

AVAILABLE ON DVD AND VHS



THE ATWOOD STORIES

"These stories and characters have come to the screen with all their edges intact. Atwood cuts through the layers of her characters, right to the bone."

The Atwood Stories, a dramatic anthology series of six stories, is now available from Filmwest. Based on short stories by Margaret Atwood, the series pairs award-winning writers and directors in the exploration of the themes contained in Atwood's work.

When is a stranger no longer a stranger? The Atwood Stories explore the moment when a chance meeting becomes something more. Although each story is unique and unrelated in character and setting, a stream of random encounters occurs throughout the anthology, involving people who are both vulnerable and courageous. During their story they learn to reach out.

2003; 6x24:00 minutes

3 DVDs (2 stories)

Each DVD \$245.00

Set of 3 DVDs (6 stories) \$695.00

Each Video \$195.00

Set of 6 Videos \$995.00



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DVD 1 POLARITIES

A cynical young American in his early 30's takes a teaching job at a small university in the Canadian north. He engages in a guarded, undefined relationship with an intense female graduate student who inhabits an idiosyncratic but functional reality. As her state of mind deteriorates, their involvement moves from disengagement through an emotional opening up, then a passionate connection, and finally into a sad and reluctant betrayal.



MAN FROM MARS

In the water Christine feels beautiful, weightless, free. On land, she is a plain, 'big-boned' girl in a family of slender beauties. One day, an impoverished Asian exchange student speaking almost no English insinuates himself into her life. The world starts seeing her differently, and she actually begins to feel attractive. But when the harmlessness of this odd young man's behaviour is called into question, the police become involved and Christine is ultimately forced to make a difficult choice.



DVD 2 BETTY

In post-World War II rural Ontario, eight-year-old Alice and her family move into their small summer cottage along a river next door to kindly Betty and her handsome and charismatic husband Fred. Before the summer is over, Fred has run off with another woman and Betty has suffered a breakdown. Years later, when an erratic Betty reappears in their lives, a teenaged Alice must come to terms both with the world's unfairness and with its mystery.



DEATH BY LANDSCAPE

Sixty-five-year old Lois compulsively collects landscape paintings, but to her family's incomprehension, has never ventured anywhere near real wilderness. A new painting sends her back to the day when young Lucy first steps out of her chauffeur-driven car at summer camp. Lucy is rebellious, sophisticated and worldly by the end of that summer, Lois and Lucy are inseparable. Several years later, as veterans, they embark on the camp's ritual canoe trip. In a moment which Lois has contemplated for over fifty years, Lucy silently and inexplicably disappears from somewhere near the edge of a cliff, never to be seen again. Lois' life is irrevocably altered; all these years later, she gazes into these paintings as if her young friend might mysteriously re-emerge from deep within the wilderness they depict.



DVD 3 ISIS IN DARKNESS

Richard, an English literature major and would-be poet in his early twenties, is entranced by Selena, a talented and exotic young poet who is clearly the real thing. But when she criticizes his poetry and rejects him romantically, Richard falls into the arms of a practical librarian, Mary Jo. Richard gains a wife and child, but relinquishes his dream of becoming a poet, along with his will to do just about anything else. Years later, a chance encounter with Selena pushes Richard's marriage to its inevitable demise. And still later, news of Selena's premature death galvanizes Richard into the fevered work that will become a celebration of Selena's life and poetry.



THE SUNRISE

A reclusive painter in her 40's tries to maintain tight control over every aspect of her life in order to keep at bay the dark forces which threaten to overcome her. As a result she cannot engage with her subjects and her art falls short of her expectations. Finally, though, in the person of a seemingly dangerous young man, she finds the key to letting things be as they are, and breaks through her demons.

Stories from the Seventh Fire THE FOUR SEASONS

ON DVD AND VHS



THE FIRST SPRING FLOOD

The power of friendship and co-operation is the theme in this spring story. Wesakechak must overcome the envy and anger of the bad spirit, Machias who intends to drown him in the First Spring Flood. His friends Jackfish, Goose and Beaver cooperate to save him from the jealous bully.

LEGEND OF THE GIANT BEAVER

This story of ancient landscapes and nature sparks the imagination of all young viewers! We hear of great plains, covered with water and the giant beaver, the size of grizzly bears who built land and created smaller lakes and ponds for other creatures. The natural link to shrinking waters and beavers introduces the role of wetlands, special places (habitats) for many of the beavers' animal and insect friends.



HOW WESAKECHAK GOT HIS NAME

An excellent lesson in humility and working for stature! Wesakechak feels he deserves a more powerful name. He convinces his fellow creatures to ask the Creator to give out new names. Wesakechak becomes so fixed on being the first in line at the naming ceremony that he tries to stay awake all night. Of course, he falls asleep towards dawn and is so late for the ceremony that he ends up with his old name. But the Creator gives him a new job - he will become the teacher of the First People. This way he will make his name important, not the other way around.

LEGEND OF THE CARIBOU

A lesson in sharing! The Caribou herds became so large that they threatened the existence of all the plants and other creatures who lived in the Barrens. When the caribou refused to move or share, the other animals asked the creator for help. Since that day, swarms of mosquitos and flies force the caribou to move to other pastures and so we witness the longest yearly migration of animals on Mother Earth!



WESAKECHAK AND THE MEDICINE

Abusing medicine can be very dangerous! On a beautiful fall day, Wesakechak sees two chickadees getting extra energy from their special medicine berries. He begs them to share and they do, cautioning him to take only one at a time and only when he is very tired. Wesakechak overdoes it, floats off the earth only to fall headfirst into a swamp. Later, he spies two cranes who toss their eyes to the sky to help improve their eyesight. Again, Wesakechak begs for the secret and overdoes it. He is blinded. Eventually, the creator shows him how to restore his sight, but first insists on a promise from Wesakechak that he will not abuse strong medicine again.

LEGEND OF THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

Sharing is a way to give thanks for the bounty around us! As the leaves are falling, we hear the story of how Raven tricked the other animals into providing a great feast before winter arrives. Harvest, Thanksgiving or Potlatch, the feast tradition carries on for all animals, including humans. In this story, we witness the details of how animals prepare for winter.



WHY THE RABBIT TURNS WHITE

Every creature is a part of nature's harmony! Wesakechak has become lazy and has not fulfilled his duties of making sure his people respect the land and the animals. The animals and rainclouds have departed in disgust, leaving Wesakechak's people thirsty and starving! Wesakechak must search for the animals and ask them to return. During his long journey, Wesakechak is rescued by a little rabbit who teaches him that every living being has a role in the harmony of nature.

THE LEGEND OF THE SPIRIT BEAR

Looking after our environment will ensure the safe keeping for all. When the earth is filled with ice and snow, all the hungry animals ask the creator to bring back the seasons. Legend tells us that with the seasons, also came the "spirit" or Kermode bear. This beautiful white bear is a sign of environmental health. The warning goes that if the Kermode bear disappears, winter will return forever.

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3

Series of 8 programs (13:00 each) on 2 DVDs ; 2003; Single DVD (4 programs) \$245.00; Series 2 DVDs (8 programs) \$395.00 Includes PPR; **CC** ENGLISH AND CREE LANGUAGE OPTIONS. PRINTABLE FULL ACTIVITY GUIDE FOR EACH PROGRAM. Language Arts K-3; Environmental Studies K - 5; Aboriginal Studies K - Post Sec.; Art /Film Studies K - Post Sec.; Cree Language Studies K - Post Secondary




THE PRE-TEEN YEARS AND THE TEEN YEARS

Each DVD presents 4 programs that focus on an important youth issue. A drama within each program will keep the viewers' attention while interviews and group discussions with young people, educators, counselors and parents will offer balanced information.

The complete set is an excellent foundation for character development curricula and library youth collections.

Series of 29 programs (24:00 minutes each) on 7 DVDs

Running time varies per DVD; DVD update: 2002

Single DVDs: \$199.00; Includes PPR; 

Complete series: 7 DVDs (29 programs) \$899.00

Guidance, Family Studies, Health; Grades 5 - 10

Also available on VHS format for \$149.00 per program.

THE PRETEEN YEARS



Like every 12 year old, Emily has issues; lots of them. She has to face them when she goes to school, hangs out with her friends and lives with her mom. In each gripping DVD chapter of *The Preteen Years*, Emily takes on the very real and often painful situations that demand to be resolved.

Along with Emily's story, preteens, educators, counselors and parents discuss real life situations in interviews, offering balanced information.

Volume One: Life Challenges

We don't ask for them and they won't go away until we deal with them. The toughest life challenges are those that we feel are unfair and we can't control. Handling them well helps us grow and sets the foundations for self-reliance.

The four programs chaptered in *Life Challenges* offer insight on coping with problems that are personally devastating.

1. Bullies
2. Divorce
3. Sick Kids
4. Coping With Death

Volume Two: You and the World

Being aware of the influences around us and knowing how to avoid the pressure of conformity gives us the strength to just be ourselves.

The four programs chaptered in *You and the World* detail how the media, peers, and family members compete to shape us. The programs offer strategies to develop the living skills essential for making effective, balanced choices.

1. Kids as Consumers
2. Cents & Sensibility
3. Peer Pressure
4. Body Image

THE TEEN YEARS



The Teen Years follows Emily and Chloe from the ages of 14 to 17 as they tackle the most pressing issues that teens face today. In each gripping DVD chapter, the sisters take on both practical and sensitive situations as they grow into strong individuals, capable of making their own choices.

Along with Emily's and Chloe's stories, teens, educators, counselors and parents discuss real life situations and personal experiences offering balanced information.

Volume One: Gender Issues and Teen Relationships

Gender and relationship issues are tough to work out in the teen years. So many factors converge to challenge teens, pushing decision making to the urgent level. Living with hard hitting outcomes can seem unbearable. The five programs chaptered in *Gender Issues and Teen Relationships* present some of the toughest issues teens face today and offer excellent information to consider.

1. Pressures of Sex
2. Out in the World
3. Dangerous Encounters STDs
4. It's A Guy Thing
5. Kids Having Kids

Volume Two: Life Skills

Establishing solid life skills during the teen years lays the foundation for a successful life path. Specific skills such as safe driving, time management, money management, and holding down a job, develop self discipline, assertiveness and responsibility. The four programs chaptered in *Life Skills* present many details essential to attaining these specific skills, and demonstrate their value in both our personal and social development.

1. First Job
2. Giving Back
3. Wheels
4. Money Management

Volume Three: Feelings

During the teen years, feelings can be intense and at times painfully confusing. If left unresolved, there is a danger that the intensity level rises to the point that safety and calm seem unachievable. The four programs chaptered in *Feelings* present several situations that are dangerous and can be fatal. We hear heartbreaking stories, learning the signs and steps to avoid tragedy.

1. Rumors & Gossip
2. Suicide
3. More than the Blues
4. Suicide Prevention

