Gender & Relationships

‘The Handmaid’s Tale’ critics

- “dictates of state policy in Gilead thus relegate sex to a saleable commodity exchanged for mere minimal survival” - Malak
- “It’s not a matter of men against women” - Atwood
- “It's less remind us that, century after century, women have been complicit in their own undoing” - Ehrenreich
- “(the Commander) appears more pathetic than sinister, baffled than manipulative, almost, at times, a fool” - Malak

Rebellion

‘The Handmaid’s Tale’ critics

- “Neither compromise nor rebellion wins freedom” - Howells
- “(Ofred) is the victim of circumstances, not an active agent capable of directing the plot of her own life” - Bouson
- “(Ofred’s mother, Moira and Ofglen) seem to represent alternatives to the handmaid’s passivity. But the 'plot' of the novel...works to delegitimise these alternatives” - Dopp
- “Powerlessness and silence go together” - Atwood