



## Mudwoman: A Novel

By Joyce Carol Oates

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One of the most acclaimed writers in the world today, the inimitable Joyce Carol Oates follows up her searing, *New York Times* bestselling memoir, *A Widow's Story*, with an extraordinary new work of fiction. *Mudwoman* is a riveting psychological thriller, taut with dark suspense, that explores the high price of repression in the life of a respected university president teetering on the precipice of a nervous breakdown. Like Daphne DuMaurier's gothic masterwork, *Rebecca*, and the classic ghost story, *The Turn of the Screw*, by Henry James, Oates's *Mudwoman* is a chilling page-turner that hinges on the power of the imagination and the blurry lines between the real and the invented—and it stands tall among the author's most powerful and beloved works, including *The Falls*, *The Gravedigger's Daughter*, and *We Were the Mulvaney's*.

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## Mudwoman: A Novel By Joyce Carol Oates Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

“[A] powerful novel...[Oates] deftly interweaves M.R.’s present, memories of her troubled childhood, and her feverish hallucinations...This hypnotic novel suggests that forgetting the past may be the heavy cost that success demands.” (The New Yorker)

“Uniquely personal... an intriguing departure from token Oates tales.” (Huffington Post)

“Madness and malevolence squirm on almost every page in Joyce Carol Oates’ 38th novel... Oates’ dark brilliance is ever evident in her main characters, complex souls with mysterious corners in their psyches...” (Minneapolis Star Tribune)

“This chilling novel opens with a child left to die in a silty riverbed, a memory that no amount of later life success can erase.” (O, the Oprah Magazine)

“...The Oates style, with its fractious barrage of dashes, suggests what [Emily] Dickenson might have produced if she had written doorstep novels instead of short poems...[Oates] is especially perceptive in showing the political tightrope that M.R. has to walk in her powerful but fragile position at the university...” (Wall Street Journal)

“[A] disturbing, psychological thriller.” (New York Post)

“Extraordinarily intense, racking, and resonant... Masterfully enmeshing nightmare with reality, Oates has created a resolute, incisive, and galvanizing drama about our deep connection to place, the persistence of the past, and the battles of a resilient soul under siege... A major, controversy-ready novel from high-profile, protean Oates.” (Booklist (starred review))

“Oates [displays] the insights into human bonds that make her brilliant...Oates makes [her character’s] torment come alive. We grasp her compulsion to return to the mud of the past in order find her true self.” (USA Today)

“[A] disturbing exploration of selfhood...As always, Joyce Carol Oates masterfully evokes a sense of menace, if not malevolence, while drawing her readers deep into the psychology of her characters... a dark, intelligent and deeply compelling novel... which will hold you in its thrall until the end.” (Washington Independent Review of Books)

“There’s a freshness to this novel, a sense of some new, more personal beginning. It’s bold... to paint achievement... as just the flip side of victimization--and it’s perhaps even bolder to make such visceral drama from the story of a workaholic who finally confronts life unhooked from a keyboard.” (New York Times Book Review)

“Oates is an extremely visceral writer...Mudwoman is a genuinely unsettling book in which Oates pays her readers the compliment of never letting them settle or even being entirely sure about what they have just read.” (Financial Times)

“Mudwoman is very good at the performance of the public life of the woman president...The unraveling of

this performance is grippingly horrible.” (New York Review of Books)

“Joyce Carol Oates’ latest novel is about many things, but first and foremost it is about the complications of being a high-achieving woman in the 21st century...Oates tells [her protagonist’s story] with a detail and relish that’s both heartbreaking and fascinating.” (Ms. magazine)

#### From the Back Cover

Mudgirl is a child abandoned in the silty flats of the Black Snake River. Cast aside, Mudgirl survives by an accident of fate—or destiny. After her rescue, the well-meaning couple who adopt Mudgirl quarantine her poisonous history behind the barrier of their middle-class values. But the bulwark of the present proves surprisingly vulnerable to the agents of the past.

Meredith "M.R." Neukirchen is the first woman president of an Ivy League university. Her commitment to her career and moral fervor for her role are all-consuming, but when confronted with challenges to her leadership she could not have anticipated, the fierce idealism and intelligence that delivered her from a more conventional life threaten to undo her.

A reckless trip thrusts M.R. into an unexpected psychic collision with Mudgirl and the life M.R. believes she has left behind. A powerful exploration of the enduring claims of the past, *Mudwoman* is at once a psychic ghost story and an intimate and compelling portrait of a highly complex contemporary woman cracking the glass ceiling at enormous personal cost.

#### About the Author

Joyce Carol Oates is a recipient of the National Medal of Humanities, the National Book Critics Circle Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award, the National Book Award, and the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in Short Fiction. She is the Roger S. Berlind Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Princeton University and has been a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters since 1978.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### Eileen Smith:

Here thing why that Mudwoman: A Novel are different and trusted to be yours. First of all reading a book is good but it really depends in the content than it which is the content is as delicious as food or not.

Mudwoman: A Novel giving you information deeper including different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no guide that similar with Mudwoman: A Novel. It gives you thrill reading journey, its open up your own personal eyes about the thing which happened in the world which is probably can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in area, café, or even in your method home by train. In case you are having difficulties in bringing the printed book maybe the form of Mudwoman: A Novel in e-book can be your substitute.

**Linda Henderson:**

This book untitled Mudwoman: A Novel to be one of several books which best seller in this year, that is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book shop or you can order it by way of online. The publisher on this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this publication from your list.

**Robert Goddard:**

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book specifically book entitled Mudwoman: A Novel your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a e-book then become one type conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get prior to. The Mudwoman: A Novel giving you an additional experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful data for your better life within this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

**Jane Mansour:**

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