

The Edible Woman

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The novel that put the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Handmaid's Tale* on the literary map

Margaret Atwood's first novel is both a scathingly funny satire of consumerism and a heady exploration of emotional cannibalism.

Marian McAlpin is an "abnormally normal" young woman, according to her friends. A recent university graduate, she crafts consumer surveys for a market research firm, maintains an uneasy truce between her flighty roommate and their prudish landlady, and goes to parties with her solidly dependable boyfriend, Peter. But after Peter proposes marriage, things take a strange turn. Suddenly empathizing with the steak in a restaurant, Marian finds she is unable to eat meat. As the days go by, her feeling of solidarity extends to other categories of food, until there is almost nothing left that she can bring herself to consume. Those around her fail to notice Marian's growing alienation--until it culminates in an act of resistance that is as startling as it is imaginative. Marked by blazingly surreal humor and a colorful cast of eccentric characters, *The Edible Woman* is a groundbreaking work of fiction.

New in this edition: a Reader's Companion to *The Edible Woman*--ideal for discussion groups

"Margaret Atwood takes risks and wins."

--Time

"Throughout her literary career...Margaret Atwood has impressed and delighted readers with her wit, lyric virtuosity and imaginative acuity."

--San Francisco Chronicle

"One of the most intelligent and talented writers to set herself the task of deciphering life in the late twentieth century."

--Vogue

"Chock-full of startling images, superbly and classically crafted...Kept me in stitches half the time."

--Saturday Night

"Atwood has the magic of turning the particular and the parochial into the universal."

--The Times (London)

"Articulate and sophisticated;Extraordinarily witty, and full of ironic observation;A tour de force;"

- Toronto Star

"[Atwood is] one of the most intelligent and talented writers to set herself the task of deciphering life in the late twentieth century."

- Vogue

"Remarkable.… The Edible Woman assumes the force of a banal dream that has turned, without the dreamer quite noticing, into a nightmare.…[It] conceals the kick of a perfume bottle converted into a Molotov cocktail."

- Time

"Delightful - spare, precise, mordantly witty.…Exquisitely written."

- Journal of Canadian Fiction

"[The Edible Woman] is chock-full of startling images, superbly and classically crafted.…"

- Saturday Night

"Few writers are able to combine wit and humour.…Margaret Atwood is a poet and novelist who seems to be able to do anything she wants."

- Newsweek

"A pleasure."

- Kirkus Reviews

"Funny, sharp, witty, clever."

- The Times (U.K.)

"Marked by a keen eye for evocative details which cohere into vivid incidents."

- Canadian Forum

"[Atwood is] a subtle and penetrating observer of relationships between men and women."

- Sunday Times (U.K.)

"Reflections on marriage, guilt and the relationship between the sexes - classic Atwood territory."

- The Guardian (U.K.)

"[Atwood] knows exactly what she is doing with every phrase."

- Vancouver Sun

Other Books

Cooking by the Book, The essays collected here explore the power and sensuality that food engenders within literature. The book permits the reader to sample food as a rhetorical structure, one that allows the individual writers to articulate the abstract concepts in a medium that is readily understandable. The second part of Cooking by the Book turns to the more diverse food rhetorics of the marketplace. What, for example, is the fast food rhetoric? Why are there so many eating disorders in our society? Is it possible to teach philosophy through cookery? How long has vegetarianism been popular?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ . Fairy - Tale Cannibalism in The Edible Woman Sharon Rose Wilson As Margaret Atwood has admitted on several occasions , fairy tales , particularly those of the Grimm brothers and Hans Christian Andersen , have influenced her work ..."