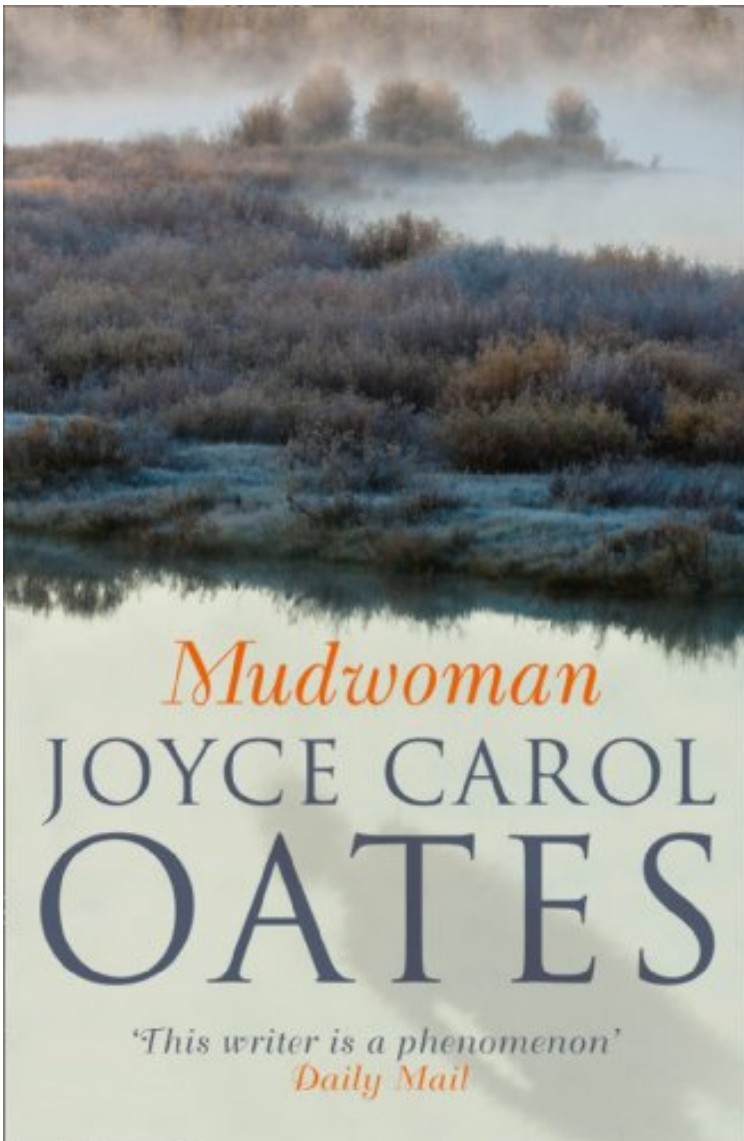


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# Mudwoman



*Par Joyce Carol Oates*  
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## Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurA 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. *Revue de presse* [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 and 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 doorstop 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 to 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 protagonist's story] with a detail and relish that's both heartbreaking and fascinating. (*Ms. magazine*) *Présentation de l'auteur* 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.