



Bluebeard's Egg: Stories

By Margaret Atwood

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By turns humorous and warm, stark and frightening, *Bluebeard's Egg* glows with childhood memories, the reality of parents growing old, and the casual cruelty men and women inflict on each other. Here is the familiar outer world of family summers at remote lakes, winters of political activism, and seasons of exotic friends, mundane lives, and unexpected loves. But here too is the inner world of hidden places and all that emerges from them—the intimately personal, the fantastic, the shockingly real...whether it's what lives in a mysterious locked room or the secret feelings we all conceal. In this dramatic and far-ranging collection, Margaret Atwood proves why she is a true master of the genre.

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Bluebeard's Egg: Stories By Margaret Atwood Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"Conversations in our family were not about feelings," recalls the teenage narrator of "Hurricane Hazel" about her breakup with a boyfriend who "meant what is usually called absolutely nothing to me" in Atwood's (*The Handmaid's Tale*, etc.) second collection of shortfiction. Unfortunately, the author's arch cleverness and cool understatement anesthetize the impact of the stories' conversations and gloomy relationships between parents and children, husbands and wives, friends and lovers. Symbols abound and some, reminiscent of Atwood's "edible woman" cake in the book of the same title, are strained. In "Ugly puss," the discordant lovers are political activists; at one point they plan to picket a sock company and dramatize the crucifixion, portraying Christ as a large knitted sock, in red and white stripes. But the collection is somewhat redeemed by the affecting title story, where an egg a deceptively innocuous object that, according to the legend, ultimately marks as disobedient two of Bluebeard's unfortunate wives aptly symbolizes the protagonist's premonitions of doom about her marriage to a man she is desperately afraid of losing, although she describes him as obtuse, blundering and predictable.

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From Library Journal

In this delightful collection of short stories, Atwood (*The Blind Assassin*) explores relationships between men and women, parents and children, and people and pets. She also touches on anorexia and adult children of elderly parents. In typical Atwood fashion, the characters and locations are described in detail. Bonnie Hurren transports the listener into the author's world with her excellent pronunciation and slow, well-paced intonation. Each cassette stops at a convenient point in the story rather than whenever the tape ends. While this requires the listener to fast-forward each tape before changing sides, it makes it easier to follow the story line. Recommended for popular fiction collections and any library serving Atwood fans. Laurie Selwyn, San Antonio P.L.

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Review

"A champion of Canadian literature...A startlingly original voice."

--*Washington Post Book World*

"Atwood appears to challenge both her readers and the outside limits of her own talent...Writing at top form, writing with total control of her material, with sureness, with touches of brilliance...*Bluebeard's Egg* is a book to be read and re-read, to be talked about and savored."

--*London (Ontario) Free Press*

"Margaret Atwood conceals the kick of a perfume bottle converted into a Molotov cocktail."

--Melvin Maddocks

"Atwood's prose in *Bluebeard's Egg* is powerful, elegant and mellifluous to an extraordinary degree."

--*Quill and Quire*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ernie Swisher:

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