



Songs banned in Gilead

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Just Updated

Play

Shuffle



Forever Young
Alphaville



BLUE
Billie Eilish



Yellow
Coldplay



Fade into You
Mazzy Star



Pearls
Sade



Anyone Else But You



[Forever young](#): Alphaville

Forever Young by Alphaville was released in 1984. It tells a tale about the idea of being forever young. This song is dedicated to the commander's wife, Serena Joy. She is old, and does not have much going for her. In terms of her role in Gilead, she just simply exists. "She doesn't make speeches anymore. She has become speechless... It's no longer a flawless cut-paper profile, her face is sinking upon itself," (pg. 46). Offred then goes on to talk about how times robbed Serena, before she even knew it. To compare this Alphaville writes, "It's so hard to get old without a cause... Youths are like diamonds in the sun, and diamonds are forever." As a reader, we don't get to find out what Serena Joy is feeling, we only get to see her in the light offered describes her to us. We know she is old and bitter, we know she was once beautiful, and famous. But we can infer she misses how things were. Whether that be her youth, or how things were in the before times.

[Blue](#): Billie Eilish

Janine is a complex character. As handmaids they are always in competition with one another. *Blue* by Billie Eilish speaks to the complexity of Janine's world. "We don't hate you, but we can't save you" a line from the song transports me back to page 72, "Her fault, her fault, her fault, we all said in unison. Who led them on? Aunt Healena beams pleased with us. She did, she did, she did... Crybaby. Crybaby. Crybaby... I used to think well of myself, I didn't then". No matter how each individual handmaid felt at that time, they had no choice but to play along. This song not only made me think of Janine, but **her** baby. In *Blue*, Billie Eilish also writes, "you were born reaching for your mother's hand, a victim of your father's plan, to rule the world." This child has no idea the life they were born into, and Offred agrees when she states, "a girl, poor thing" (pg. 126). The line, "reaching for your mother's hand" also makes me think of the emotion Janine

could be feeling in that moment, and how the handmaids reacted. “ We stand between Janine and the bed. So she won’t have to see this.” (pg127).

[Yellow](#) : Coldplay

The thing that stands out to me the most throughout this series is Offred's unwillingness to let the things she loves go. This includes Luke, her daughter, and Moira. They are the main people who appear in many of her flashbacks. “ I would like to believe this is a story I am telling. I need to believe it. I must believe it.” (pg39). Offred drives herself insane, reflecting and trying to remember if her daughter is still alive. Even though as readers we speculate Luke is dead, Offred still refuses to let him go. She constantly thinks about him, he is always on her mind. Similarly with Moira, Offred holds up hope that she is okay. In *Yellow*, by Coldplay they write, “ You know, you know I love you so...You know, for you I’d bleed myself dry”. To me this indicates what I believe the love, and even obsession Offred has to the people she holds close to her heart.

[Fade Into you](#) : Mazzy Star

Offred's sense of self has diminished increasingly the more the series increases. “ I wait, washed, brushed, fed like a prize pig... I used to think of my body as an instrument, of pleasure, or a means of transportation., of an implement for the accomplishment of my will... Now the flesh arranges itself differently. I’m clouded congealed around a central object, the shape of a pear. “ (pg74). This shows how she sees herself, which was unusual for how she saw herself in the before times. *Fade into you* by Mazzy Star writes, “ I look to you and I see nothing, I look to you and see the truth.” These lines bring me back to the moments Offred has with her thoughts, when they dont put her in her hazy past. When she focuses on the now you get deeper feelings on how she truly sees herself. “ I look to you and see the truth” re;ates to offred when she talks about herself being nothing but a vessel. In terms of how society treats her that fact could have been a hard truth to swallow.

[Pearls](#) : Sade

Pearls by Sade tells the story of the war in Somalia. I would compare some of the deep feelings and ideas being brought out to Moira. Sade writes, “ she lives a life she didn’t choose, and it hurts like brand new shoes”. Even though being a handmaid is an option, Moira had thought it was all crazy. “ There's a force stronger than nature, that keeps her will alive. “ Sade writes again. “ Moira had power now, she’d been set loose, she’d set herself loose. She was now a loose woman.” (pg133). Nobody knows what aided to Moira's drive to be free, but something kept her going. With us not knowing what happened to her, we can only hope that she has a reason to keep going.