

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF *THE HANDMAID'S TALE*

The Handmaid's Tale is set in the Republic of Gilead. Conservative Christians take control of the United States and establish a dictatorship. Most women in Gilead are infertile. The few fertile women are taken to camps and trained to be handmaidens for the upper-class people. No women in the Republic are permitted to be openly sexual; sex is for reproduction only.

The novel focuses on one handmaid, Offred (she is given the name of the man whose children she is expected to bear--she is of Fred). Offred is in the service of the General and his wife, Serena Joy. Serena Joy hates the fact that she is unable to bear children and hates Offred for taking her husband's seed. Offred does not become pregnant, but she does develop an unexpected relationship with the General. One night he dresses her in a cocktail dress and takes her to an illegal nightclub.

Serena Joy, desperate for having children, finally arranges for Offred to sleep with the chauffeur. The two are happy together; she thinks she is pregnant. Soon after, Serena Joy finds the cocktail dress the General gave to Offred. She knows her husband is to blame, but accuses Offred anyway and sends for the police to take her away to certain death. When the van arrives to take Offred

away, it is not driven by the police. Instead, it is driven by the rebels and she is carried to safety.

SYNOPSIS OF *FLESH AND BLOOD*

The story begins with Fred as the narrator. She is a woman who claims to have killed her mother. She goes to a shop where she tells a story about another woman. Then the story moves to another narrator named Freddy. Freddy is Fred as a young girl. She talks about her school life at the convent school, her first menstruation, her crush and her family.

After that, the story moves to Felicite, a young woman who has her first sex with her fiancé's friend, George. The story shifts again to another narrator, Eugenie, a girl who is willing to marry a sadistic man in order not to be brought back to her boarding-school.

The story continues to Federigo who talks about his sister, Bona. Then there is Rosa, who can see angel and Cherubina, an angel herself. Then the story appears to be stopped by the existence of *Anon* as the next chapter. This chapter is only filled with a poem. After that the story is like a rewind to finish the unclear story, first to Cherubina, who talks about the scholars and the whores, Rosa and Federigo. But then there is Marie-Jeanne, who happens to be Eugenie's mother. After that there is Georgina, a chapter that is made as if it is a play or a film and then there is Louise, the mother of Fred. Then the story ends with Frederica.

BIOGRAPHY OF MARGARET ATWOOD

Margaret Atwood was born in Ottawa, Canada, the second of three children. Her father was a forest entomologist. Part of her early years Atwood spent part in the bush of northern Quebec, where her father undertook research.

In 1946 Atwood' s family moved to Toronto. She was eleven before she attended full-time school. Atwood graduated from Leaside High School in 1959. She then studied at the University of Toronto. She won a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, and became a graduate student at Radcliffe College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, receiving her M.A. in 1962.

BIOGAPHY OF MICHELE ROBERTS

Novelist and poet Michele Roberts was born in Hertfordshire, England, on 20 May 1949 to a French Catholic mother and an English Protestant father. She was educated at a convent school before studying at Somerville College, Oxford, and University College, London. She worked as a librarian for the British Council in Bangkok (1973-4) and was Poetry Editor for *Spare Rib* (1974) and *City Limits* magazine (1981-3). She is the author of ten novels, including a tale of Victorian spirituality; *Flesh and Blood*. Michele Roberts was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1999. She lives in London and in Mayenne, France. She was awarded the Chevalier de l' Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (France) in 2000.