

# UNDER HIS EYE, BEYOND HIS REACH

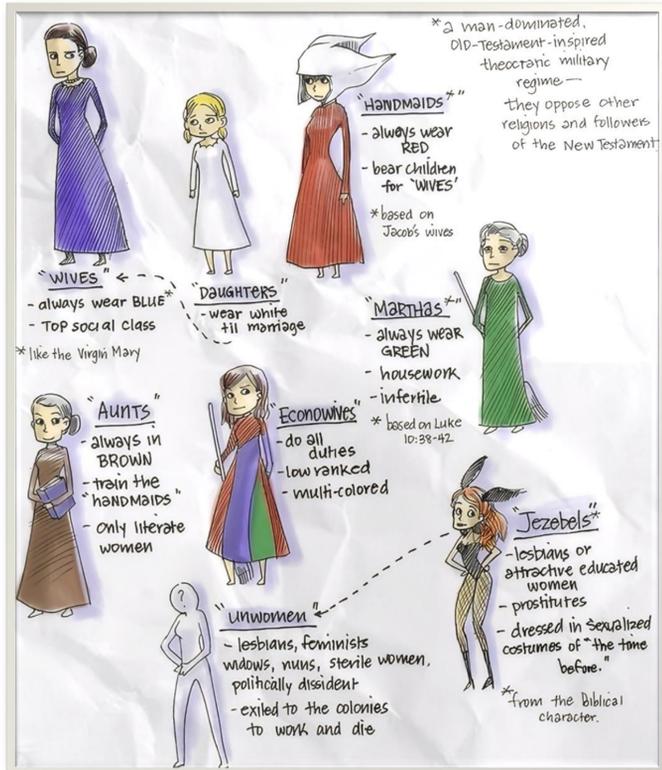
## Posthuman Resistance in Atwood's Gilead

*"Nolite te Bastardes Carborundonum"*

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### Gilead as Posthuman Laboratory

- Theocratic state turned biopolitical experiment
- Humanism's exclusions laid bare
- Radical dehumanization fosters posthuman resistance



Types of Women in Gilead (Courtesy: Pinterest)

### Agents of Resistance

- Offred: fragmented storytelling as 'situated knowledge' preserving erased histories through quiet testimony
- Agnes: sees through Gilead's lies through her body's 'forbidden' experiences – becomes a 'mini brain' in Mayday network
- Aunt Lydia: resistor posing as enforcer – uses her position to gain intelligence and shield allies

### Situated Knowledge, Networked Subversion

- Haraway's framework – knowledge from margins offer accountable truths
- Braidotti's relationality – vulnerability as basis for ethics of care
- Mayday as heterogeneous assemblage – Aunt Lydia strategizes, Agnes observes, Daisy connects to external aid – each a 'mini brain' in a larger posthuman network
- Characters embody multiplicity creating openings for disruption
- Mayday network not just escape but chain of care – hidden archives preserving truths for future

### Biopower & End of Subjectivity

- Regime's right to "make live or let die" (Foucault) fixes value on reproductive capacity
- Handmaids bear children for infertile Wives monitored by patriarchal Aunts – state-enforced version of Bartky's objectification of women's bodies
- "Under His Eye" – panoptic surveillance with the gaze turning inwards – indoctrination enforces discipline even in isolation
- Mechanization of Fertility – Doctors prioritize State goals over health
- No legal personhood – exiled to toxic Colonies if deemed useless to the State



A fanart for *The Handmaid's Tale* (Courtesy: Pinterest)



A still from Hulu's TV Series *The Handmaid's Tale* embodying Gilead's motto "Under His Eyes"

### Lessons in Posthuman Triumph

and

### A Poetics of Posthuman Care

- Regime's fatal flaw – ignoring embodied interdependence, concentrating women into networks that inevitably turn against State through relational work
- Atwood's enduring call – move beyond humanism's narrow ideals to posthuman forms of community rooted in affect, ethics of care, and shared vulnerability

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