

Imagine trying to be a feminist, or even just a woman in a society where your only role is to have sex and make babies...it doesn't really work out.

Offred is a handmaid in the Republic of Gilead, a theocratic totalitarian society established by Christian Fundamentalist movement, that has taken over the United States. In an attempt to fix the low birth rates in the Republic, as a result of pollution, chemical poisoning, and overall decreasing fertility, Offred was assigned to a commander. Men of this status were Commanders in the army and were the only ones allowed to have a wife and handmaids.

The Republic is very different from the United States that existed before it. The constitution was suspended and a Christian theocracy was put into place. And Offred was caught in the middle of all of this and was forced to become a handmaid. Life as a Handmaid seems fairly easy, you keep yourself healthy to be able to bear children for the commander, don't think for yourself, relinquish all free will over to the government, etc....

But as we get a glimpse into her life, parts of her life before the Republic start to reveal themselves. Things about her family, her husband, her daughter... and whether or not she will be able to see them again.

But what happens when the man you are forced to sleep with begins to have feelings for you, or when you start to fall in love with a person you know you can never actually be with, or when a rebellious friend from the past convinces you that life doesn't have to be like this?

- “Yet the book just does not tell me what there is in our present mores that I ought to watch out for unless I want the United States of America to become a slave state something like the Republic of Gilead whose outlines are here sketched out.” – Mary McCarthy, New York Times Review
- “Fiercely political and bleak, yet witty and wise, the novel won the inaugural Arthur C Clarke award in 1987, but Atwood has always maintained that the novel is not classifiable science fiction...women in many parts of the world live similar lives, dictated by biological determinism and misogyny.” –Charlotte Newman- The Guardian
- “Like most dystopian novels, The Handmaid's Tale instructs by negative example. Gilead is shown to be a hierarchical, monotheocratic patriarchy. Women have no autonomy, no control over finances, their bodies, or their intellectual pursuits. Author Margaret Atwood is most harsh in her depiction of fundamentalism of any kind, rather than any particular form of religion or government.” – Michael Berry, Common Sense Media



The Handmaid's Tale

Margaret Atwood



The Handmaid's Tale



Margaret Atwood