

~~Banbie~~



aunt Lydia



Handmaid



Martha



Commander's wife

The Handmaid's Tale reminds me of the Barbie movie. They are both stories that take place in made up lands where gender roles are very prominent. The difference between the two is that in the Handmaid's Tale, men play a more dominating role and women are treated very poorly. I tried to draw the Barbie logo with a drawn on X over it because Gilead is the complete opposite of Barbie land. In Barbie land women can be anything that they want to be and the women can work any job that they want. In chapter 28 Offred narrates "all those women having jobs; hard to imagine now, but thousands of them had jobs, millions" (173). This proves that Gilead is the opposite of Barbie land. In Gilead women couldn't even imagine working or having a career compared to Barbie land where women have the freedom to work as whatever they want.

Below the Barbie logo drawing I drew Aunt Lydia with a marker. It is supposed to look as if she is crossing out the Barbie logo herself. This is because Aunt Lydia plays the role of indoctrinating Gilead's beliefs and ideas to the Handmaids. Even though Aunt Lydia herself is a woman she too plays the role of suppressing women. In chapter 19 Aunt Lydia lectures to the handmaids about the before times and how women had access to abortion and birth control. To describe these women's decisions Aunt Lydia quotes "They were lazy women, she says. They were sluts" (113). Aunt Lydia uses strong words to describe her distaste for women who lived differently from her and she speaks with so much hostility, as the reader I felt personally offended reading this. This shows that Aunt Lydia is one of the many forces in Gilead that suppress women and she goes against the beliefs of Barbie land.

I also drew a picture of a Handmaid, a Martha, the Commander's wife, and above all of them I drew the Commander with a crown. I tried to replicate some form of a food chain. This is because the three women below the Commander do not have a lot of power as they are women and they are all there to fulfill a wife-like duty for the commander. The Handmaid should breed the Commander's children, Martha should cook and clean for the Commander, and the Commander's wife should act as a trophy wife. They all serve the Commander and that is why he is drawn above them with a crown, the Commander has the most power. I also drew the Commander with a pen like Aunt Lydia because I believe that he too agrees with the beliefs that oppress women in Gilead. The Commander has shown multiple times throughout the book that he has a lack of respect for women and does not care for the suffering that they are experiencing. When Offred questioned the Commander about how he feels about the role of Handmaids he says "This way they're protected, they can fulfill their biological destinies in peace" (220). This is grouping all women into one category and asserting that they must fulfill the role of maternity. The Commander says "biological destiny" meaning that he thinks any woman or person with a uterus is destined to be pregnant. He agrees with the sexist beliefs of Gilead and this comment also offended me.