

university, she offers Ren a job at the spa. However, Ren finds that she cannot stand working in the spa, particularly after her mother Lucerne shows up for treatment. She decides to fall back on her second option: dancing and pleasuring men at Skins and Tails. However, Toby continues at her spa, and she builds an Ararat in preparation for the waterless flood.

Zeb eventually visits Toby and informs her there has been a schism in the ranks of the Gardeners. Zeb has formed a new group called "MaddAddam." In Zeb's view:

Peace goes only so far....There's at least a hundred new extinct species since this time last month.

Zeb's solution is to attack the infrastructure that allows restaurants like Rarities, which serves endangered species, to operate. In contrast, Adam One's view is that

our role in respect to the Creatures is to bear witness...and to guard the memories and genomes of the departed. You can't fight blood with blood.

Many senior Gardeners, especially the scientists, join Zeb's new group. One of them is Crake, who applauds MaddAdam's actions, particularly the way they have created and released microbes that eat asphalt.

However, Zeb's quest is taken to a new extreme when Crake releases his pandemic plague. At one point, Toby reflects that it was not an ordinary pandemic: it wouldn't be contained after a few hundred thousand deaths.

Although Ren is worried about the Painballers and Jimmy's illness, Toby admonishes everyone to rest. She makes a soup as she considers her options. Before they are able to eat, they hear music coming their way. As *Oryx and Crake* did, *Year of the Flood* ends with the arrival of another party. This one is approaching the beach with torches. Their identity is not revealed when the novel ends.

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Analysis

Margaret Atwood's dystopic novel *The Year of the Flood* is horrifying and wickedly funny, often at the same time. Most readers will find their greatest fear for society realized in the world of the novel,