



BOOK RESUME: THE HANDMAID'S TALE

BOOK SYNOPSIS

In Margaret Atwood's dystopian future, environmental disasters and declining birthrates have led to a Second American Civil War. The result is the rise of the Republic of Gilead, a totalitarian regime that enforces rigid social roles and enslaves the few remaining fertile women. Offred is one of these, a Handmaid bound to produce children for one of Gilead's commanders. Deprived of her husband, her child, her freedom, and even her own name, Offred clings to her memories and her will to survive. At once a scathing satire, an ominous warning, and a tour de force of narrative suspense, *The Handmaid's Tale* is a modern classic.

Title: The Handmaid's Tale

Author: Margaret Atwood

Imprint: Anchor

Publisher: Knopf

Doubleday Publishing
Group

On sale date: March 16,
1998

ISBN: 9780385490818

Format: Paperback

Grade Range: Classic

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"A novel that brilliantly illuminates some of the darker interconnections between politics and sex . . . Just as the world of Orwell's *1984* gripped our imaginations, so will the world of Atwood's handmaid!" —*The Washington Post Book World*

"*The Handmaid's Tale* deserves the highest praise." —*San Francisco Chronicle*

"Atwood takes many trends which exist today and stretches them to their logical and chilling conclusions . . . An excellent novel about the directions our lives are taking . . . Read it while it's still allowed." —*Houston Chronicle*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Finalist for the 1986 Booker Prize

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Why should you read "The Handmaid's Tale"? - Naomi R. Mercer](#)
- [Margaret Atwood: 'The Handmaid's Tale' is being read very differently now](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- [San Antonio area school board reverses ban on Handmaid's Tale \(2006\)](#)
- [Pennsylvania School Board Rescinds Ban of *The Handmaid's Tale* \(2014\)](#)
- [Atwood responds to book bans with 'unburnable' edition of Handmaid's Tale \(2022\)](#)

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Penguin Random House

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*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.