sensitivity, empathy, and respect toward one another. Each chapter in this comprehensive four-volume work includes a scholarly overview of empirical research and theories about the psychology of love. In addition, individuals' own definitions of love are included. Special attention is paid to accepted standards of love across a variety of cultures, the ways individuals express liking and love across the lifecycle, and patterns in dissolutions of friendships and romantic relationships, making note of gender and race differences.

oryx and crake plot: *The Making and Mirroring of Masculine Subjectivities* Susan Mooney, 2022-08-09 This book shows how diverse, critical modern world narratives in prose fiction and film emphasize masculine subjectivities through affects and ethics. Highlighting diverse affects and mental states in subjective voices and modes, modern narratives reveal men as feeling,

intersubjective beings, and not as detached masters of master narratives. Modern novels and films suggest that masculine subjectivities originate paradoxically from a combination of copying and negation, surplus and lack, sameness and alterity: among fathers and sons, siblings and others. In this comparative study of more than 30 diverse world narratives, Mooney deftly uses psychoanalytic thought, narrative theories of first- and third-person narrators, and Levinasian and feminist ethics of care, creativity, honor, and proximity. We gain a nuanced picture of diverse postpaternal postgentlemen emerging out of older character structures of the knight and gentleman.

oryx and crake plot: The Political in Margaret Atwood's Fiction Theodore F. Sheckels, 2016-02-24 Suggesting that politics and power are at the center of Margaret Atwood's fiction, Theodore F. Sheckels examines Atwood's novels from *The Edible Woman* to *The Year of the Flood*. Whether her treatment is explicit as in *Bodily Harm* and *The Handmaid's Tale* or by means of an exploration of interiority as in *Cat's Eye* and *The Robber Bride*, Atwood's persistent concern is with how the empowered act towards those who are constrained within the political, economic and social institutions that facilitate power dynamics. Sheckels identifies an increasing sophistication in Atwood's exposition of power over time that is revealed in the later novels' engagement with social class, postcolonialism, and a globalism that merges science and commerce as issues relevant to politics and power. Acknowledging that Atwood is not a political theorist but a novelist, Sheckels does not suggest that her work should be viewed as political commentary but rather as a creative treatment of the laudable but ultimately only partially successful ways in which women and other groups resist the constraints placed on them by institutionalized oppression.

oryx and crake plot: Contemporary Trauma Narratives Jean-Michel Ganteau, Susana Onega, 2014-06-27 This book provides a comprehensive compilation of essays on the relationship between formal experimentation and ethics in a number of generically hybrid or liminal narratives dealing with individual and collective traumas, running the spectrum from the testimonial novel and the fictional autobiography to the fake memoir, written by a variety of famous, more neglected contemporary British, Irish, US, Canadian, and German writers. Building on the psychological insights and theorizing of the fathers of trauma studies (Janet, Freud, Ferenczi) and of contemporary trauma critics and theorists, the articles examine the narrative strategies, structural experimentations and hybridizations of forms, paying special attention to the way in which the texts fight the unrepresentability of trauma by performing rather than representing it. The ethicality or unethicity involved in this endeavor is assessed from the combined perspectives of the non-foundational, non-cognitive, discursive ethics of alterity inspired by Emmanuel Levinas, and the ethics of vulnerability. This approach makes *Contemporary Trauma Narratives* an excellent resource for scholars of contemporary literature, trauma studies and literary theory.

oryx and crake plot: Narrating Nonhuman Spaces Marco Caracciolo, Marlene Karlsson Marcussen, David Rodriguez, 2021-08-18 Recent debates about the Anthropocene have prompted a re-negotiation of the relationship between human subjectivity and nonhuman matter within a wide range of disciplines. This collection builds on the assumption that our understanding of the nonhuman world is bound up with the experience of space: thinking about and with nonhuman spaces destabilizes human-scale assumptions. Literary form affords this kind of nonanthropocentric experience; one role of the critic in the Anthropocene is to foreground the function of space and description in challenging the conventional link between narrative and human (inter)subjectivity. Bringing together New Formalism, ecocriticism, and narrative theory, the included essays demonstrate that literature can transgress the strong and long-established boundary of the human frame that literary and narrative scholarship clings to. The focus is firmly on the contemporary but with strategic samplings in earlier cultural texts (the American transcendentalists, modernist fiction) that anticipate present-day anxieties about the nonhuman, while at the same time offering important conceptual tools for working through them.

oryx and crake plot: The Tree Climbing Cure Andy Brown, 2022-12-15 Our relationship with trees is a lengthy, complex one. Since we first walked the earth we have, at various times, worshiped them, felled them and even talked to them. For many of us, though, our first memories of interacting

with trees will be of climbing them. Exploring how tree climbers have been represented in literature and art in Europe and North America over the ages, *The Tree Climbing Cure* unpacks the curative value of tree climbing, examining when and why tree climbers climb, and what tree climbing can do for (and say about) the climber's mental health and wellbeing. Bringing together research into poetry, novels, and paintings with the science of wellbeing and mental health and engaging with myth, folklore, psychology and storytelling, *Tree Climber* also examines the close relationship between tree climbing and imagination, and questions some longstanding, problematic gendered injunctions about women climbing trees. Discussing, among others, the literary works of Margaret Atwood; Charlotte Bronte; Geoffrey Chaucer; Angela Carter; Kiran Desai; and J.R.R. Tolkien, as well as work by artists such as Peter Doig; Paula Rego; and Goya, this book stands out as an almost encyclopedic examination of cultural representations of this quirky and ultimately restorative pastime.

oryx and crake plot: Understanding Margaret Atwood Donna M. Bickford, 2023-08-31 A timely, accessible introduction to Margaret Atwood's most recent novels and enduring themes In 2017, the Hulu adaptation of Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* introduced the acclaimed and bestselling Canadian author to a new generation and reminded Atwood's long-established readers of her uncanny prescience. *Understanding Margaret Atwood* provides an overview of the author's life, descriptions and analyses of the key themes present in her most recent novels, signposts to the connections and intertextual references between them, and attention to their critical reception. Following a biographical overview, author Donna M. Bickford studies *The Handmaid's Tale* (1985) and its sequel *The Testaments* (2019), retellings of *The Odyssey* in *The Penelopiad* (2005) and *The Tempest* in *Hag Seed* (2016), the *MaddAddam* trilogy (2003, 2009, 2013), and *The Heart Goes Last* (2015). Written in clear language and a style appropriate both for scholars and for new students of Atwood, Bickford locates Atwood's recent works in the literary, political, and social context. Atwood is the author of more than fifty books of fiction, essays, and poetry, which have collectively sold more than eight million copies worldwide; has received numerous awards and accolades, including multiple Booker Prizes and a PEN Center USA Lifetime Achievement Award; and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

oryx and crake plot: A study guide for Margaret Atwood's "Oryx and Crake" Gale, Cengage Learning, 2015-09-15 A study guide for Margaret Atwood's *Oryx and Crake*, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Novels for Students* series. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust *Novels for Students* for all of your research needs.

oryx and crake plot: Making Time Carolin Gebauer, 2021-04-19 2023 Perkins Prize of the International Society for the Study of Narrative ESSE Book Award for Junior Scholars for a book in the field of Literatures in the English Language Responding to the current surge in present-tense novels, *Making Time* is an innovative contribution to narratological research on present-tense usage in narrative fiction. Breaking with the tradition of conceptualizing the present tense purely as a deictic category denoting synchronicity between a narrative event and its presentation, the study redefines present-tense narration as a fully-fledged narrative strategy whose functional potential far exceeds temporal relations between story and discourse. The first part of the volume presents numerous analytical categories that systematically describe the formal, structural, functional, and syntactic dimensions of present-tense usage in narrative fiction. These categories are then deployed to investigate the uses and functions of present-tense narration in selected twenty-first century novels, including Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall*, Margaret Atwood's *Oryx and Crake*, Ian McEwan's *Nutshell*, and Irvine Welsh's *Skagboys*. The seven case studies serve to illustrate the ubiquity of present-tense narration in contemporary fiction, ranging from the historical novel to the thriller, and to investigate the various ways in which the present tense contributes to narrative worldmaking.

oryx and crake plot: Postmodern Utopias and Feminist Fictions Jennifer A. Wagner-Lawlor, 2013-07-31 Covering a range of texts from prominent feminist writers, this book examines notions of utopia in twenty-first-century speculative literature.

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