



The Door

By Margaret Atwood, Phoebe Larmore

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The Door, Margaret Atwood's first book of poetry since *Morning in the Burned House*, is a magnificent achievement. Here in paperback for the first time, these fifty lucid, urgent poems range in tone from lyric to ironic to mediative to prophetic, and in subject from the personal to the political, viewed in its broadest sense. They investigate the mysterious writing of poetry itself, as well as the passage of time and our shared sense of mortality. Brave and compassionate, *The Door* interrogates the certainties that we build our lives on, and reminds us once again of Margaret Atwood's unique accomplishments as one of the finest and most celebrated writers of our time.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The first book of poems in 12 years from the now world-famous Canadian author (*The Handmaid's Tale*) combines an older writer's reflections on aging with the dire warnings-political, environmental and moral-familiar from Atwood's recent fiction. Short lines and deliberate, balanced phrases consider how "my mother dwindles and dwindles/ and lives and lives," how senior citizens hike and trek across tundra, and how privileged citizens of rich nations might understand refugees from far-off wars. "Owl and Pussycat, Some Years Later"-the longest poem in the book, the wittiest and likely the best-retells the familiar rhyme as a parable of late-career poets, rueful and "no longer semi-immortal," yet still conversing, still writing, as they go on rowing "out past the last protecting/ sandbar." Other verse shows Atwood-who began as a poet, despite her fame as a novelist-looking at the climate for new poetry amid the sometimes funny parochialism of its audiences (in Canada or anywhere). Yet the predominant notes are fiercely grim: ice melts and cracks, mammals head towards extinction, "the hurt child will bite you... And its blood will seep into the water/ and you will drink it every day." One page compares all poets everywhere to violinists on the Titanic. Another declares, truthfully, "That's what I do:/ I tell dark stories/ before and after they come true." Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Review

"Atwood's poems are short, glistening with terse, bright images, untentative, closing like a vise. . . . A plain, explicit poetry, perfectly sure of itself."

— *New York Times*

"Margaret Atwood is best known, of course, as a novelist. But she brings to her poetry the same sharp eye and stinging wit."

— Robert Haas, *Washington Post*

"Atwood is always vital, powerful, magnetically readable. . . . Readers who know only her novels really owe it to themselves to read her poems."

— *Booklist*

"Margaret Atwood's **The Door** is one of the best books by one of the best poets writing in English, written in a sparse, elegiac tone that combines illuminating intelligence with caustic humour, and wisdom that for once truly comes with age."

- Alberto Manguel, *Times Literary Supplement* Books of the Year

About the Author

MARGARET ATWOOD is the author of more than forty books of fiction, poetry, and critical essays. In addition to *The Handmaid's Tale* (now a Hulu series) her novels include *The Blind Assassin* (winner of the Booker Prize), *Alias Grace* (winner of the Giller Prize in Canada and the Premio Mondello in Italy), *The Robber Bride*, *Cat's Eye*, *The Penelopiad*, *The Heart Goes Last*, and *Hag-Seed*, a novel revisitation of Shakespeare's play *The Tempest*, for the Hogarth Shakespeare Project. Her latest book of short stories is *Stone Mattress: Nine Tales*. She is also the author of the graphic novel *Angel Catbird* (with cocreator Johnnie Christmas). Margaret Atwood lives in Toronto with writer Graeme Gibson.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Murphy:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be upgrade about what going on or details even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era and that is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what type you should start with. This The Door is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Toby Terry:

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Jean Proffitt:

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