

Chapter 1 : SparkNotes: The Handmaid's Tale

The Handmaid's Tale is a dystopian novel by Canadian author Margaret Atwood, originally published in 1985. It is set in a near-future New England, in a totalitarian state resembling a theonomy, which has overthrown the United States government.

Gilead has arisen in what was once known as the United States of America. Handmaids are the objects of upper class men, to be used exclusively for their fertility. Women's and their bodies are the objects of men. In Gilead, women are categorized into classes based on their relationship to men or usefulness to men. Islamophobia frightened the masses into relinquishing personal control and giving up the resistance. Keep calm, they said on television. Everything is under control. Everyone was, I know that. It was hard to believe. The entire government, gone like that. How did they get in, how did it happen? Offred tells of a country where the government was taken over, little by little and without much opposition. The same is now happening in much of the world. Christian religious fundamentalism runs rampant, with Bible passages being used selectively and incompletely. Aunt Lydia, the woman tasked with brainwashing the future Handmaids to perform their government-ordained duties, repeats part of a Bible verse to them over and over: Christian fundamentalists that quote the Bible to oppose homosexuality often carefully forget the multiple other Bible passages that would forbid divorce or have children thrown against stones. Selective religious fundamentalism took over Gilead and has been growing throughout the world today. People of color are summarily disposed of. As recently as last week, the Minnesota police officer who fatally shot Philando Castile during a traffic stop was acquitted on all charges by a jury. In Gilead, the government sanctions the removal of people of color. In the modern-day United States, the government stops just short of punishing those that undertake their own removal of people of color. Women are blamed for their sexual assault. In Gilead, women are brainwashed to believe that any sexual assault they may have experienced was their own fault; a result of their dressing or acting a certain way. In the U. All it took to build Gilead, though, was the silence of those that would resist and the vast expansion of government power.

Chapter 2 : SparkNotes: The Handmaid's Tale: Plot Overview

Serena Joy confronts Offred and the Commander. Offred struggles with a complicated, life-changing revelation. The Handmaids face a brutal decision.

The main idea remains the same. Now women have no rights. They are slaves to men and the biblical, patriarchal society in which they live. Massachusetts Turns Into Saudi Arabia? It makes numerous "best of" lists, the kinds with 99 other books everyone should read before dying. Atwood imagines the extreme of the extreme and in the process completely misunderstands American evangelicalism. Fundamentalism has hurt people, particularly women, for millennia. Extremism continues to hurt people every day, especially in some parts of the world, especially in some states. Atwood chose Massachusetts for its puritanical history. She was married once, had a child. Her life has been flipped and made forfeit. She lives in fear and depression and abuse. This is meant to make me unnerved, and it does. The logic part should be emphasized here, I think, given this is supposed to be science fiction, not fantasy. Never mind that sci-fi and fantasy are types of speculative fiction. How did this happen so quickly? How did we go from " burning bras " to having every part of our lives regulated? Why did it take Massachusetts decades, centuries, to reject puritanism, but only a few years? Societies evolve, one way or another, usually rather slowly. The world may be disappointing and horrible sometimes, but it is rarely surprising. If Atwood had built her dystopia on a chain of events that occurred over a longer period of time, or explained how everything unraveled so quickly, I might have been on board with the premise. The explanations for the sudden changes are fantastical, at best, dependent on evil, digitized moneyâ€”be careful with the mobile payments and bitcoins, ladies! You can change laws all you want, but society, culture, has to be willing to follow the most drastic changes. Why was modern American society so willing to enslave women? Atwood chucks a plot point at you here or there, hinting at a larger, more complex world through her main character. Some of this can be excused, what with the limited point of view, but not all. Overall, the summary for this book could be this: Almost anyone with a penis is mostly unfeeling and evil, deep down. The rest are idiots, I suppose. He will betray you at the first opportunity. And as a feminist, I hate how one-dimensional the men are in this book, just as much as I hate how one-dimensional women are in far more books, TV shows, and movies.

Chapter 3 : The Holocaust and the Henmaids Tale: A Case for Comparing Atrocities by Karen Davis

The Handmaid's Tale TVMA \hat{a} € ϕ Drama, Science Fiction \hat{a} € ϕ TV Series \hat{a} € ϕ A woman forced into sexual servitude struggles to survive in a terrifying, totalitarian society.

The new regime, the Republic of Gilead, moves quickly to consolidate its power, including overtaking all pre-existing religious groups, including traditional Christian denominations, and reorganize society along a new militarized, hierarchical model of Old Testament -inspired social and religious fanaticism among its newly created social classes. For example, women are forbidden to read, and anyone caught in homosexual acts would be hanged for "gender treachery". The story is told in the first person by a woman called Offred. The character is one of a class of women with healthy reproductive systems, in an era of declining birth rates owing to increasing infertility. These women are forcibly assigned to produce children for the ruling class and are known as "handmaids", based on the biblical story of Rachel and her handmaid Bilhah. Offred describes her life during her third assignment as a handmaid, in this case to an important official referred to as "The Commander". Interspersed with her narratives of her present-day experiences are flashback discussions of her life from before and during the beginning of the revolution, when she finds she has lost all autonomy to her husband, their failed attempt to escape to Canada, and finally her indoctrination into life as a handmaid by government-trained women called "Aunts". The women are physically segregated by colour of clothingâ€”blue, red, green, striped and whiteâ€”to signify social class and assigned position, ranked highest to lowest. Striped clothing is for all other women called "Econowives" who essentially do everything in the domestic sphere. Young, unmarried girls are dressed in white. The Commander is a high-ranking official in Gilead. Although his contact with Offred is supposed to be limited to "the ceremony", a ritual of rape intended to result in conception and at which his wife is present, he begins an illegal relationship with Offred. The room is filled with books and is considered a private place for the man of the house. During these meetings, he tries to earn her trust by talking and playing board games such as Scrabble with her. He also lets and watches her read, another offense, as women are not permitted to read and write. The Commander offers her contraband products, such as old s fashion magazines and cosmetics. The women in the brothels are allowed alcohol and drugs, a freedom Offred notes. Serena is clearly bored and unhappyâ€”that she was taken at her word, Offred assumesâ€”and hates sharing her husband with a handmaid. In return, Serena Joy gives her news of her daughter and a recent photo. Offred has not seen her child since she and her family were captured trying to escape Gilead. Offred discovers she enjoys sex with him, despite her indoctrination and her memories of her husband. She shares potentially dangerous information about her past with him. Through her shopping partner, a woman called Ofglen, Offred learns of the Mayday resistance, an underground network working to overthrow the Republic of Gilead. As the novel concludes, Offred tells Nick that she thinks she is pregnant. Shortly afterwards, she is taken away by men wearing the uniform of the secret police, the Eyes of God, known informally as "the Eyes". As she is led to a waiting van, Nick tells her to trust him and go with the men. It is unclear whether the men are actually Eyes, or members of the Mayday resistance. Offred is unsure if Nick is a member of Mayday or an Eye posing as one, and is unsure if leaving will result in her escape or her capture. She enters the van with her future uncertain. The novel concludes with a metafictional epilogue that explains that the events of the novel were recorded onto cassette tapes occurred shortly after the beginning of what is called "the Gilead Period". It is implied that following the collapse of the theonomic Republic of Gilead, a more equal society re-emerged with a restoration of full rights for women and freedom of religion. Offred[edit] Offred is the protagonist and narrator. She was labeled a "wanton woman" when Gilead was established because she had married a man who was divorced. All divorces were nullified by the new government, meaning her husband was now considered still married to his first wife, making Offred an adulteress. In trying to escape Gilead, she was separated from her husband and daughter. Proved fertile, she is considered an important commodity and has been placed as a "handmaid" in the home of "the Commander" and his wife Serena Joy, to bear a child for them Serena Joy is believed to be infertile. In the novel, Offred says that she is not a concubine, but a tool; a "two legged womb". The women in training to be handmaids

whisper names across their beds at night. The names are "Alma. June," and all are later accounted for except June. In addition, one of the Aunts tells the handmaids-in-training to stop "mooning and June-ing". As "Mayday" is the name of the Gilead resistance, June could be an invention by the protagonist. The Nunavut conference covered in the epilogue takes place in June. Later, it is hypothesized, but not confirmed, that he might have been one of the architects of the Republic and its laws. Presumably, his first name is "Fred", though that, too, may be a pseudonym. He engages in forbidden intellectual pursuits with Offred, such as playing Scrabble , and introduces her to a secret club that serves as a brothel for high-ranking officers. Offred learns that the Commander carried on a similar relationship with his previous handmaid and that she killed herself when his wife found out. In the epilogue an academic speculates that one of two figures, both instrumental in the establishment of Gilead, may have been the Commander, based on the name "Fred". It is his belief that the Commander was a man named Frederick R. Waterford who was killed in a purge shortly after Offred was taken away, charged with harboring an enemy agent. The state took away her power and public recognition, and tries to hide her past as a television figure. Believed to be sterile although the suggestion is made that the Commander is sterile, Gileadean laws attribute sterility only to women , she is forced to accept that he has use of a handmaid. She resents having to take part in the monthly fertility ritual. She strikes a deal with Offred to arrange for her to have sex with Nick in order to become pregnant. She is partnered with Offred to do the daily shopping. Ofglen is a member of the Mayday resistance. In contrast to Offred, she is daring. She knocks out a Mayday spy who is to be tortured and killed in order to save him the pain of a violent death. Offred is told that when Ofglen vanishes, it is because she has committed suicide before the government can take her into custody due to her membership in the resistance, possibly to avoid giving away any information. She threatens Offred against any thought of resistance. She breaks protocol by telling her what happened to the first Ofglen. If she were unable to bear the Commander a child, she would be declared sterile and shipped to the ecological wastelands of the Colonies. Offred begins to develop feelings for him. Nick is an ambiguous character, and Offred does not know if he is a party loyalist or part of the resistance, though he identifies himself as the latter. A lesbian, she has resisted the homophobia of Gilead society. Moira is taken to be a Handmaid soon after Offred. She was caught and chose the brothel rather than to be sent to the Colonies. Under Gilead, all divorces were retroactively nullified, resulting in Offred being considered an adulteress and their daughter illegitimate. Offred was forced to become a Handmaid and her daughter was given to a loyalist family. Since their attempt to escape to Canada, Offred has heard nothing of Luke. Setting[edit] The novel is set in an indeterminate future, speculated to be around the year , [12] with a fundamentalist theonomy ruling the territory of what had been the United States but is now the Republic of Gilead. Individuals are segregated by categories and dressed according to their social functions. Complex dress codes play a key role in imposing social control within the new society and serve to distinguish people by sex, occupation, and caste. The action takes place in what once was the Harvard Square neighbourhood of Cambridge, Massachusetts ; [13] [14] Atwood studied at Radcliffe College , located in this area. Politics[edit] In Gilead, the bodies of fertile women are politicized and controlled. The North American population is falling as more men and women become infertile though in Gilead, legally, it is only women who can be the cause of infertility. They are not allowed to do anything that would grant them any power independent of this system. They are not allowed to vote, hold a job, read, possess money, or own anything, among many other restrictions. Gilead is within you" HT 5. This describes that there is no way around the societal bounds of women in this new state of government. Handmaids, being not allowed to wed, are given two-year assignments with a commander, and lose their own name: When a handmaid is reassigned, her name changes with her. Their original identities before the revolution are suppressed, although while being reeducated as handmaids, they surreptitiously share their names with each other. In this book, the government appears to be strong though "no one in Gilead seems to be a true believer in its revolution" Beauchamp. The Commanders, portrayed via Commander Fred, do not agree with their own doctrines. The commander takes Offred at one point to a brothel in order to have sex with her in an informal setting apart from the Ceremony. The wives, portrayed via Serena Joy, former television evangelist, disobey the rules set forth by their commander husbands. Serena smokes black market cigarettes and expresses the forbidden idea that men may be infertile,

and schemes to get Offred impregnated by her chauffeur. Priests unwilling to convert are executed and hanged from the Wall. Offred observes that Jews refusing to convert are allowed to emigrate to Israel, and most choose to leave. Offred mentions that many Jews who chose to stay were caught secretly practicing Judaism and executed. Caste and class[edit] African Americans , the main non-white ethnic group in this society, are called the Children of Ham. A state TV broadcast mentions they have been relocated en masse to "National Homelands" in the Midwest, which are suggestive of the Apartheid-era homelands set up by South Africa. Sex and occupation[edit] The sexes are strictly divided. Women are categorised "hierarchically according to class status and reproductive capacity" as well as " metonymically colour-coded according to their function and their labour" Kauffman The Commander expresses the prevailing opinion that women are considered intellectually and emotionally inferior to men. Women are segregated by clothing, as are men. With rare exception, men wear military or paramilitary uniforms. All lower-status individuals are regulated by this dress code.

Chapter 4 : Ver la serie The Handmaid's Tale online gratis | Cuevana 2

about the handmaid's tale Adapted from the classic novel by Margaret Atwood, The Handmaid's Tale is the story of life in the dystopia of Gilead, a totalitarian society in what was formerly the.

Plot[edit] In the near future, fertility rates collapse as a result of sexually transmitted diseases and environmental pollution. Alongside the Handmaids, much of society is now grouped into classes that dictate their freedoms and duties. Women are divided into a small range of social categories, each one signified by a plain dress in a specific color: Handmaids wear red, Marthas who are housekeepers and cooks, named after the biblical figure wear green, and Wives who are expected to run their households wear blue and turquoise. Econowives, the lower-class women who still have minimal agency, are a sort of mixture of all these categories, and they wear gray a departure from the book in which Econowives wear clothing striped with the aforementioned colors. Women prisoners are called Unwomen and are worked to death clearing toxic waste in the Colonies. Another class of women, Aunts who train and oversee the Handmaids , wear brown. Additionally, the Eyes are a secret police watching over the general populace for signs of rebellion, Hunters track down people attempting to flee the country, and Jezebels are sex workers in secret brothels catering to the elite ruling class. Offred is subject to strict rules and constant scrutiny; an improper word or deed on her part can lead to brutal punishment. Offred, who is named after her male master "Of Fred" like all Handmaids, was married and had a daughter, a job, a bank account, and her own name and identity in the "time before", but all she can safely do now is follow the rules of Gilead in hopes that she can someday live free again and be reunited with her husband and daughter. The Waterfords, key players in the rise of Gilead, have their own conflicts with the realities of the society they have helped create. He wishes to have more contact with June outside of what is lawful between a Handmaid and her master, and starts inviting her to play nightly games of Scrabble. She appears to have accepted her new role in a society that she helped create. She is poised and deeply religious, but capable of great cruelty and is often callous to June. She is desperate to become a mother. Although June is initially wary of her, it is revealed Ofglen is not as pious as she seems, and the two become friends. Ofglen had a wife and son, and was a university lecturer in cellular biology. Being homosexual is punishable by death in Gilead, and most university professors are sent to labour camps, but Ofglen was spared and made a Handmaid, due to her fertility. She is later captured and cruelly punished for her relationship with a Martha, and is sent to another household where she becomes "Ofsteven". She is involved with a resistance movement called "Mayday". She becomes mentally unstable due to her treatment and often behaves in temperamental or childlike ways. Janine is later reassigned and becomes "Ofdaniel". She was temporarily assigned to the Colonies until a bombing at the new Rachel and Leah Center. Ann Dowd as Aunt Lydia, a woman in charge of overseeing the Handmaids in their sexual reeducation and duties. She is brutal and subjects insubordinate Handmaids to harsh physical punishment, but she also cares for her charges and believes deeply in the Gileadean mission and doctrine. She appears to have a soft spot for Janine, and even goes so far as to address her by her given name on occasion. Because he and June began their relationship before his divorce from his first wife, their union is considered invalid in the new society. June is considered an adulteress and their daughter, Hannah, is considered illegitimate. Initially, June believes he has been killed, but it is later revealed Luke managed to escape to Canada. June and Nick develop an intimate relationship and she eventually discovers that he is an Eye, a spy for Gilead. She is already at the Red Center when June enters Handmaid training but escapes before being assigned to a home. She is recaptured and becomes "Ruby", a Jezebel. She seems to have given up hope of ever being free, but on meeting June again regains the conviction to escape. Amanda Brugel as Rita recurring season 1, main season 2â€™present , a Martha at the Waterford home. She had a son who died fighting in the civil war when he was 19 years old. She initially follows the rules and does not wish to upset the status quo, but this is because she believes her life as a Handmaid is better than the difficult, impoverished life she led prior to Gilead, rather than out of religious piety. She is frank and chatty, and often trades gossip and news with June. She is later renamed Agnes. Erin Way as Erin, a young, apparently mute, woman who was being trained to become a Handmaid but managed to escape to Canada. She

has an arrangement with Nick whereby she trades illegal alcohol and other contraband for drugs, which the Jezebels use. She has a casual sexual relationship with him and is aware that he is an Eye. Marisa Tomei as Mrs. Oprah Winfrey uncredited as Newsreader season 2 on a car radio.

Chapter 5 : The Handmaid's Tale Season 3: Premiere Date, Spoilers, Everything We Know | TV Guide

From a general summary to chapter summaries to explanations of famous quotes, the SparkNotes The Handmaid's Tale Study Guide has everything you need to ace quizzes, tests, and essays.

Because of dangerously low reproduction rates, Handmaids are assigned to bear children for elite couples that have trouble conceiving. Every month, when Offred is at the right point in her menstrual cycle, she must have impersonal, wordless sex with the Commander while Serena sits behind her, holding her hands. As Offred tells the story of her daily life, she frequently slips into flashbacks, from which the reader can reconstruct the events leading up to the beginning of the novel. In the old world, before Gilead, Offred had an affair with Luke, a married man. He divorced his wife and married Offred, and they had a child together. The architects of Gilead began their rise to power in an age of readily available pornography, prostitution, and violence against women—when pollution and chemical spills led to declining fertility rates. Using the military, they assassinated the president and members of Congress and launched a coup, claiming that they were taking power temporarily. Offred and Luke took their daughter and attempted to flee across the border into Canada, but they were caught and separated from one another, and Offred has seen neither her husband nor her daughter since. Aunt Lydia also argued that such a social order ultimately offers women more respect and safety than the old, pre-Gilead society offered them. Moira is brought to the Red Center, but she escapes, and Offred does not know what becomes of her. She takes shopping trips with Ofglen, another Handmaid, and they visit the Wall outside what used to be Harvard University, where the bodies of rebels hang. The first break from her routine occurs when she visits the doctor and he offers to have sex with her to get her pregnant, suggesting that her Commander is probably infertile. The doctor makes her uneasy, but his proposition is too risky—she could be sent away if caught. After a Ceremony, the Commander sends his gardener and chauffeur, Nick, to ask Offred to come see him in his study the following night. She begins visiting him regularly. They play Scrabble which is forbidden, since women are not allowed to read, and he lets her look at old magazines like Vogue. At the end of these secret meetings, he asks her to kiss him. Meanwhile, Offred begins to find that the Ceremony feels different and less impersonal now that she knows the Commander. Their nighttime conversations begin to touch on the new order that the Commander and his fellow leaders have created in Gilead. Offred sees Moira working there. The two women meet in a bathroom, and Offred learns that Moira was captured just before she crossed the border. The Commander takes Offred upstairs after a few hours, and they have sex in what used to be a hotel room. She tries to feign passion. Offred and Nick have sex. One day, all the Handmaids take part in a group execution of a supposed rapist, supervised by Aunt Lydia. Ofglen strikes the first blow. Later, she tells Offred that the so-called rapist was a member of Mayday and that she hit him to put him out of his misery. Shortly thereafter, Offred goes out shopping, and a new Ofglen meets her. This new woman is not part of Mayday, and she tells Offred that the old Ofglen hanged herself when she saw the secret police coming for her. Offred waits there, and she sees a black van from the Eyes approach. Then Nick comes in and tells her that the Eyes are really Mayday members who have come to save her. The novel closes with an epilogue from , after Gilead has fallen, written in the form of a lecture given by Professor Pieixoto. He explains the formation and customs of Gilead in objective, analytical language. She could have escaped to Canada or England, or she could have been recaptured.

Chapter 6 : The Handmaid's Tale - Season 2 - IMDb

Audie Award, Fiction, Margaret Atwood's popular dystopian novel The Handmaid's Tale explores a broad range of issues relating to power, gender, and religious politics.

Episode 1 June Offred reckons with the consequences of a dangerous decision while haunted by memories from her past and the violent beginnings of Gilead. Episode 2 Unwomen Offred adjusts to a new way of life. The arrival of an unexpected person disrupts the Colonies. A family is torn apart by the rise of Gilead. Episode 3 Baggage Offred reflects on her relationship with her mother as she navigates her way through Gilead. In Little America, Moira tries to cope with the trauma she endured. Offred reckons with the choice she made that led her to become a Handmaid. Episode 5 Seeds Offred spirals as a Gilead ceremony disrupts her relationship with Nick. Janine tries to adjust to life in the Colonies, jeopardizing her friendship with Emily. Episode 6 First Blood Offred finds unexpected allies and obstacles in her search for a way to protect Hannah. The Commander prepares for the dedication of a new Red Center. Nick struggles with his new assignment. Serena Joy makes a dangerous choice in order to protect her family. Moira searches for someone from her past. Episode 8 A sick baby tests Offred and Serena. Janine finally faces Naomi. Episode 9 Smart Power The Waterfords embark on a diplomatic trip abroad. Serena faces the temptation of life outside Gilead. Offred seeks support from allies. A frustrated Serena becomes desperate. The Commander tries to make amends with Offred. Nick pushes Eden farther away. Offred is faced with an unexpected reunion. Episode 11 Holly Offred faces a grueling challenge as she recalls her life as a mother. Serena Joy and the Commander deal with the fallout of their actions towards Offred. Episode 12 Offred is sent to a familiar place. Emily is assigned to a mysterious new house. Episode 13 The Word Serena and the other Wives strive to make change. Emily learns more about her new Commander. Offred faces a difficult decision.

Chapter 7 : The Handmaid's Tale (TV Series ") - IMDb

Warning: Contains spoilers for The Handmaid's Tale season 2, including the finale. The Handmaid's Tale season two has proved such a success for Hulu that the streaming service has already.

Chapter 8 : 5 ways "The Handmaid's Tale" is reality - The Lily

Offred adjusts to a new way of life. The arrival of an unexpected person disrupts the Colonies. A family is torn apart by the rise of Gilead.

Chapter 9 : The Handmaid's Tale season 3: Release date, cast, spoilers

The Handmaid's Tale is a episode dystopian drama series on Hulu.. Starring Elisabeth Moss, Samira Wiley, Joseph Fiennes, and Alexis Bledel, The Handmaid's Tale's dystopian narrative sets itself in the fictional Republic of Gilead, an authoritarian theocracy which comes to power in the United States of America.