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AUTHOR OF *THE HANDMAID'S TALE*

MARGARET ATWOOD

NINE

TALES



STONE MATTRESS

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Resumo de Stone Mattress: Nine Tales

A collection of highly imaginative short pieces that speak to our times with deadly accuracy. Vintage Atwood creativity, intelligence, and humor: think *Alias Grace*. Margaret Atwood turns to short fiction for the first time since her 2006 collection, *Moral Disorder*, with nine tales of acute psychological insight and turbulent relationships bringing to mind her award-winning 1996 novel, *Alias Grace*.

A recently widowed fantasy writer is guided through a stormy winter evening by the voice of her late husband in "Alphinland," the first of three loosely linked stories about the romantic geometries of a group of writers and artists.

In "The Freeze-Dried Bridegroom," a man who bids on an auctioned storage space has a surprise. In "Lusus Naturae," a woman born with a genetic abnormality is mistaken for a vampire.

In "Torching the Dusties," an elderly lady with Charles Bonnet syndrome comes to terms with the little people she keeps seeing, while a newly formed populist group gathers to burn down her retirement residence.

And in "Stone Mattress," a long-ago crime is avenged in the Arctic via a 1.9 billion-year-old stromatolite. In these nine tales, Margaret Atwood is at the top of her darkly humorous and seriously playful game.

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