



# BOOK RESUME: THE HANDMAID'S TALE (GRAPHIC NOVEL)

## 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.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Nault spectacularly transforms lines and color into fear, resignation, desperation, the tiniest glimmers of hope . . . most piercing throughout are her affecting use of color (red—'the colour of blood'—and its portentous hues of orange, crimson, rust) and scale (the indistinguishable handmaids trapped in plain sight). She adds softness when Offred recalls her past, with less-saturated colors for happier memories, thickened, darker lines for the repetitive nightmares." —*Booklist* (starred review)

## RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- ["Go Ahead and Ban My Book," \*The Atlantic\* \(2023\)](#)

**Title:** The Handmaid's Tale  
(Graphic Novel)

**Author:** Margaret Atwood

**Imprint:** Nan A. Talese

**Publisher:** Knopf  
Doubleday Publishing  
Group

**On sale date:** March 26,  
2019

**ISBN:** 9780385539241

**Format:** Hardcover

Updated 10-31-2024

Penguin Random House

Contact [BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com](mailto:BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com)

\*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.