

## I Know Places by Taylor Swift

This song's lyrics reflect the emotions and thoughts of Offred and Luke as they try to secretly escape Gilead through fake IDs and jumping over the fence. I think the music and lyrics reflect the desperation and prey-predator nature of Gilead's authority over the people.

Lyrics	Quotes	Connection
<p>"It's a scene, and we're out here in plain sight I can hear them whisper as we pass by It's a bad sign, bad sign" ... "Loose lips sink ships all the damn time"</p>	<p>"We'll cross in the morning, drive over the bridge, easily, just like driving to the supermarket." <i>Page 85, Chapter 14</i></p> <p>"Even his singing worries me. We've been warned not to look too happy." <i>Page 85, Chapter 14</i></p> <p>"I wonder who told them. It could have been a neighbor, watching our car pull out from the driveway... tipping them off for a gold star on someone's list. It could've been the man who got us the passports; why not get paid twice?" <i>Page 193, Chapter 30</i></p>	<p>This lyric connects to the book as Offred talks about how her family were trying to escape <i>in plain sight</i>, "just like driving to the supermarket" and mentioning casual actions such as Luke singing that may have caused a scene as they are not things Gilead tolerates as normal and considered a <i>bad sign</i>. Adding on, on page 193, she mentions that neighbors or dealers will rat out those trying to escape and maybe they <i>whispered</i> about her family as they <i>passed by</i> in their car.</p>
<p>"Somethin' happens when everybody finds out"</p>	<p>"There are six more bodies hanging, by their necks, their hands tied in front of them." <i>Page 32, Chapter 6</i></p> <p>"There are three new bodies on the Wall... The two others have purple placards hung around their necks: Gender Treachery." <i>Page 43, Chapter 8</i></p>	<p>In Gilead, when a higher-up <i>finds out</i> there are fatal consequences or measures implemented (i.e. Going to the bathroom under a certain time). Additionally, someone ratted out Offred and her family, causing them to be caught and thrown into the world of Gilead.</p>
<p>"Cause they got the cages, they got the boxes, And guns They are the hunters, we are the foxes, And we run" ... "They'll be chasing their tails trying to track us down 'Cause I, I know places we can hide" ... "Lights flash and we'll run for the fences"</p>	<p>"After that there was the dirt road and the woods and we jumped out of the car and began to run. A cottage, to hide in, a boat, I don't know what we thought. ...Maybe he had a plan, a map of some kind in his head. As for me, I was only running: away, away." <i>Page 225, Chapter 35</i></p>	<p>These lyrics are specific to when Offred and Luke are escaping with their baby. Gilead are <i>the hunters</i> with the <i>boxes and guns</i> trying to capture <i>the foxes</i>, Offred, Luke, and their baby. Fittingly, foxes live in forests which is where they were running inside of to escape.</p>

## Doomsday by Lizzy McAlpine

This song reflects the life of a handmaid in Gilead. It shows the insensitive nature of how the handmaids are treated, feeling as if *Doomsday* is happening to them as they are strictly used as tools in order to conceive more children. However, we see some resilience and fight-back as there is a secret rebel group within the Handmaid's (Mayday) and Offred hanging on, desiring to plan an escape.

Lyrics	Quotes	Connection
<p>"Don't say that you'll always love me 'Cause you know I'd bleed myself dry for you Over and over again" ... "I'll feel like throwin' up You'll sit and stare Like a goddamn machine"</p>	<p>"The Commander's Wife looks down at the baby as if it's a bouquet of flowers: something she's won, a tribute.  It's the Wives who do the naming, around here.  We stand between Janine and the bed, so she won't have to see this. Someone gives her a drink of grape juice, I hope there's wine in it, she's still having the pains, for the afterbirth, she's crying helpless, burnt-out miserable tears." <i>Pages 126-127, Chapter 21</i></p>	<p>Due to her position as a handmaid, we know that Offred has to "bleed herself dry" in order to appease the higher ups in their desire of wanting children for the future of Gilead. We see during the birthing scene that everyone cares, pays more attention and praises the Commander's wife rather than Janine; the one who actually carried the baby and gave birth.</p>
<p>"Pull the plug, but be careful I don't wanna die too soon I think there's good in you somewhere I'll hang on 'til the chaos is through"</p>	<p>"The grapevine," she says. She pauses, looks sideways at me, I can sense the blur of white as her wings move. "There's a password," she Says. ... "Mayday" <i>Page 202, Chapter 31</i>  "I sit at the little table, eating creamed corn with a fork. I have a fork and a spoon, but never a knife. When there's meat they cut it up for me ahead of time, as if I'm lacking manual skills or teeth. I have both, however. That's why I'm not allowed a knife." <i>Page 228, Chapter 35</i></p>	<p>Even though the Handmaids are living a strict and miserable life, we see they are finding ways to rebel and keep alive a spark of normalcy (the past) by creating The Grapevine. We also see resilience in Offred, as she constantly plans and thinks of different ways she could acquire (or want to acquire) a weapon to escape, even though we know that she has a wandering mind.</p>
<p>"I'd like to plan out my part in this But you're such a narcissist ... I don't get a choice in the matter Why would I? It's only the death of me</p>	<p>"This is the heart of Gilead, where the war cannot intrude except on television. Where the edges are we aren't sure, they vary, according to the attacks and counterattacks; but this is the centre, where nothing moves. The Republic of Gilead, said Aunt Lydia, knows no bounds.</p>	<p>We know that Gilead is built on religion, God, and the Eyes. As well as the fact that the death of handmaids and people of lower positions are uncared for and everyone is separated from their loved ones so no one will show up to a funeral for people of lower power. We see this when Offred</p>

<p>Only the death of me” ... “The death of me was so quiet No friends and family allowed Only my murderer, you, and the priest”</p>	<p>Gilead is within you.” Page 23, Chapter 5</p>	<p>talks about how “unwomen” are simply shipped off outside of Gilead, without a care of what becomes of them afterwards.</p>
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### Back to Back by Amy Winehouse

This song reflects the relationship between the Commander and Offred, as well as their contrasting different statuses in Gilead due to their position and gender.

Lyrics	Quotes	Connection
<p>“He left no time to regret Kept his dick wet With his same old safe bet”</p>	<p>““Well, that’s what we call it, among ourselves. The Club.” “I thought this sort of thing was strictly forbidden,” I say. “Well, officially,” he says. “But everyone’s human, after all.”” Page 237, Chapter 37</p>	<p>This lyric embodies the fact that the Commander likes things of the past, and due to his higher power and position, he has access to forbidden items and scenes that people in lower positions of Gilead are unable to “look back on” or “enjoy.” We know the Commander is somewhat upset with the fact that “human” things are forbidden, but he’s not restricted like everyone else is.</p>
<p>“And my tears dry Get on without my guy You went back to what you knew So far removed From all that we went through And I tread a troubled track My odds are stacked I’ll go back to black”</p>	<p>“Why? He asked, as if he really didn’t know. Maybe he didn’t. It wasn’t the first time he gave evidence of being truly ignorant of the real conditions under which we lived.” Page 159, Chapter 27</p>	<p>We haven’t had many instances where Offred has cried or broken down in her circumstances, meaning her tears are dry as she boxes herself in her situation. She doesn’t have Luke and is restricted from forbidden things that she had access to in her past life, <i>going back to black</i>, while the Commander is unaware of her struggles (and others) as a handmaid.</p>

## Erase Me by Lizzy McAlpine

This song represents the relationship between the Commander and Offred, how she's enjoying the forbidden things she now has access to because of him but also having conflicting feelings as she wants and knows Luke as her lover as she is merely using the Commander to survive.

Lyrics	Quotes	Connection
<p>"I don't know his name, but I still taste the rum"</p>	<p>"When I kiss him goodnight, as if I mean it, his breath smells of alcohol, and I breathe it in like smoke. I admit I relish it, this lick of dissipation." <i>Page 209, Chapter 32</i></p>	<p>Offred takes in the smell of alcohol from the Commander as she doesn't have access to it. She also does not know his name.</p>
<p>"Don't answer me, I'm calling just to hear you scream And you're fading, but he feels like you in between I've said too much, in and out of wanting us Now you're fading, and I wonder who will erase me?"</p>	<p>"I wanted to feel Luke lying beside me. I have them, these attacks of the past, like faintness, a wave sweeping over my head. ... I wanted to feel Luke lying beside me, but there wasn't room." <i>Page 52, Chapter 9</i></p> <p>"I try to conjure, to raise my own spirits, from wherever they are. I need to remember what they look like. I try to hold them still behind my eyes, their faces, like pictures in an album. But they won't stay still for me, they move, there's a smile and it's gone, their features curl and bend as if the paper's burning, blackness eats them." <i>Page 193, Chapter 30</i></p>	<p>We see a battle in Offred's mind as she wants to stay loyal to Luke, however, because of her situation and the need to survive in the society of Gilead, she has to "betray" him by getting close with the Commander. So in a way now, because of her "arrangements" with the Commander, he is essentially her lover but she cannot and does not want to replace Luke with the Commander.</p> <p>(Connecting with <i>Page 192, Chapter 30</i> below)</p>

### Nobody New by The Marías

This song reflects the melancholy of Offred's thoughts about Luke, wishing he was alive and able to save her. We know she wishes that they will end up together as lovers once more in the future even though she knows that that possibility is unlikely. She often goes back and forth between the men she currently has in her life, the Commander, Nick, and then thinks back to Luke.

Lyrics	Quotes	Connection
<p>“Every day, I wake up missing you Wishing that I were to be in your bed By your side, tell me that you'll wait for me, patiently No one else taking all my time, holding out for you”</p>	<p>“What has happened to me, what's happening to me now, won't make any difference to him, he loves me anyway, he knows it isn't my fault.  But I believe in all of them, all three versions of Luke, at one and the same time.” <i>Page 106, Chapter 19</i></p>	<p>Offred states that the handmaids have a lot of time to waste as they aren't really allowed to do much other than their duty and some household chores, thus making more time to reflect and think. She thinks of Luke, the alternate versions of which he lives or dies and wishing that he will be able to save her and be with her in the end.</p>
<p>“Baby, I promise There's nobody new I'm being honest There's no one like you”</p>	<p>“What the Commander said is true. One and one and one and one doesn't equal four. Each one remains unique, there is no way of joining them together. They cannot be exchanged, one for the other. They cannot replace each other. Nick for Luke or Luke for Nick.” <i>Page 192, Chapter 30</i></p>	<p>Even though Offred has arrangements with the Commander, she constantly thinks about Luke and how she cannot use the current men in her life to replace them (the Commander and Nick).</p>
<p>“What difference does it make if I can't forget about you? I ask God to make me happy without having you.”</p>	<p>“It's this message, which may never arrive, that keeps me alive. I believe in the message.  Does Luke hope?” <i>Page 106, Chapter 19</i></p>	<p>We know Luke is prominently in her mind throughout the whole story, she is unable to forget him and she hopes he is thinking about her as well. And even though Offred is indoctrinated into the religion and beliefs of Gilead, she still prays and hopes that Luke is alive and safe.</p>