

BOOKS

Margaret Atwood submits 'Scribbler Moon,' which won't be read until 2114, to Future Library

BY MEGAN DALEY (/AUTHOR/MEGAN-DALEY)



(Marta Iwanek/Toronto Star via Getty Images)

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Margaret Atwood has become the first author of 100 authors to submit a manuscript to the Future Library, which won't be read until 2114.

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Margaret Atwood talks Twitter Fiction and near-genius hashtags (<http://www.ew.com/article/2015/05/20/margaret-atwood-twitter-fiction>)

The Future Library, located in Oslo, Norway, is the brainchild of Scottish artist Katie Paterson (<http://www.katiepaterson.org/futurelibrary/>). The project will invite one author per year to store their secret, unpublished work in the Deichman Library in Oslo, according to the BBC (<http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-32879814>). The title of Atwood's work, *Scribbler Moon*, is the only piece of information the beloved author has shared, as participating authors aren't allowed to reveal any details of what they've written.

"My mouth is zipped tight," Atwood told CBC News (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04W_i2S17FU), "and everyone is trying to get this out of me in every

way possible. But, no dice."

The collection of 100 total texts will be printed, according to *The Guardian* (<http://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/may/27/margaret-atwood-scribbler-moon-future-library-norway-katie-paterson>), using 1,000 freshly planted trees from Oslo's Nordmarka forest. The 2015 author has also officially been chosen—British author David Mitchell. But like the Canadian novelist's work, fans will have to wait until 2114 for the big reveal.

Atwood recently talked with *EW* about her participation in this year's #TwitterFictionFestival, available here (<http://www.ew.com/article/2015/05/20/margaret-atwood-twitter-fiction>).

BOOKS | SHELF LIFE

On the Books: You can now have your cookbook and eat it too

BY CAROLYN TODD (AUTHOR/CAROLYN.TODD)

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German design firm KOREFE has reinvented the term “visual feast” with *The Real Cookbook* (<http://www.korefe.de/en/2012/1960/das-erste-und-einzige-kochbuch/>), the world’s first and only edible cookbook.

The book is made to be cooked and eaten after reading—the pages are not paper but sheets of fresh lasagna noodles, imprinted with a recipe explaining how to add fresh fillings to the book and then bake it to cheesy perfection.

The award-winning novelty was “designed as a special project for a large publishing house,” according to the KOREFE website. “The prose etched on the four inner pages of pasta toys with the idea of how important the contents of a cookery book can be,” said Antje Hedde, the head of the innovative design firm.

Just remember to bake after reading. [*Design Daily* (<http://www.designer-daily.com/edible-cookbook-47422/>)]

The coalition of over 900 authors banded against Amazon known as Authors United shared a fiery new letter this week, as the book-pricing standoff between the online retail giant and publishers including Hachette continues.

The email, penned by Hachette author Douglas Preston, accuses Amazon of sanctioning over 7,000 Hachette titles, affecting 2,500 authors. “Hachette authors have seen their sales at Amazon decline at least 50%, and in many cases as much as 90%,” Preston writes. “Amazon has other negotiating tools at its disposal than harming the very authors who helped it become one of the largest retailers in the world.”

The letter also charges that Amazon has misrepresented the situation to the public, “falsely trying to depict us as ‘rich’ authors who are seeking higher e-book prices, while it is fighting on behalf of the consumer for lower prices.”

The letter was distributed to the members of Authors United—the writers who signed the open letter (<http://www.authorsunited.net/>) calling on Amazon to resolve its feud with Hachette, published as full-page *New York Times* ad in August. Preston closes by hinting at an eminent Authors United call-to-action: “[W]e are forced to move on to our next initiative. I will be asking you once again for the use of your good name—perhaps as soon as next week. Stay tuned.” [*Publishers Weekly* (<http://publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/digital/retailing/article/63591-over-900-authors-sign-open-letter-to-amazon.html>)]

Acclaimed author Margaret Atwood is the first contributor to The Future Library project, a forward-thinking initiative started in Oslo, Norway that can best be described as a bibliological time capsule. The fiction work Atwood is currently writing will be locked away in a vault, not to be read by any human for a century.

The project—conceived by Katie Paterson, an award-winning Scottish artist—started with the planting of 1,000 trees outside Oslo this summer. “Every year until 2114, one writer will be invited to contribute a new text to the collection,” reports *The Guardian* (<http://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/sep/05/margaret-atwood-new-work-unseen-century-future-library>), “and in 2114, the trees will be cut down to provide the paper for the texts to be printed—and, finally, read.”

Atwood, a Man Booker Prize-winning novelist, is excited to be the first on board. “I think it goes right back to that phase of our childhood when we used to bury little things in the backyard, hoping that someone would dig them up, long in the future,” she told *The Guardian*.

“[W]hen you write any book you do not know who’s going to read it, and you do not know when they’re going to read it,” Atwood said. “So books, anyway, really are like the message in the bottle.” She predicts that language may evolve so much over the next century that future readers may need a paleo-anthropologist to help translate the book.

One perk of a release date set for 100 years in the future? No need to worry about the critics. “You don’t have to be around for the part when it’s a good review the publisher takes credit for it,” Atwood said, “and if it’s a bad review it’s all your fault.”