

Gender & Relationships

'The Handmaid's Tale' critics

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Page 2 of 5

- * "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 does 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
- * "(Offred) 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