**Margaret Atwood (Canada, 1939)**

**Info**

Margaret Atwood is an award-winning Canadian poet, novelist, literary critic, essayist, inventor, and environmental activist. Atwood was born in Ottawa to a nutritionist mother and entomologist father who fostered a love of nature. She grew up in Quebec and completed her studies at Victoria College at the University of Toronto, graduating in 1961. Over the course of her career, Atwood went on to teach at a variety of colleges and universities in both Canada and the United States.

Atwood’s novels describe strong female characters and her work has been frequently qualified as feminist. A recurrent theme in Atwood’s work is dystopias and speculative fiction, what she defines as what “could really happen”, contractility to science function which “has monsters and spaceships”. Some of Atwood’s novels have been adapted for television, including <i>The Handmaid’s Tale</i> and <i>Alias Grace</i>.

**Quote**

“We were the people who were not in the papers. We lived in the blank white spaces at the edges of print. It gave us more freedom. We lived in the gaps between the stories.”

― Margaret Atwood, The Handmaid's Tale

**Books**

The Handmaid’s Tale  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/38447.The_Handmaid_s_Tale>  
Offred is a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead. She may leave the home of the Commander and his wife once a day to walk to food markets whose signs are now pictures instead of words because women are no longer allowed to read. She must lie on her back once a month and pray that the Commander makes her pregnant, because in an age of declining births…

Alias Grace:

Oryx and Crake:

The Blind Assassin:

**Rosa Montero (Spain, 1951)**

**Info**

Rosa Montero is a Spanish journalist and contemporary fiction author. Montero was born in Madrid in 1951. daughter of a bullfighter and a housewife, Montero suffered from tuberculosis as a child, what forced her to remain at home between the ages of five and nine; she began reading and writing extensively during that period.

In 1976, Montero graduated from Madrid's School of Philosophy and Arts and she began working as a journalist at <i>El País</i>, a national newspaper, where she has been working for the last four decades. years later she published her first novel <i>Crónica del Desamor</i> (<i>Chronicle of Enmity</i>), in 1979. Montero has won numerous awards as a novelist and as a journalist, she is a very influential Spanish author. many of her books remain to be translated into English.

**Quote**

“We always feel our reality isn’t enough. So we consume drugs and give ourselves artificial memories; we want to escape from the confinement of our lives. But I assure you that the only way to resolve the conflict is to learn to accept it and find your own place in the world.”

― Rosa Montero, Tears in Rain

**Books**

The Cannibal’s Daughter  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/370353.La_hija_del_can_bal>  
Lucía and Ramón have been together for more than ten years, more for commodity than for love. They decide to spend the New Year in Vienna but just before their flight departures, Ramón disappears. After contacting the police, Lucía starts her own search for Ramón with the help of two singular men: Andrés, a mysterious young, and Fortuna, an old anarchist. What starts as a search for her husband soon becomes…

The absurd idea of not seeing you again  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/17567272-la-rid-cula-idea-de-no-volver-a-verte>  
“This book is about life… passionate and joyful, sentimental and quizzing”. After the death of her husband, Rosa Montero wrote this book, a personal memoir but also a tribute to the collective memory of the last decades in Spain. With an intimate narrative, the book talks about men and women, sex and death, the redeeming power of literature and the wisdom behind the simple pleasures of life. Presented with photos…

«Them, the writers»

Beautiful and Dark  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/7256208-beautiful-and-dark>  
Baba is an orphaned girl taken to live with her relatives in a slum called El Barrio. There she meets her grandmother Bárbara, the matriarch of the family, her aunt Amanda, submitted to her violent husband, and Chico, her teenager cousin. Trying to cope with the mystery and violence of the adult world around her, Baba is drawn to the Lilliputian Airelei, who fascinates her with fantastic tales that mix myth and memory…

The Delta Function  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1842422.The_Delta_Function>  
Is 2010. Lucia Ramos, a one-time film director, is dying of cancer. She keeps two diaries, one chronicling the last months of her life, the other Easter Week 1980, when her first and only film opened. In that crucial week of her life, she was abandoned by one of her two lovers and, deciding to give up her difficult, independent lifestyle, moved in with the other. The tone in both diaries is disappointingly similar; melancholy, reflective…

**Siri Hustvedt (United States, 1955)**

**Info**

Siri Hustvedt is an American novelist and essayist, born in Minnesota in 1955 to a Norwegian mother and an American father. As a child, Hustvedt spent some time living in Bergen (Norway) and Reykjavik (Iceland): it was then when she decided she wanted to become a writer.

Hustvedt graduated with a History BA from St. Olaf College and she moved to New York in 1978 to complete her PhD. There she met the novelist Paul Auster, to whom she married years later. Hustvedt's works repeatedly pose questions about the nature of identity, selfhood and perception, and in many of her books she presents the readers with traces of her own biography. Besides her fiction books, Hustvedt has published several essays on visual art, she also writes on diverse interdisciplinary subjects that investigate the intersections among philosophy, psychoanalysis, and neuroscience.

**Quote**

“When I spoke to her, I had the feeling that her thoughts had been nourished in wide-open spaces where talk was sparse and silence ruled.”

― Siri Hustvedt, What I Loved

“Reading is a private pursuit; one that takes place behind closed doors.”

― Siri Hustvedt, The Summer Without Men

**Books**

The Blazing World  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18143974-the-blazing-world>  
After years of being ignored by the art world, the artist Harriet Burden conducts an experiment: she conceals her female identity behind three male fronts. Presented as a collection of texts, edited and introduced by a scholar, years after the artist's death, the book unfolds through extracts from Burden's notebooks and conflicting accounts from others about her life and work…

The Summer Without Men  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/10223697-the-summer-without-men>  
The poet Mia Fredrickson has been forced to re-examine her own life. One day, out of the blue, after thirty years of marriage, Mia’s husband, a renowned neuroscientist, asks her for a “pause.” This abrupt request sends her reeling and lands her in a psychiatric ward. The June following Mia’s release from the hospital…

The Sorrows of an American  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2244799.The_Sorrows_of_an_American>  
When Erik Davidsen and his sister, Inga, find a disturbing note from an unknown woman among their dead father’s papers, they believe he may be implicated in a mysterious death. Returning to New York from Minnesota, the grieving siblings continue to pursue the mystery behind the note. While Erik’s fascination with his new tenants and emotional vulnerability…

What I loved  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/125502.What_I_Loved>  
Leo is a middle-aged art critic who buys a painting that intrigues and disturbs him, and he soon becomes close to the experimental artist, Bill Wechsler. Bill is married to a poet, the emotionally fragile Lucille; Leo to an academic, the rather more down-to-earth Erica. Soon the four are great friends, living above each other in the same apartment block, talking about art and ideas, even…

**Isabel Allende (Chile, 1942)**

**Info**

Isabel Allende is a Chilean writer and journalist. Allende was born in Lima (Peru), goddaughter of Salvador Allende, the first socialist president of Chile. She spent her childhood living in Chile with her grandfather, and then she lived in several different countries after her mother remarried to a diplomat. Allende's life drastically changed after the military coup in 1973 by Pinochet; she and her family were at risk and fled the country. Allende lived in exile in Venezuela for 13 years and then she moved to California, where she has lived since 1987.

Her first bestseller, <i>The house of Spirits</i> (1982), started as a long letter to her dying grandfather. Allende's books are known for their vivid storytelling and she is one of the most well-known practitioners of magical realism. Her novels are often based upon her personal experience and historical events, and pay homage to the lives of women.

**Quote**

“This is to assuage our conscience, darling" she would explain to Blanca. "But it doesn't help the poor. They don't need charity; they need justice.”

― Isabel Allende, The House of the Spirits

**Books**

The House of the Spirits  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/9328.The_House_of_the_Spirits>  
On the day that the priest accused her of being possessed by the devil and that her uncle Marcos's body was delivered to her house accompanied by a puppy, Barrabás, Clara del Valle began keeping a journal. Fifty years later, her husband Esteban and her granddaughter Alba refer to these journals as they piece together the story of their family…

Eva Luna  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/149196.Eva_Luna>  
Eva Luna has a gift for storytelling. Born to a servant woman who understood the beauty of a good story, Eva learned at an early age how to use her words to construct a narrative. When her mother dies, Eva falls under the care of her insane godmother. Eva gets passed around from employer to employer. After a political uprising, Eva is rescued by…

Paula  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/24790.Paula>  
Isabel Allende wrote Paula -a memoir- while tending to her daughter, Paula Frías Allende, who was in a coma arising from complications of porphyria. Allende started the book as a letter to Paula, explaining what she was missing so she would not be confused when she recovered. The novel includes accounts both of Paula's treatment and of Allende's life, sometimes overlapping with the content of Allende's first novel…

Inés of my Soul  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/3300.In_s_of_My_Soul>  
Born into a poor family in Spain, Inés, a seamstress, finds herself condemned to a life of hard work without reward or hope for the future. It is the sixteenth century, the beginning of the Spanish conquest of the Americas, and when her shiftless husband disappears to the New World, Inés uses the opportunity to search for him as an excuse to flee her stifling homeland and seek adventure…

**Sylvia Plath (America, 1932-1963)**

**Info (150)**

Sylvia Plath is an American power, novelist, and short story writer best known for her confessional poetry. Her two most famous published works are <i>Ariel</i>, a collection of poems, and <i>The Bell Jar</i> which is a semi-autobiographical novel which was published posthumously. Throughout her life Plath suffered from severe depression, which she first experienced during college. She was subjected to electroconvulsive therapy for this, after which she attempted suicide. She later married the poet Ted Hughes. Her writing deals with the feelings of depression she suffered throughout her entire life and often invokes deeply personal details, such as that of her miscarriage and how her husband treated her. She finally took her own life in January 1963.

Her most famous works were written in periods of creativity where she would write endlessly; two of these works are <i>The Bell Jar</i> and <i>Ariel</i>.

(140 words: content, style, upbringing, )

**Quote**

“I can never read all the books I want; I can never be all the people I want and live all the lives I want. I can never train myself in all the skills I want. And why do I want? I want to live and feel all the shades, tones and variations of mental and physical experience possible in my life. And I am horribly limited.” way to resolve the conflict is to learn to accept it and find your own place in the world.”

― Sylvia Plath, The Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath

**Books (70)**

Ariel  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/395090.Ariel>

When Sylvia Plath died, she not only left behind a prolific life but also her unpublished literary masterpiece, Ariel. Her husband, Ted Hughes, brought the collection to life in 1966, and its publication garnered worldwide acclaim. This collection showcases the beloved poet’s brilliant, provoking, and always moving poems, including <i>Ariel</i> and once again shows why readers have fallen in love with her work throughout the generations.

The Bell Jar

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6514.The_Bell_Jar>

Esther Greenwood is brilliant, beautiful, enormously talented, and successful, but slowly going under—maybe for the last time. In her acclaimed and enduring masterwork, Sylvia Plath brilliantly draws the reader into Esther's breakdown with such intensity that her insanity becomes palpably real, even rational—as accessible an experience as going to the movies. A deep penetration into the darkest and most harrowing corners of the human psyche, The Bell Jar is an extraordinary accomplishment and a haunting American classic.

The Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/11623.The_Unabridged_Journals_of_Sylvia_Plath>

Sylvia Plath's journals were originally published in 1982 in a heavily abridged version authorized by Plath's husband, Ted Hughes. This new edition is an exact and complete transcription of the diaries Plath kept during the last twelve years of her life. Sixty percent of the book is material that has never before been made public, more fully revealing the intensity of the poet's personal and literary struggles, and providing fresh insight into both her frequent desperation and the bravery with which she faced down her demons. The complete Journals of Sylvia Plath is essential reading for all who have been moved and fascinated by Plath's life and work.

**About us and contact form**

Got any comments? Would like to share your favourite author or book with me? Please I'd love to hear about it? Do not hesitate and send me your comments here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeAHVnFiutQ4Rx3102TF-1lfrN--BB8Ird7RIGo45UOGk1JEA/viewform?usp=sf_link>