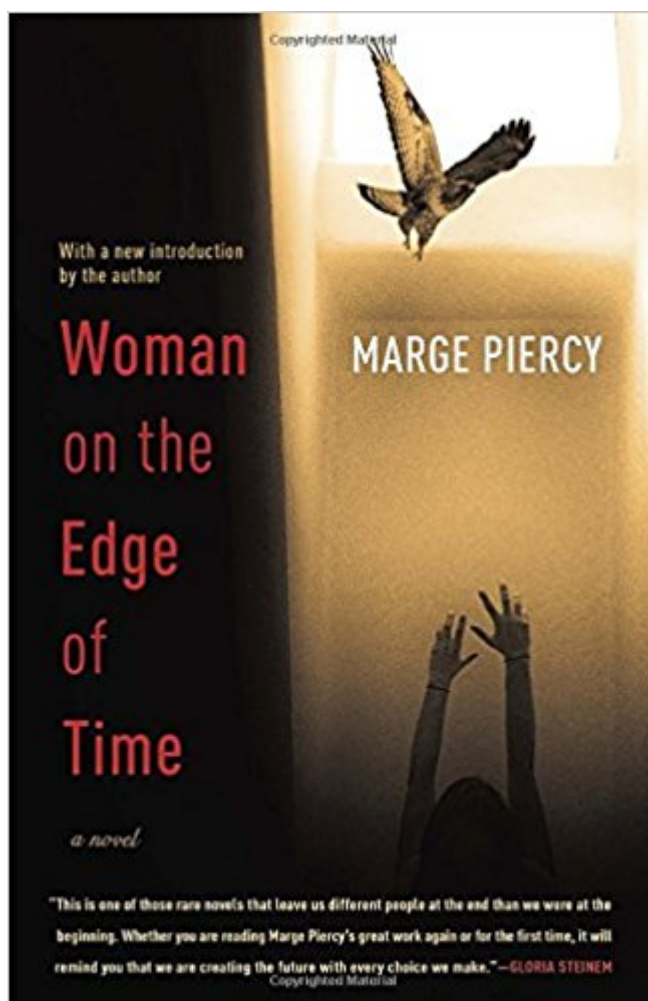


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# Woman On The Edge Of Time: A Novel



## Synopsis

Hailed as a classic of speculative fiction, Marge Piercy's landmark novel is a transformative vision of two futures—and what it takes to will one or the other into reality. Harrowing and prescient, *Woman on the Edge of Time* speaks to a new generation on whom these choices weigh more heavily than ever before. Connie Ramos is a Mexican American woman living on the streets of New York. Once ambitious and proud, she has lost her child, her husband, her dignity—and now they want to take her sanity. After being unjustly committed to a mental institution, Connie is contacted by an envoy from the year 2137, who shows her a time of sexual and racial equality, environmental purity, and unprecedented self-actualization. But Connie also bears witness to another potential outcome: a society of grotesque exploitation in which the barrier between person and commodity has finally been eroded. One will become our world. And Connie herself may strike the decisive blow.

Praise for *Woman on the Edge of Time*

“This is one of those rare novels that leave us different people at the end than we were at the beginning. Whether you are reading Marge Piercy's great work again or for the first time, it will remind you that we are creating the future with every choice we make.” —Gloria Steinem

“An ambitious, unusual novel about the possibilities for moral courage in contemporary society.” —*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

“A stunning, even astonishing novel . . . marvelous and compelling.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“Connie Ramos's world is cuttngly real.” —*Newsweek*

“Absorbing and exciting.” —*The New York Times Book Review*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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"Absorbing and exciting." —The New York Times Book Review

Connie Ramos, a woman in her mid-thirties, has been declared insane. But Connie is overwhelmingly sane, merely tuned to the future, and able to communicate with the year 2137. As her doctors persuade her to agree to an operation, Connie struggles to force herself to listen to the future and its lessons for today.... "From the Paperback edition.

I first read this book shortly after it was published and just finished re-reading it. I never forgot it and was curious as to how well it held up after all these decades. Still an excellent, absorbing read. I was struck by Piercy's vivid depiction of the rough justice doled out to poor people of color--an issue clearly still very much with us. The author was eerily prescient in anticipating progressive trends that have come to the fore in recent decades, including sustainability, locavore, low-on-the-food-chain eating, intelligent energy use, even the rising interest in 'tiny houses' and small intentional communities. Perhaps even more remarkable and somewhat chilling are her evocations of less positive trends such as 24/7 in-home access to violent and degrading 'entertainment' and the wrist-worn 'kenners' on which people are so dependent that they literally cannot function without them--smartphones, anyone? I was intrigued to discover that even the utopian future that Connie visits is far from perfect--her new friends have enlightened values but are still struggling with dark aspects of human nature. I had remembered it much more rosily and appreciated anew the complexity of the society she evoked. I was saddened and shocked by the book's ending; I had also remembered that completely differently--that Connie somehow is able to join Luciente and her other

friends in Massapoiset for good at the last minute. I am still struggling with whether it was all 'real' (within the speculative fiction universe, of course) or a portrait of a rich mind in extreme duress--or if the whole elaborate, multifaceted story is really, as some readers have suggested, meant to be read as a metaphor for the issues facing humanity. In any event, it continues to haunt me and provides rich food for thought. Ms. Piercy, you are an amazing writer--would you consider a sequel?

This is a beautifully written, stunning vision of two very believable, possible futures for civilization. It's a haunting and thought provoking read that feels completely relevant to our current situation. I am a huge fan of all of Marge Piercy's novels, and recommend her work highly to those who enjoy the less technical, more social/human side of science fiction. Her historical novels are also completely engaging!

A fascinating read, especially for those interested in parapsychology, spirituality, & mental health treatment. I will miss reading of the interactions of Connie, Lucient, & the others.

I really liked this book. It was very thought provoking.

I haven't had a book that stayed in my thoughts as this one did for quite a while, but oh, how I loathe a non-ending! I am quite creative, but I don't want to guess how things turned out.

This book remained on my TBR list as I worried that it would be dated, having been written in the 70s. On the contrary, Piercy's novel is a brilliant novel for the ages. Her prescience about issues of the environment and mental health pre-date the serious discussions going on today. And if that wasn't enough, Piercy is a first-class storyteller. Connie is constructed as a very sympathetic character and you turn each page hoping for her to triumph over all the stigmas that marginalize her from society--being a Chicana, poor, obese, widowed . . . to name a few. Although Connie is considered unfit for society, she proves to be the most compassionate of all. This is a book I've been thinking about for days. . . and feel I will continue to do so for a long time. What more can you ask for in a book. Highly recommended!

This was a book that I had to read for a college course. I was hesitant to read it as it did not sound like something that I would normally enjoy reading. I was very wrong. I enjoyed this book very much. In fact once I started it I didn't want to put it down. It is different from anything else I have read

before. It seems like one thing then you find you were wrong and it leaves you thinking about the story when you are done. I liked it so much I convinced my husband to read it also, and he liked it too.

After reading the first chapter, I thought this book was going to be much different. Then I read the second, and realized what at least half of the book was about: some time-travelling person. I had to read this for my Women's Studies college class, and I have to say that this is one of those books that is just depressing the entire way through. You have the time travel stuff that breaks this up and keeps things hopeful, but back in her own time Connie seems just more and more screwed as the book goes on. I won't deny the book is interesting, because it certainly is, but it's not for me. And it's not because I can't like a dark book. I absolutely love 1984, and that bittersweet ending hit me harder than any book I've ever read. But here I don't really feel suspenseful of what's going to happen next as anytime something even remotely good happens, something bad comes to ruin it right away. Either way, the book was pretty cheap to get so there's that.

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