



Hag-Seed (Hogarth Shakespeare)

By Margaret Atwood

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William Shakespeare's *The Tempest* retold as *Hag-Seed*

Felix is at the top of his game as Artistic Director of the Makeshiweg Theatre Festival. His productions have amazed and confounded. Now he's staging a *Tempest* like no other: not only will it boost his reputation, it will heal emotional wounds.

Or that was the plan. Instead, after an act of unforeseen treachery, Felix is living in exile in a backwoods hovel, haunted by memories of his beloved lost daughter, Miranda. And also brewing revenge.

After twelve years, revenge finally arrives in the shape of a theatre course at a nearby prison. Here, Felix and his inmate actors will put on his *Tempest* and snare the traitors who destroyed him. It's magic! But will it remake Felix as his enemies fall?

Margaret Atwood's novel take on Shakespeare's play of enchantment, retribution, and second chances leads us on an interactive, illusion-ridden journey filled with new surprises and wonders of its own.

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Hag-Seed (Hogarth Shakespeare) By Margaret Atwood Bibliography

- Rank: #105637 in Books
- Brand: Atwood Margaret
- Published on: 2016-10-11
- Released on: 2016-10-11
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.26" h x 1.04" w x 5.32" l, 1.25 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 320 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"A marvel of gorgeous yet economical prose, in the service of a story that's utterly heartbreakingly yet pierced by humor, with a plot that retains considerable subtlety even as the original's back story falls neatly into place."—*New York Times Book Review*

"What makes the book thrilling, and hugely pleasurable, is how closely Atwood hews to Shakespeare even as she casts her own potent charms, rap-composition included... Part Shakespeare, part Atwood, "Hag-Seed" is a most delicate monster — and that's "delicate" in the 17th-century sense. It's delightful."—*The Boston Globe*

"Atwood has designed an ingenious doubling of the plot of "The Tempest": Felix, the usurped director, finds himself cast by circumstances as a real-life version of Prospero, the usurped Duke. If you know the play well, these echoes grow stronger when Felix decides to exact his revenge by conjuring up a new version of "The Tempest" designed to overwhelm his enemies."—*The Washington Post*

"A funny and heartwarming tale of revenge and redemption, this latest release in the Hogarth Shakespeare project, whose aim it is to retell Shakespeare's most beloved works through the works of bestselling authors like Anne Tyler and Gillian Flynn, *Hag-Seed* is a remarkable contribution to the canon."—*Bustle*

"Atwood's canny remix offers multiple pleasures...[marvel] at the ways she changes, updates, and parallels the play's magic, grief, vengeance, and showmanship."—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"...Inventive, heartfelt, and swiftly rendered."—*Library Journal*, starred review

"Atwood brilliantly pulls off the caper in a short novel that should be assigned to high school students as a hilarious riff on one of Shakespeare's more mystifying plays. It's much more than a retelling; it's an ingenious analysis and critique rolled into one."—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

"Margaret Atwood's modern retelling is an entertaining romp of revenge, redemption."—*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

"A triumph [...] The book illuminates the breadth and depth of the whole play. The troupe's workshops on it fizz with perception as Atwood transmits the pleasurable buzz of exploring a literary masterpiece. There won't be a more glowing tribute to Shakespeare in his 400th anniversary year."—Peter Kemp, *Sunday Times*

"The novel shines a thrilling new light on *The Tempest*'s themes of revenge and forgiveness [...] as well as making a strong case for art's ability to "set you free" by helping you understand yourself."—Helen Brown, *Sunday Telegraph*

"Surpassingly brilliant [...] without question the cleverest "neo-Shakespearean novel" I have ever read [...] the learning and the critical analysis are worn exceptionally lightly, always subordinated to wit, invention, characterisation and slick twists of plot [...] wonderfully ingenious."—Jonathan Bate, *The Times*

“...you don't need to be a Shakespeare geek like me to enjoy *Hag-Seed*; it's a good story, and will introduce you to the play gently, with Felix himself as your guide.”—*NPR Books*

“*Hag-Seed* is a treat. It's a beautifully constructed adaptation, one that stands on its own but is even richer when read against its source — and can, in turn, enrich its source material. It's playful and thoughtful, and it singlehandedly makes a good argument for the value of adapting Shakespeare.”—*Vox*

“Atwood has tremendous fun with *Hag-Seed*. Those who know the play will especially enjoy her artful treatment of its more poignant storylines. But even someone unfamiliar with Shakespeare will be entertained by this compelling tale of enchantment and second chances, and the rough magic it so delightfully embodies.”—*Bookpage*

“Readers looking for Atwood's wit and mastery of language will find it at work here... Atwood more than does justice to the Bard.”—*Chicago Review of Books*

“One needn't be a Shakespeare fan in order to love this retelling of *The Tempest*...This book is funny and wonderful. Highly recommended for Shakespeare lovers and those seeking revenge.”—*Seattle Book Review*

About the Author

MARGARET ATWOOD, whose work has been published in thirty-five countries, is the author of more than forty books of fiction, poetry, and critical essays. In addition to *The Handmaid's Tale*, her novels include *Cat's Eye*, short-listed for the 1989 Booker Prize; *Alias Grace*, which won the Giller Prize in Canada and the Premio Mondello in Italy; *The Blind Assassin*, winner of the 2000 Booker Prize; *Oryx and Crake*, short-listed for the 2003 Man Booker Prize; *The Year of the Flood*; and her most recent, *MaddAddam*. She is the recipient of the Los Angeles Times Innovator's Award, and lives in Toronto with the writer Graeme Gibson.

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PROLOGUE:

Screening

Wednesday, March 13, 2013.

The house lights dim. The audience quiets.

ON THE BIG FLATSCREEN: *Jagged yellow lettering on black:*

THE TEMPEST

By William Shakespeare

with

The Fletcher Correctional Players

Onscreen: *A hand-printed sign, held up to the camera by Announcer, wearing a short purple velvet cloak. In his other hand, a quill.*

Sign: A SUDDEN TEMPEST

Announcer: What you're gonna see, is a storm at sea. Winds are howlin', sailors yowlin', Passengers cursin'

'em, 'cause it gettin' worse: Gonna hear screams, just like a ba-a-d dream, But not all here is what it seem, Just sayin'.

Grins.

Now we gonna start the playin'.

He gestures with the quill. Cut to: Thunder and lightning, in funnel cloud, screengrab from the Tornado Channel. Stock shot of ocean waves. Stock shot of rain. Sound of howling wind. Camera zooms in on a bathtub-toy sailboat tossing up and down on a blue plastic shower curtain with fish on it, the waves made by hands underneath. Closeup of Boatswain in a black knitted tuque. Water is thrown on him from offscreen. He is drenched.

BOATSWAIN: Fall to't yarely, or we run ourselves aground!
Bestir, bestir!
Yare! Yare! Beware! Beware!
Let's just do it,
Better get to it,
Trim the sails,
Fight the gales,
Unless you wantin' to swim with the whales!

VOICES OFF: We're all gonna drown!
BOATSWAIN: Get outta tha' way! No time for play!
A bucketful of water hits him in the face.

VOICES OFF: Listen to me! Listen to me!
Don't you know we're royalty?
BOATSWAIN: Yare! Yare! The waves don't care!
The wind is roarin', the rain is pourin',
All you do is stand and stare!
VOICES OFF: You're drunk!
BOATSWAIN: You're a idiot!
VOICES OFF: We're doomed!
VOICES OFF: We're sunk!

Closeup of Ariel in a blue bathing cap and iridescent ski goggles, blue makeup on the lower half of his face. He's wearing a translucent plastic raincoat with ladybugs, bees, and butterflies on it. Behind his left shoulder there's an odd shadow. He laughs soundlessly, points upward with his right hand, which is encased in a blue rubber glove. Lightning flash, thunderclap.

VOICES OFF: Let's pray!
BOATSWAIN: What's that you say?
VOICES OFF: We're goin' down! We're gonna drown!
Ain't gonna see the King no more!
Jump offa the ship, swim for the shore!

Ariel throws his head back and laughs with delight. In each of his blue rubber hands he's holding a high-powered flashlight, in flicker mode.
The screen goes black.

A VOICE FROM THE AUDIENCE: What?

ANOTHER VOICE: Power's off.

ANOTHER VOICE: Must be the blizzard. A line down somewhere.

Total darkness. Confused noise from outside the room. Yelling.

Shots are fired.

A VOICE FROM THE AUDIENCE: What's going on?

VOICES, FROM OUTSIDE THE ROOM: Lockdown! Lockdown!

A VOICE FROM THE AUDIENCE: Who's in charge here?

Three more shots.

A VOICE, FROM INSIDE THE ROOM: Don't move! Quiet!

Keep your heads down! Stay right where you are.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Timothy McCormack:

The guide with title Hag-Seed (Hogarth Shakespeare) includes a lot of information that you can study it. You can get a lot of gain after read this book. This book exist new understanding the information that exist in this publication represented the condition of the world now. That is important to you to know how the improvement of the world. That book will bring you in new era of the the positive effect. You can read the e-book on your smart phone, so you can read this anywhere you want.

Gregory Morrow:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book mainly book entitled Hag-Seed (Hogarth Shakespeare) your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a reserve then become one application form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get previous to. The Hag-Seed (Hogarth Shakespeare) giving you a different experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful information for your better life in this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

Linda Henderson:

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give you a lot of close friends because by you investigating this one book you have issue that they don't and make you actually more like an interesting person. This book can be one of one step for you to get success. This book offer you information that maybe your friend doesn't recognize, by knowing more than other make you to be great men and women. So , why hesitate? Let's have Hag-Seed (Hogarth Shakespeare).

Kenneth Hoy:

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