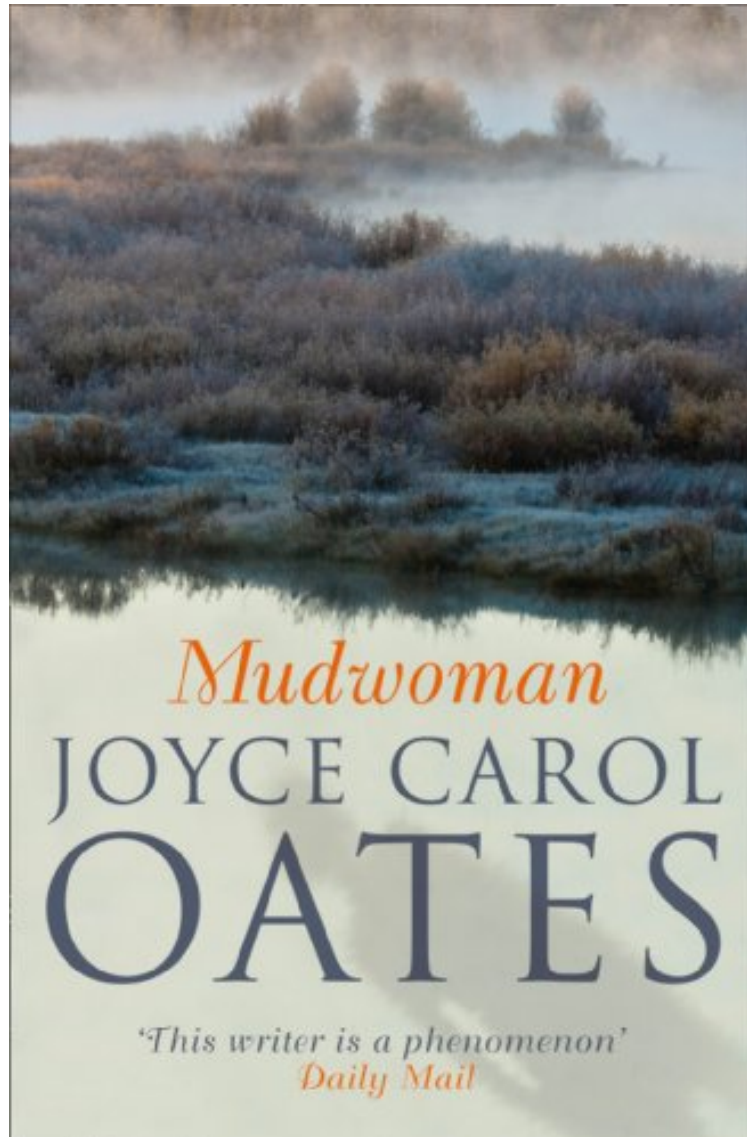


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Mudwoman

Von Joyce Carol Oates
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Von Joyce Carol Oates : Mudwoman before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mudwoman:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
DisturbingVon SteinJShe functions at a very high level - she is president of an ivy league university. But who is mudwoman ? She does not know, has killed all feelings, suppressed her emotional needs. Her mother leaves her to die in a swamp when she is 3. She is abused in a foster home. Even her kind adoptive parents need her to be someone else

(to replace the child they lost - they even give mudgirl the name of their dead child). Now she has achieved everything professionally, but is utterly alone. And then disturbing malfunctions happen, and the past intrudes into her life with brutal force. The violence in her past and present life is deeply disturbing - this is not a book for the fainthearted. Some images will stay with me for a while. Only 4 stars because of the frequent repetitions (I also do not like Rumsfeld very much, but constantly repeating that the Iraq war was a crime is somewhat distracting from this great story).

Kurzbeschreibung A haunting new novel from Joyce Carol Oates. Mudgirl is a child abandoned by her mother in the silty flats of the Black Snake River. Cast aside, Mudgirl survives by an accident of fate - or destiny. She is adopted by a Quaker family, and begins to suppress those painful memories. Meredith M.R. Neukirchen is the first woman president of a prestigious Ivy League university whose commitment to her career and moral fervor are all-consuming. But with an emergent political crisis and a prolonged secret love affair, M.R. has to confront challenges to her professional leadership which test her in ways she could not have expected. The fierce idealism and intelligence that delivered her from a more conventional life in her hometown now threaten to undo her. When she makes a trip upstate, M.R. Neukirchen is thrust 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 the heartbreaking portrait of an individual who breaks - but finds a way to heal herself. Pressestimmen`Shot through with menace and subtlety... Mudwoman is a genuinely unsettling book in which Oates pays her reader the compliment of never letting them settle or even being entirely sure about what they have just read. For a young novelist, this kind of risk-taking would be admirable; for a 73-year-old with more than 50 novels to her name, it is extraordinary' Financial Times`A chilling, beautifully written ghost story about the power of the past' The Times`Oates is a dangerous writer in the best sense of the word, one who takes risks almost obsessively with energy and relish... As if her aim were not to satisfy or entertain - though she always does both - but to do the vandalistic prose equivalent of spray-painting or setting fire to bins in public parks.' New York Times`We think of Oates, like Poe, as a master of terror, but her real mastery is in almost never depicting a strong emotion in isolation... Oates [is]... a fearless experimenter forcing the reader ahead of her at knifepoint' Los Angeles Times`This is an intriguing and bold novel about the flip side of success, and the sexual and psychological violence on the female psyche' Emma Hagestadt, Independent Pressestimmen[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 characters] 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 of Books) There's a freshness to this novel, a sense of some new, more personal beginning. Its bold... to paint achievement... as just the flip side of victimization--and its 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) 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 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 protagonists story] with a detail and relish that's both heartbreaking and fascinating. (Ms. magazine)