



The High Cost of Living: A Novel

Marge Piercy

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Passions flare in a most unlikely love triangle between three remarkable characters facing arduous life challenges in this engrossing novel by bestselling author Marge Piercy

Heartbroken after her girlfriend leaves her for another woman, Leslie, a history grad student, follows her thesis advisor from Grand Rapids to Detroit for a fresh start. There she befriends seventeen-year-old Honor, who sparks a familiar passion within her. Feeling that she can't act on her desire, she sleeps with Honor's older friend, Bernard, a gay former street hustler who resents his past and, to make matters more complicated, also lusts for Honor.

As the three grapple with issues of sexuality and identity, author Marge Piercy manages to be both intimately attuned to her characters' emotions and aware of their role in a larger social and economic context. Leslie, Honor, and Bernard struggle financially in a city that doesn't offer many opportunities, and they discover that expressing their sexuality and finding love may be privileges they cannot afford.

"A novel as ambiguous and fascinating as life itself." —*The New York Times*

"Piercy goes over her subjects with a fine-tooth comb and provides food for thought about some of our directions, feelings and values." —*Publishers Weekly*

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