



(I tried)

Artist Statement

I chose to do a visual representation of the scene when Offred bumps into Moira at the Commanders club, Jezebel's, and they talk about the events that took place prior to their meetup. This scene is so significant because Offred sees Moira after not seeing her for a long time, she did not know if she was alive. I wanted to highlight the differences between Moira and Offred and how Offred reacted to seeing her best friend in a place where she does not belong. In chapter 38, Offred sees Moira after she escapes. She had no idea where she was until she went to a club with the commander. She sees Moira in a skimpy outfit and is in genuine disbelief. Moira signals her to go to the bathroom and they meet. Offred is having a lot of mixed emotions seeing Moira like that. Moira is happy to see Offred.

Although Offred was in a skimpy outfit, given to her from the commander, I wanted to draw her in her usual handmaid's uniform. They are both in two different societies now, Offred in an oppressive society and Moira in a society that opposes Gilead's societal ideals. The outfits they both are wearing shows a huge difference in the societies they are in. If Moira wore that in Gilead, she would have been banished. I wanted to highlight Offred's reaction to seeing Moira. After Moira had explained how she ended up in the Commanders club, Offred seemed disappointed with how things played out. She says

“Here is what I'd like to tell. I'd like to tell a story about how Moira escaped, for good this time. Or if I couldn't tell that, I'd like to say she blew up Jezebel's, with fifty commanders inside it. I'd like her to end with something daring and spectacular, some outrage, something that would benefit

her. But as far as I know that didn't happen." (250)

Offred had higher expectations for Moira because of how she escaped Gilead. She wishes she could say that Moira escaped again and burned down the club because she is brave. Offred's thought bubbles represent what Offred had thought of Moira. The thought bubble of Moira with the crown shows how Offred looked up to Moira and wanted to be her because she escaped. We discussed in class that the Handmaids hated Moira but they aspire to be her. Offred says, "Moira was our fantasy" (133) when I read that quote, I imagined Moira as some kind of royalty and everyone respected her. She had done the impossible that nobody would have the guts to do. She tied up an Aunt and escaped. This led to Offred having high expectations of Moira because Offred saw her as a superhero who did the impossible. Which led to disappointment seeing Moira be sexualized in that way. I also imagined that Offred was thinking about the Pre Gilead times when they were still friends, it had been years since then. They both changed so much and went through a lot. It is hard to forget the memory of someone you are close with, when you first met them. I gave Offred a disappointed/ confused look to highlight how Offred saw Moira in that moment. I wanted to show Moira as a bit clueless but also happy to see Offred. Moira does not know what Offred is thinking, she is just happy to see her and acts like everything is normal at first. Then she explains everything, how she escaped, where she went, and where they are. At the end of the meet up, Offred never sees her again and she doesn't get the answers she wanted, Offred ends up being disappointed that Moira did not match her expectations of who she envisioned her to be.