

# oryx and crake summary

**oryx and crake summary** provides a comprehensive overview of Margaret Atwood's dystopian novel "Oryx and Crake," highlighting its major themes, plot points, and characters. This article explores the complex narrative that intertwines genetic engineering, environmental collapse, and the consequences of unchecked scientific ambition. Through a detailed examination of the story's protagonist, Jimmy, also known as Snowman, and the enigmatic figures of Oryx and Crake, readers gain insight into the dark world Atwood envisions. The summary addresses the novel's structure, which alternates between past and present, unraveling the events that led to a post-apocalyptic future. Additionally, this article delves into the novel's critical commentary on ethics, humanity, and survival. By understanding the layered storytelling and symbolism, readers can appreciate the depth of "Oryx and Crake" within the context of speculative fiction and environmental literature. The following sections will break down the plot, characters, themes, and overall impact of the novel.

- Plot Summary
- Main Characters
- Themes and Motifs
- Narrative Structure and Style
- Critical Reception and Impact

## Plot Summary

The plot of "Oryx and Crake" is set in a near-future dystopia where genetic engineering has run amok, leading to catastrophic consequences for humanity and the environment. The story is narrated by Snowman, formerly known as Jimmy, who appears to be the last human survivor after a global plague destroys civilization. Through Snowman's memories, the novel recounts his childhood friendship with Crake, a brilliant yet morally ambiguous scientist, and his complicated relationship with Oryx, a mysterious woman whose past and presence deeply affect both men. The narrative alternates between Snowman's present struggle for survival and flashbacks that reveal how Crake's scientific experiments and ambitions ultimately unleashed a bioengineered plague that wiped out most of humanity. The novel explores how technological advancements and unethical scientific practices converge to create a world on the brink of extinction.

## Beginning and Setting

The novel opens with Snowman waking up in a desolate wasteland, surrounded by genetically engineered creatures called the Crakers, designed by Crake to be a peaceful, post-human species. The setting reflects a stark contrast between the ruined world and the advanced scientific compounds where the story's major events unfolded. Snowman's survival depends on navigating this harsh environment, while flashbacks reveal the origins of the collapse.

## Key Events

Significant events include Snowman's upbringing in a society deeply influenced by corporate dominance and genetic manipulation, his friendship with Crake at a boarding school, and the introduction of Oryx, whose enigmatic past shapes the emotional core of the narrative. Crake's creation of the Crakers and the release of a deadly virus mark the climax, leading to the near-extinction of humanity. Snowman's role as caretaker for the Crakers and his reflections on past mistakes serve as a critical examination of human nature and technology's impact.

## Main Characters

The characters in "Oryx and Crake" are central to understanding the novel's themes and narrative complexity. Each character embodies different aspects of humanity, morality, and the consequences of scientific innovation.

### Snowman (Jimmy)

Snowman, originally named Jimmy, is the protagonist and narrator. His perspective provides a personal and often fragmented account of the events before and after the apocalypse. Snowman struggles with his memories, guilt, and the responsibility of protecting the Crakers, who represent Crake's vision for a new, genetically engineered humanity. His character reflects themes of survival, memory, and loss.

### Crake

Crake is a genius geneticist whose radical ideas and experiments drive much of the plot. His vision of creating a perfect human species without violence or destructive tendencies leads him to engineer the Crakers and unleash a virus that eradicates the old human population. Crake's character embodies the dangers of unchecked scientific ambition, ethical ambiguity, and the quest for control over nature.

### Oryx

Oryx is a mysterious woman whose past includes exploitation and survival in a harsh world. She becomes a central figure connecting Snowman and Crake, symbolizing innocence, exploitation, and the complexity of human relationships. Oryx's story highlights themes of power, vulnerability, and the human cost of societal collapse.

## Supporting Characters

- Tallis, Jimmy's sister, who represents familial relationships within the novel's dystopian context.
- Sharon, Jimmy's mother, whose career in genetic research ties into the novel's scientific themes.

- Crake's colleagues and corporate figures, who illustrate the corporate and scientific culture influencing the story's events.

## **Themes and Motifs**

Margaret Atwood's "Oryx and Crake" is rich with themes that explore the intersection of science, ethics, and humanity. The novel serves as a cautionary tale about the consequences of genetic engineering and environmental neglect.

### **Genetic Engineering and Bioethics**

The novel critically examines the ethical dilemmas surrounding genetic manipulation, highlighting the potential for misuse and unintended consequences. Crake's experiments demonstrate both the power and peril of biotechnology, raising questions about scientific responsibility and the limits of human intervention in nature.

### **Environmental Destruction and Collapse**

"Oryx and Crake" portrays a world devastated by environmental degradation, corporate exploitation, and climate change. The setting emphasizes the fragile balance between humanity and the natural world, underscoring the catastrophic impact of ignoring environmental stewardship.

### **Human Nature and Morality**

The characters' actions and decisions explore themes of morality, love, and survival. The novel questions what it means to be human in a world transformed by science and technology, and whether humanity's flaws can be overcome or are inherent.

### **Power and Control**

The motif of power is central, as Crake's pursuit of control over genetic destiny reflects broader themes of domination and the consequences of playing god. The corporate and scientific powers depicted in the novel illustrate the complex interplay of greed, ambition, and ethical compromise.

## **Narrative Structure and Style**

The narrative structure of "Oryx and Crake" is nonlinear, shifting between Snowman's present experiences and past memories. This approach allows Atwood to gradually reveal critical information, building suspense and deepening the reader's understanding of the characters and their motivations.

## Flashbacks and Present Timeline

The alternating timelines create a layered storytelling technique that juxtaposes the dystopian aftermath with the events leading up to it. This contrast enhances the thematic exploration of memory, loss, and causality.

## Language and Tone

Atwood employs clear, precise language with a tone that balances clinical detachment and emotional depth. The descriptive passages vividly depict the ruined world and the bioengineered creatures, while the dialogue and internal monologues offer insight into Snowman's psychological state.

## Symbolism

Symbolism is prevalent throughout the novel, with the Crakers representing a new beginning or a critique of human nature, and Oryx symbolizing innocence and exploitation. The title itself—"Oryx and Crake"—reflects the central relationship and thematic tension between humanity, science, and nature.

## Critical Reception and Impact

"Oryx and Crake" has been widely acclaimed for its imaginative vision and incisive critique of contemporary scientific and environmental issues. The novel has been recognized as a significant work within speculative fiction and dystopian literature.

## Literary Acclaim

Critics have praised Atwood's ability to blend scientific plausibility with compelling storytelling. The novel's themes resonate with ongoing debates about genetic engineering, climate change, and ethics, making it relevant and thought-provoking.

## Influence on Popular Culture

"Oryx and Crake" has influenced discussions about the future of biotechnology and environmental policy. It has inspired adaptations and scholarly analysis, contributing to the broader cultural understanding of dystopian futures shaped by human actions.

## Legacy and Series

The novel is the first book in the MaddAddam trilogy, followed by "The Year of the Flood" and "MaddAddam," which expand on the world and themes introduced in "Oryx and Crake." Together, the series offers a comprehensive exploration of humanity's potential futures and the ethical challenges posed by scientific advancement.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the main plot of Oryx and Crake?

Oryx and Crake follows the story of Snowman, the last known human survivor in a post-apocalyptic world, as he reflects on his past and the events leading up to the collapse caused by his friend Crake's genetic experiments.

## Who are the main characters in Oryx and Crake?

The main characters are Snowman (formerly Jimmy), Crake (Jimmy's brilliant but morally ambiguous friend), and Oryx, a mysterious woman who plays a significant role in both their lives.

## What role does genetic engineering play in the story?

Genetic engineering is central to the plot, as Crake creates new life forms and genetically modifies humans, ultimately leading to catastrophic consequences for humanity.

## How does the relationship between Snowman, Crake, and Oryx influence the story?

Their complex relationships drive the narrative, with Snowman's memories revealing how Crake's scientific ambitions and Oryx's enigmatic presence impact the creation of the new world and Snowman's survival.

## What themes are explored in Oryx and Crake?

The novel explores themes such as bioethics, the dangers of unchecked scientific advancement, environmental destruction, corporate control, and the nature of humanity.

## Why is the novel titled Oryx and Crake?

The title refers to the two pivotal characters, Oryx and Crake, whose actions and ideologies shape the fate of the world and Snowman's own journey.

## How does Oryx and Crake end?

The novel ends ambiguously, with Snowman surviving in a changed world among Crake's genetically engineered creatures, reflecting on the past and uncertain about the future of humanity.

## What is the significance of Snowman's memories in the story?

Snowman's memories provide crucial insight into the pre-apocalyptic world, the development of Crake's experiments, and the emotional and ethical dilemmas faced by the characters, enriching the narrative's depth.

## Additional Resources

### 1. *Oryx and Crake by Margaret Atwood: A Summary and Analysis*

This book provides a comprehensive summary and critical analysis of Margaret Atwood's novel "Oryx and Crake." It explores the dystopian themes, character development, and the ethical questions raised by genetic engineering. Ideal for students and readers wanting a deeper understanding of the novel's complex narrative.

### 2. *Exploring Dystopia: The World of Oryx and Crake*

This title delves into the dystopian setting of "Oryx and Crake," examining the societal collapse and environmental degradation portrayed in the novel. It discusses the implications of unchecked scientific experimentation and the consequences of corporate control. The book also compares Atwood's vision with other dystopian literature.

### 3. *Genetic Engineering and Ethics in Oryx and Crake*

Focusing on the scientific aspects, this book analyzes the genetic manipulation themes in "Oryx and Crake." It discusses the moral dilemmas faced by the characters and the broader implications for humanity. The text serves as a bridge between literature and bioethics, making complex topics accessible.

### 4. *Margaret Atwood's Speculative Fiction: From Oryx and Crake to MaddAddam*

This book surveys Atwood's speculative fiction works, with a focus on the trilogy beginning with "Oryx and Crake." It discusses recurring motifs such as environmental disaster, technology, and human nature. Readers gain insight into Atwood's evolving narrative style and thematic concerns.

### 5. *The Role of Memory and Identity in Oryx and Crake*

This analysis centers on the protagonist's struggle with memory and identity in a post-apocalyptic world. It explores how past experiences shape the narrative and influence the character's decisions. The book offers a psychological perspective on Atwood's storytelling techniques.

### 6. *Environmental Collapse and Human Survival in Oryx and Crake*

Examining ecological themes, this book discusses the depiction of environmental degradation and its effects on humanity in the novel. It highlights Atwood's warnings about sustainability and the fragile balance between nature and technology. The discussion is relevant to contemporary environmental issues.

### 7. *Feminism and Gender Dynamics in Oryx and Crake*

This title analyzes the portrayal of gender roles and feminist themes in "Oryx and Crake." It critiques the representation of female characters and examines power structures within the narrative. The book provides a nuanced look at gender politics in speculative fiction.

### 8. *Post-Apocalyptic Literature: Oryx and Crake and Beyond*

This work places "Oryx and Crake" within the broader genre of post-apocalyptic literature. It compares Atwood's novel with other significant works, highlighting common themes and unique approaches. The book is useful for readers interested in genre studies and literary trends.

### 9. *Survival and Human Nature in Margaret Atwood's Oryx and Crake*

Focusing on survival instincts and human behavior, this book explores how characters navigate a devastated world. It discusses the interplay between science, morality, and the will to live. The analysis sheds light on Atwood's commentary about humanity's resilience and flaws.

## **Oryx And Crake Summary**

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**oryx and crake summary: Oryx and Crake SparkNotes Literature Guide** SparkNotes, 2022-01-25 Created by Harvard students for students everywhere, SparkNotes give you just what you need to succeed in school: Complete Plot Summary and Analysis Key Facts About the Work Analysis of Major Characters Themes, Motifs, and Symbols Explanation of Important Quotations Author's Historical Context Suggested Essay Topics 25-Question Review Quiz Oryx and Crake features explanations of key themes, motifs, and symbols including: the danger of scientific advancement; voices; memory; the dominance of corporate power; blood and roses; Alex the parrot. It also includes detailed analysis of these important characters: Snowman; Oryx; Crake.

**oryx and crake summary: A study guide for Margaret Atwood's "Oryx and Crake"** Gale, Cengage Learning, 2015-09-15 A study guide for Margaret Atwood's Oryx and Crake, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Novels for Students series. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Novels for Students for all of your research needs.

**oryx and crake summary: Summary and Analysis of The Handmaid's Tale** Worth Books, 2017-02-07 So much to read, so little time? This brief overview of The Handmaid's Tale tells you what you need to know—before or after you read Margaret Atwood's book. Crafted and edited with care, Worth Books set the standard for quality and give you the tools you need to be a well-informed reader. This short summary and analysis of The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood includes: Historical context Part-by-part summaries Analysis of the main characters Themes and symbols Important quotes Fascinating trivia Glossary of terms Supporting material to enhance your understanding of the original work About Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale: Margaret Atwood's dystopian literary masterpiece tells the story of Offred, a Handmaid living in the near future in what was once the United States. A new theocratic regime called the Republic of Gilead has come to power and changed life as she knew it. Once Offred had a her own name and a loving family—a husband and daughter—both of which were taken from her; now she belongs to the Commander and his hostile wife, and her only value lies in her ability to bear a child for them. She used to read books and learn; now such things are forbidden to all women. Gripping, disturbing, and so relevant today, The Handmaid's Tale is a brilliant novel and a chilling warning about what can happen when extreme ideas are taken to their logical conclusions. The summary and analysis in this ebook are intended to complement your reading experience and bring you closer to a great work of fiction.

**oryx and crake summary: Summary of Margaret Atwood's Burning Questions** Everest Media,, 2022-04-06T22:59:00Z Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book. Sample Book Insights: #1 I will be giving the Kesterton Lecture at Carleton's School of Journalism and Communication. The title of my small talk is Scientific Romancing. Its cover story is that it's about science fiction. Its subtext is probably What is fiction for. or something like that. #2 The intersection between science and fiction is a point of interest for me. I want to understand why people write and read these types of stories, and what they're good for. #3 The novel has always claimed to offer a certain kind of truth about human nature, and how people really behave under observable social conditions. The genres want to entertain us rather than just rub our noses in the daily grind. #4 The distinction between fiction and journalism is important when discussing the

future. While no one can predict the future, you can dip into the present and explore the seeds of what might become the future.

**oryx and crake summary:** Genetic Conversion and Posthumanism in Margaret Atwood's Oryx and Crake Dr. Rima B Soni, 2024-09-02 Genetic Conversion and Posthumanism in Margaret Atwood's Oryx and Crake focuses on a future scenario in which inherited transformation nearly wipes out the human population. Crake, the main character, is a scientist; specialising in genetic changes. He is credited with creating a group of genetically modified creatures known as "the Children of Crake." These entities embody a state of existence beyond human, challenging conventional concepts of what it means to be the human. The characters' inherited formation and the variations they endure influence their identity. The selected book emphasizes the concept of authenticity and its implications in a society where inherent alterations are prevalent, prompting reflection on the essence of being human. When people treat the innately altered creatures known as 'Crakers' differently due to their unique characteristics, this phenomenon is known as othering.

**oryx and crake summary:** *Ad \$ Summary* , 2004 Advertising expenditure data across multiple forms of media, including: consumer magazines, Sunday magazines, newspapers, outdoor, network television, spot television, syndicated television, cable television, network radio, and national spot radio. Lists brands alphabetically and shows total expenditures, media used, parent company and PIB classification for each brand. Also included in this report are industry class totals and rankings of the top 100 companies in each of the media

**oryx and crake summary:** *The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood (Book Analysis)* Bright Summaries, 2018-10-24 Unlock the more straightforward side of The Handmaid's Tale with this concise and insightful summary and analysis! This engaging summary presents an analysis of The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood, which follows a young woman named Offred (the Handmaid of the title), who lives in the repressive Republic of Gilead and whose sole role is to conceive children for the powerful Commander she has been assigned to. Thanks to her friend Ofglen, she is introduced to the underground resistance movement, but soon discovers that escaping her position will not be easy. The Handmaid's Tale was nominated for the 1986 Man Booker Prize (Atwood has been nominated for the award on numerous occasions, and won it for her 2000 novel The Blind Assassin), and has recently been adapted into a critically acclaimed television series. Find out everything you need to know about The Handmaid's Tale in a fraction of the time! This in-depth and informative reading guide brings you: • A complete plot summary • Character studies • Key themes and symbols • Questions for further reflection Why choose BrightSummaries.com? Available in print and digital format, our publications are designed to accompany you on your reading journey. The clear and concise style makes for easy understanding, providing the perfect opportunity to improve your literary knowledge in no time. See the very best of literature in a whole new light with BrightSummaries.com!

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**oryx and crake summary:** *The Guide to the Top 100 Science Fiction & Fantasy Books* Navneet Singh, □ Table of Contents 1. Introduction Why Science Fiction & Fantasy Matter How This List Was Curated Who This Book Is For 2. The Top 100 Science Fiction & Fantasy Books Classic Science Fiction (20 books) Modern Science Fiction (20 books) Classic Fantasy (20 books) Modern Fantasy (20 books) Dystopian & Speculative Fiction (20 books) 3. Honorable Mentions & Emerging Books Books That Almost Made the List Recent Bestsellers in Sci-Fi & Fantasy 4. Conclusion & Recommendations The Importance of Sci-Fi & Fantasy in Literature Suggested Reading Paths Based on Interests (e.g., Best Books for Cyberpunk Fans, Must-Reads for Fantasy Lovers) Encouragement to Keep Exploring New Worlds

**oryx and crake summary:** *Climate Change in Popular Culture* James Craig Holte, 2022-06-17 An invaluable resource for general readers investigating climate change, this book examines the impact of climate change on popular culture and analyzes how writers and directors treat the disasters caused by climate change in their novels and films. *Climate Change in Popular Culture: A Warming World in the American Imagination* is the first study that includes analyses of both fiction and popular nonfiction works devoted to climate change. In addition, the book examines a number of classic works from the perspective of the growing field of climate change literature and includes a brief history of climate change science as well basic scientific definitions, all intended for general readers. The text provides an introduction to the science, politics, and economics of climate change. It also includes both historical overviews and potential probable futures projected by leading climate scientists and environmental writers. In addition, the text looks at how such creative writers and directors as Margaret Atwood, John Steinbeck, Paulo Bacigalupi, Kim Stanley Robinson, T. C. Boyle, Michael Crichton, and Octavia Butler, among others, have used the disasters caused by climate change in their work.

**oryx and crake summary:** *A Corpus Stylistics Approach to Contemporary Present-tense Narrative* Reiko Ikeo, Eri Shigematsu, Masayuki Nakao, 2024-09-15 Focusing on the growing trend of employing the present tense in storytelling, this book explores present-tense narrative in contemporary fiction. Using a corpus approach, speech, writing, and thought presentation in 21st-century present-tense narrative is compared with 20th-century past-tense narrative. An in-depth comparative analysis reveals previously undiscovered innovative features specific to how character discourse is presented in modern narratives. Notably, narrative tenses have an impact on thought presentation; in present-tense narrative, Free Direct Thought (FDT) emerges as frequently

as Free Indirect Thought (FIT), a departure from the dominance of FIT in modern past-tense narrative. This book will be of interest to stylisticians, narratologists, corpus linguists, and those who have found themselves absorbed in a 21st-century work of present-tense fiction.

**oryx and crake summary: Contemporary Trauma Narratives** Jean-Michel Ganteau, Susana Onega, 2014-06-27 This book provides a comprehensive compilation of essays on the relationship between formal experimentation and ethics in a number of generically hybrid or liminal narratives dealing with individual and collective traumas, running the spectrum from the testimonial novel and the fictional autobiography to the fake memoir, written by a variety of famous, more neglected contemporary British, Irish, US, Canadian, and German writers. Building on the psychological insights and theorizing of the fathers of trauma studies (Janet, Freud, Ferenczi) and of contemporary trauma critics and theorists, the articles examine the narrative strategies, structural experimentations and hybridizations of forms, paying special attention to the way in which the texts fight the unrepresentability of trauma by performing rather than representing it. The ethicality or unethicity involved in this endeavor is assessed from the combined perspectives of the non-foundational, non-cognitive, discursive ethics of alterity inspired by Emmanuel Levinas, and the ethics of vulnerability. This approach makes *Contemporary Trauma Narratives* an excellent resource for scholars of contemporary literature, trauma studies and literary theory.

**oryx and crake summary: Teaching Big History** Richard B. Simon, Mojgan Behmand, Thomas Burke, 2015 *Big History* is a new field on a grand scale: it tells the story of the universe over time through a diverse range of disciplines that spans cosmology, physics, chemistry, astronomy, geology, evolutionary biology, anthropology, and archaeology, thereby reconciling traditional human history with environmental geography and natural history. Weaving the myriad threads of evidence-based human knowledge into a master narrative that stretches from the beginning of the universe to the present, the *Big History* framework helps students make sense of their studies in all disciplines by illuminating the structures that underlie the universe and the connections among them. *Teaching Big History* is a powerful analytic and pedagogical resource, and serves as a comprehensive guide for teaching *Big History*, as well for sharing ideas about the subject and planning a curriculum around it. Readers are also given helpful advice about the administrative and organizational challenges of instituting a general education program constructed around *Big History*. The book includes teaching materials, examples, and detailed sample exercises. This book is also an engaging first-hand account of how a group of professors built an entire *Big History* general education curriculum for first-year students, demonstrating how this thoughtful integration of disciplines exemplifies liberal education at its best and illustrating how teaching and learning this incredible story can be transformative for professors and students alike.

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promising the pliability of the body's vitality, the pregnant woman and the sacred child have become the paradigmatic figures for twenty-first century biopolitics.

**oryx and crake summary:** *Exploring dystopia* Lea Aures, 2022-02-02 The United Nations report 2019 warns of mass extinction. One million species might vanish from our earth within the next years. Thoughtless human action is largely to blame for this development. Margaret Atwood's novel *Oryx and Crake*, published in 2003, predicted the situation we currently find ourselves in. This paper is an analysis of characteristic themes in *Oryx and Crake* with regard to the warnings they convey to us as well as to future generations.

**oryx and crake summary:** Margaret Atwood Shannon Hengen, Ashley Thomson, 2007-05-22 Authors Shannon Hengen and Ashley Thomson have assembled a reference guide that covers all of the works written by the acclaimed Canadian author Margaret Atwood since 1988, including her novels *Cat's Eye*, *The Robber Bride*, *Alias Grace*, and the 2000 Booker Prize winner, *The Blind Assassin*. Rather than just including Atwood's books, this guide includes all of Atwood's works, including articles, short stories, letters, and individual poetry. Adaptations of Atwood's works are also included, as are some of her more public quotations. Secondary entries (i.e. interviews, scholarly resources, and reviews) are first sorted by type, and then arranged alphabetically by author, to allow greater ease of navigation. The individual chapters are organized chronologically, with each subdivided into seven categories: Atwood's Works, Adaptations, Quotations, Interviews, Scholarly Resources, Reviews of Atwood's Works, and Reviews of Adaptations of Atwood's Works. The book also includes a chapter entitled *Atwood on the Web*, as well as extensive author and subject indexes. This new bibliography significantly enhances access to Atwood material, a feature that will be welcomed by university, public, and school librarians. *Margaret Atwood: A Reference Guide 1988-2005* will appeal not only to Atwood scholars, but to students and fans of one of Canada's greatest writers.

**oryx and crake summary: Memory and Utopian Agency in Utopian/Dystopian Literature** Carter F. Hanson, 2020-06-09 For a genre that imagines possible futures as a means of critiquing the present, utopian/dystopian fiction has been surprisingly obsessed with how the past is remembered. *Memory and Utopian Agency in Utopian/Dystopian Literature: Memory of the Future* examines modern and contemporary utopian/dystopian literature's preoccupation with memory, asserting that from the nineteenth century onward, memory and forgetting feature as key problematics in the genre as well as sources of the utopian impulse. Through a series of close readings of utopian/dystopian novels informed by theory and dialectics, Hanson provides a case study history of how and why memory emerged as a problem for utopia, and how recent dystopian texts situate memory as a crucial mode of utopian agency. Hanson demonstrates that many modern and contemporary writers of the genre consider the presence of certain forms of memory as necessary to the project of imagining better societies or to avoiding possible dystopian outcomes.

**oryx and crake summary: Study Guide** SuperSummary, 2019-03-05 SuperSummary, a modern alternative to SparkNotes and CliffsNotes, offers high-quality study guides for challenging works of literature. This 68-page guide for *Oryx and Crake* by Margaret Atwood includes detailed chapter summaries and analysis covering 15 chapters, as well as several more in-depth sections of expert-written literary analysis. Featured content includes commentary on major characters, 25 important quotes, essay topics, and key themes like Ethics and Family and Friendship.

**oryx and crake summary: The Cambridge Companion to Margaret Atwood** Coral Ann Howells, 2021-04-01 The field of Margaret Atwood studies, like her own work, is in constant evolution. This second edition of *The Cambridge Companion to Margaret Atwood* provides substantial reconceptualization of Atwood's writing in multiple genres that has spanned six decades, with particular focus on developments since 2000. Exploring Atwood in our contemporary context, this edition discusses the relationship between her Canadian identity and her role as an international literary celebrity and spokesperson on global issues, ranging from environmentalism to women's rights to digital technology. As well as providing novel insights into Atwood's recent dystopias and classic texts, this edition highlights a significant dimension in the reception of

Atwood's work, with new material on the striking Hulu and MGM television adaptation of *The Handmaid's Tale*. This up-to-date volume illuminates new directions in Atwood's career, and introduces students, scholars and general readers alike to the ever-expanding dimensions of her literary art.

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