

In disagreement with the given statement, it can be argued that Commander does not in fact have as much privilege as readers assume. He displays a clear desire to have basic human interaction, displayed through their first encounter playing scrabble. This subverts the reader's original expectation for the Commander, and readers anticipate Offred's encounter with him, largely based on the fact that such meetings are illegal. Not only could Offred be in trouble, but also the Commander is consciously putting himself in a position of danger too, further emphasising how desperate he is for natural human affinity. His wish to merely play with Offred for the sake of basic entertainment is representative of his own dissatisfaction with the Gileadean Regime. Offred partaking in the game proves she is a form of his escapism from the totalitarian authority; this further proves that whilst he may not appear as much of a victim as Offred, he also struggles to stay subject to the harsh conditions imposed by the Gileadean regime, further humanising his image. A defining characteristic of the Commander is that he is polite; yet, he is simultaneously guilty of developing a society that forces women into institutional rape. Despite understanding that the Handmaid's Tale is of dystopian genre and therefore surreal, a speculation of an undesirable society, the juxtaposition used is intentional. Atwood wants the reader to realise that those who are responsible for the most egregious injustices are often not outwardly presented as evil, no matter their power and privilege.

Once again, the Commander is used as a tool to present male privilege. This is once again reflected at Jezebel's, where the Commander and Offred have sexual intercourse in a hotel room outside The Ceremony, a forbidden act. The Commander uses his power to coerce Offred into having sex with him. As The Commander starts to seduce Offred, she recognizes that his touch isn't sensual, but 'it means ownership'. 'Ownership' connotes possession, again reflecting how Offred is merely an instrument solely used for the pleasure of the Commander and he is her immediate agent of oppression. Despite his mistreatment of Offred, she reminds herself that the Commander is 'not a monster'; this reflects how women are expected to adhere to men's expectations and succumb to their desires with