

Rohan Kapoor

College English

C Band

Is Rebellion Justified

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One big idea that stands out to me is the theme of small acts of Rebellion, specifically when people have a feeling of being trapped. In chapter 31, Offred notices that the Commander is more relaxed around her, giving her some sense of control, even though she has minimal power. The commander begins to share some parts of his life with her and seeks some of her company. This is a strange advantage for Offred. This relates to situations where I didn't have much control over things but could still find a way to influence things. As I am applying to colleges, I have control over writing my essays and completing the essays but the colleges have control over whether they would let me in or not. Although this is a completely different situation than what is going on in *The Handmaid's Tale*, the idea of control is similar because you have some control over your actions but the other side has the larger control if they will let you in.

Offred's relationship with Nick starts to form another kind of rebellion. Throughout the book, especially in chapter 32, their relationship starts to grow and eventually starts out as a way to escape Gilead's rules. This gives Offred a sense of control over her emotions and her body. Their relationship might not be the best or the most ideal, but it matters in a world of fake rules and fake roles. This idea can relate to me when things are out of my control regarding

looking at college applications and there can be times when you will get into some colleges or not but there is always a positive outside to things.

By chapter 36, when the commander decides to take Offred to the Jezebels, she starts to see the commander as who he truly is. The Commander goes to secret places which shows the corruption of the rules in Gilead. Ofred starts to catch up to the fact that he is a part of the messed up Society that controls her. I used to look at one of my old tennis coaches when I was 11 years old as someone who would be there until I retired from the sport of tennis. I learnt a lot through the business of sports that tennis can sometimes be a business. People can use you to make money and I was who they profited from. It wasn't a good experience and it ruined a lot of my confidence.

Meeting Moira again in chapter 38 at Jezebel. is another major moment in the book. Moira used to always be the one who would always fight back and she was a role model and hero for Ofred. When I look at the story now, Moira seems to be broken like the rules of Gilead defeated her. This reminds me of how I thought one of my tennis idols Rafael Nadal was invincible. In reality, I watched him play once and he was making similar mistakes to me. Although this situation is completely different, it shows how our idols and heroes can also have their hardships.

These chapters in the book have shown how power and resistance are not always about the major actions. Ofred's small acts of rebellion, including her friendship with Nick and seeing through the commander's tactics. These ideas are starting to make me realize how important it is to keep a sense of yourself whenever something isn't going your way.