



Life Before Man

By Margaret Atwood

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Life Before Man By Margaret Atwood

Imprisoned by walls of their own construction, here are three people, each in midlife, in midcrisis, forced to make choices--after the rules have changed. Elizabeth, with her controlled sensuality, her suppressed rage, is married to the wrong man. She has just lost her latest lover to suicide. Nate, her gentle, indecisive husband, is planning to leave her for Lesje, a perennial innocent who prefers dinosaurs to men. Hanging over them all is the ghost of Elizabeth's dead lover...and the dizzying threat of three lives careening inevitably toward the same climax.

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Editorial Review

Review

"A modern saga...she has a fine ear for words and a quick wit for absurdities" The Times "An extraordinary imagination - witty, light-footed, realistic, yet with shooting insights into the nature of personality and love" -- Isabel Quigley Financial Times "Tender, funny, absorbing, idiosyncratic, truthful, heartening... A liberating novel. It deserves a wide readership" -- Michael Herbert Literary Review "Mordant intelligence; formidable insight into the springs of human self-deception, self-aggrandisement and self-destruction; and an effortless, always vivid style" -- Jeffrey Meyers Spectator "Beautifully written and constructed... A rich and elegant achievement" -- Peter Kemp Listener

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"Superb, complete...a splendid, fully integrated work."

--*The New York Times Book Review*

"Moving flawlessly from wit to pathos and back, Atwood constructs a superb living exhibit in which the artifacts are unique...there is ample treasure in this novel."

--*Chicago Tribune*

"Crisp, carefully ironic, contemporary...Life Before Man offers us three characters of great complexity and roundness...Atwood has written a novel that is emotionally powerful, intelligent and very adult."

--*Ms.*

"Atwood writes with savage humor. Sentences are spare, kept under enormous compression, like a bent bow."

--*Esquire*

From the Inside Flap

Imprisoned by walls of their own construction, here are three people, each in midlife, in midcrisis, forced to make choices--after the rules have changed. Elizabeth, with her controlled sensuality, her suppressed rage, is married to the wrong man. She has just lost her latest lover to suicide. Nate, her gentle, indecisive husband, is planning to leave her for Lesje, a perennial innocent who prefers dinosaurs to men. Hanging over them all is the ghost of Elizabeth's dead lover...and the dizzying threat of three lives careening inevitably toward the same climax.

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