## Contents

Acknowledgements	IX
Introduction	1
I. Margaret Atwood and the Colonial Condition	1
II. Reading Margaret Atwood	5
1. The Trap of Literary Consumerism	5
2. A Method for Reading Atwood's Novels	8
Chapter 1 The Edible Woman: The Prototext	17
<ol> <li>Contradictory Responses to the Dominant Social and Moral Code</li> </ol>	17
2. Bodily Refusal of the Dominant Order	33
Chapter 2 Surfacing: Retracing the Paths of (Self-)Mutilation	37
1. Denial and Assertion of a Rationalist Mind-style	37
2. Denial and Assertion of the "True Romance" Code	49
3. Eruptions of the "Irrational"	55
4. Journey into the Repressed Past	60
Chapter 3 Lady Oracle: The Text as Funhouse	69
Denial and Assertion of the Gnomic and True Romance Code	70
2. Narrating as a Function in the Story	95
3. On the Other Side of the Mirror	99
Chapter 4 Life Before Man: Fixation Turning Into Fiction	107
1. The Safety of Frozen Patterns	108
<ol> <li>The Precariousness of Elizabeth's Solid Ego Boundaries</li> </ol>	115
Chapter 5 Bodily Harm: A Polyphonic Narrative	123
Contradictory Responses to the Dominant Social and Moral Code	124
2. Rival Voices	140
3. Outbursts of the Repressed	145
4. Unexpected Jail-break	148

Chapter 6 The Handmaid's Tale: Resistance through Narrating	157
1. Witnessing Forms of Dogmatism	158
2. A Tale of Silenced Voices	162
3. Narrating as a Function in the Story	167
4. The Historical Notes: Irony in Retrospect	171
5. Final Remarks	174
Chapter 7 Cat's Eye: Creating a Symbolic Space Out of Lost Time	177
1. Creating a Symbolic Space Out of the Past	177
2. In Search of Lost Time	178
3. The Evil Eye	185
4. The Solid "I"	186
5. Beyond the Edge of the Past	189
Chapter 8 The Robber Bride: The Return of the Repressed	193
1. Re-membering a History of Dis-memberment	193
2. Blurred Perceptions	197
3. Intertexts of Modern Fantasy Literature	198
4. "Resolution Scene"	202
Appendix "You Can't Do Without Your Shadow"	
An Interview With Margaret Atwood	207
Conclusion	215
1. The Complex Stance of the Protagonists	215
2. The Colonial Condition	221
Notes	223
Works Cited	235