

## **The Handmaid's Tale**

**Margaret Atwood**

**Reviewed by: Anika 16**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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Offred is a Handmaid in the religious Republic of Gilead, which used to be America, but is now drastically different. Women no longer can own property or accumulate knowledge. In fact, all the stores Offred shops at have pictures on their signs instead of words, since women are forbidden from reading. As a Handmaid, Offred has a vital duty to birth children for the Commander and his Wife to take care of. With a substantially declined population, newborns have an incredible importance to society. Which is why women have the sole purpose of creating them, along with being a servant. Things didn't used to be this way. Offred remembers a time where she used to have a job, money, knowledge, and a family of her own. A time where women were free to live life on their terms, but now everything has changed.

The Handmaid's Tale is an incredibly fascinating story, albeit a bit horrifying. Margaret Atwood creates a nightmarish dystopian world based off aspects in society today. With her subtle yet powerful writing, Atwood weaves a disturbing and convincing tale of what could happen to our society in the future. Her book makes way for deep discussions over religion, feminism, government, and so much more. Atwood created a world I couldn't even begin to fathom and that was certainly captivating. The Handmaid's Tale had a totalitarian society, cruel, but was something I could ignore. I could not bring myself to put this book down, being caught up in Offred's life and struggles.

Despite that, there are some things readers may not enjoy. First off, there is much violence and sex that occurs throughout the story. Some of which can be very graphic. There is also some bad language and topics some readers may take offense to. For these reasons, I would suggest this book for anyone 16 years or older. This book would make a great gift for all feminists, knowing that the story can spark great discussion.

### **Recommended Titles:**

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

The Testaments (Sequel to The Handmaid's Tale)

Animal Farm by George Orwell

1984 by George Orwell