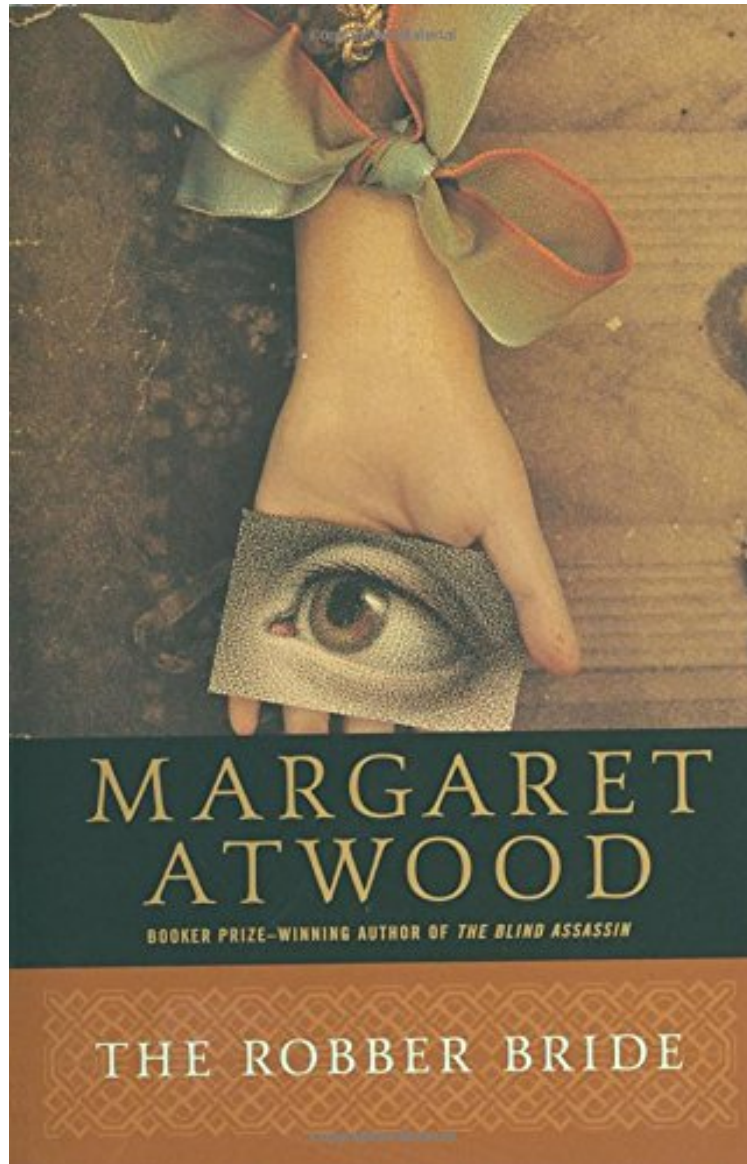


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## The Robber Bride

Margaret Atwood

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#174053 in Books Margaret Atwood 1998-01-20 1998-01-20 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x 1.08 x 5.20l, .90 #File Name: 0385491034528 pages The Robber Bride | File size: 50.Mb

**Margaret Atwood : The Robber Bride** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Robber Bride:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Another amazing book by M. Atwood By Cec If you love Atwood's quirky style, you'll love Robber Bride. Not as off-the-wall as Handmaid's Tale, yet full of quirks and surprises. Atwood has managed to give us three strong protagonists to appreciate and an anti-hero who makes us shudder, all wrapped up in enticing detail. There aren't many men in this story, and they're not at their shining best, but that helps

carry the plot.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book is a test of your patienceBy bovaxtyNot your patience with the material, which is quite readable, but with one or more characters. Sort of like the film "Neighbors" starring Belushi and Ackroyd. Very grating, but in a "turn grating into an art form" way. Superb.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A very complete bookBy Alistair BluntMargaret Atwood writes such a beautifully constructed novel, colorful in ideas and language, of three ladies plus one, with the three joined in their disparity by a shared antagonism but perversely also love for the fourth. Myonly criticism of this book which I enjoyed enormously was that it might be considered a little too structured and possibly a little too predictable. But highly recommended.

From the extraordinary imagination of the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Handmaid's Tale*, comes one of her most intricate and subversive novels. Set in contemporary Toronto, *The Robber Bride* revolves around the lives of three fascinating women. Classmates from university, Roz, Charis, and Tony all shared the seductive and destructive experience of a past friendship with the flashy, sensuous, smart, irresistible Zenia. As the novel opens, they are twenty years past their college days and have met at Zania's funeral, but at lunch, after the funeral, they spot Zenia—not dead at all and up to no good.

From Publishers WeeklyThe author of *Cat's Eye* depicts a femme fatale's malevolent role in the lives of three women; a seven-week PW bestseller. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalSet in Canada in the early 1970s, *The Robber Bride* continues Atwood's satiric exploration into sex and empowerment. Three women and the femme fatale who unites them are set against a backdrop of draft dodgers and the resurgence of feminism. Atwood is an astute observer of contemporary misinformation, and references to tarot, auras, astrology, and more abound. Despite some wonderful passages, however, the narrative thrust consists of self-contained vignettes that do not easily lend themselves to audio. The histories of these women are intense and distinctive, but the superficial present in which they do little more than move from restaurant to restaurant blurs them to the point of being interchangeable. When she stays with one character long enough (e.g., her treatment of Charis's incest-filled childhood at the start of the third tape), the poignancy increases. It's slow going, but a lively reading by Blythe Danner and musical interludes that accentuate the New Age mood should help keep maintain listeners' attention.- Rochelle Ratner, formerly Poetry Editor, "Soho Weekly News," New YorkCopyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Kirkus sAntonia (Tony), Karen (Charis), and Roz are three 50-ish Toronto friends, pals since college, all of whom have had to negotiate (and none too well) the treacheries of another friend, Zenia--someone who in the past has stolen a significant man from each of the others. But Zenia, they are led relievedly to understand, has been dead for some years--blown up in a Beirut bomb blast; they had carefully attended, together, her memorial service to make doubly sure. Yet why does the very selfsame Zenia now appear across the room one afternoon at a restaurant where the three women are lunching? It creates turmoil. Tony--a college military historian with a milquetoasty composer husband and an annoying tic of spelling words backwards; doggedly hippie Charis, New Age-y survivor of incest, and lover of a US draft-dodger; and Roz, power-businesswoman despite herself, wife of a sad-sack philanderer--all of the massed trio views Zenia not only as a communal threat, but as a chastening, changeable contrast to the courses of their own lives. Atwood (*Wilderness Tips*, 1991; *Cat's Eye*, 1989, etc.) does a professionally tidy job with the outline of this social comedy, but apart from some poetic turbocharging around Charis's memories of abuse, plus a nice capture of modern manners most of the time, the book lacks luster: it could be a more brittle, smarter Rona Jaffe novel. Atwood seems to want to make the three unlikely friends both representative of their age, place, and times--but also not: the flaky names and square-peg lifestyles argue for an individualism none of the women quite achieves. And Zenia, the fox among these chickens, is utterly cloudy, a trope instead of a character. Amusing sometimes, but flogged and padded--hardly one of Atwood's better efforts. -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.