

# The Handmaid S Tale Sparknotes Literature Guide S

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## AMARIS STEPHANIE

### All Are Welcome: Give What You Can

Vintage Canada  
 From the author of the New York Times bestselling novels *The Handmaid's Tale*—now an Emmy Award-winning Hulu original series—and *Alias Grace*, now a Netflix original series. Imprisoned by walls of their own construction, here are three people, each in midlife, in midcrisis, forced to make choices—after the rules have changed. Elizabeth, with her controlled sensuality, her suppressed rage, is married to the wrong man. She has just lost her latest lover to suicide. Nate, her gentle, indecisive husband, is planning to leave her for Lesje, a perennial innocent who prefers dinosaurs to men. Hanging

over them all is the ghost of Elizabeth's dead lover...and the dizzying threat of three lives careening inevitably toward the same climax.

### The Maid

Vintage Canada  
 A work of fantasy, *I Who Have Never Known Men* is the haunting and unforgettable account of a near future on a barren earth where women are kept in underground cages guarded by uniformed groups of men. It is narrated by the youngest of the women, the only one with no memory of what the world was like before the cages, who must teach herself, without books or sexual contact, the essential human emotions of longing, loving, learning, companionship, and dying. Part thriller, part mystery, *I Who Have Never Known Men* shows us the power of one person without memories to reinvent herself piece by piece, emotion by emotion, in the process teaching us

much about what it means to be human.

### The Robber Bride

Spark Notes  
 Mueller takes an unflinching look at the alienation and complexity of a rapidly changing Eastern Europe, focusing on a group of young friends in Ceausescu's Romania.

### The Future of Another Timeline

Wednesday Books

From the bestselling author of *The Handmaid's Tale* and *The Testaments*—a thrilling, funny, and thought-provoking collection of stories that affirms Atwood as our greatest creator of worlds—and as an incisive chronicler of our darkest impulses. “Alphinland,” the first of three loosely linked tales, introduces us to a fantasy writer who is guided through a stormy winter evening by the voice of her late husband. In “Lusus Naturae,” a young woman, monstrously transformed by a genetic defect, is mistaken for a vampire.

And in the title story, a woman who has killed four husbands discovers an opportunity to exact vengeance on the first man who ever wronged her. *Stone Mattress* is a collection of unforgettable tales that reveal the grotesque, delightfully wicked facets of humanity.

**Iron Widow** Bloomsbury Publishing USA  
Now a Hulu series starring Elizabeth Moss. *The Handmaid's Tale* is an instant classic and eerily prescient cultural phenomenon, from "the patron saint of feminist dystopian fiction" (New York Times) *The Handmaid's Tale* is a novel of such power that the reader will be unable to forget its images and its forecast. Set in the near future, it describes life in what was once the United States and is now called the Republic of Gilead, a monotheocracy that has reacted to social unrest and a sharply declining birthrate by reverting to, and going beyond, the repressive intolerance of the original Puritans. The regime takes the Book of Genesis absolutely at its word, with bizarre consequences for the women and men in its population. The story is told through the eyes of Offred, one of the unfortunate Handmaids under the new social order. In condensed but eloquent prose, by turns cool-eyed, tender, despairing, passionate, and wry, she reveals to us the dark corners behind the establishment's calm facade, as certain tendencies now in existence are carried to their logical conclusions. *The Handmaid's Tale* is funny, unexpected, horrifying, and altogether convincing. It is at once scathing satire, dire warning, and a tour de force. It is Margaret Atwood at her best.

**The Scarlet Letter** Anchor

A young woman living in a rigid, puritanical society discovers dark powers within herself in this stunning, feminist fantasy debut. In the lands of Bethel, where the Prophet's word is law, Immanuelle Moore's very existence is blasphemy. Her mother's union with an outsider of a different race cast her once-proud family into disgrace, so Immanuelle does her best to worship the Father, follow Holy Protocol, and lead a life of submission, devotion, and absolute conformity, like all the other women in the settlement. But a mishap lures her into the forbidden Darkwood surrounding Bethel, where the first prophet once chased and killed four powerful witches. Their spirits are still lurking there, and they bestow a gift on Immanuelle: the journal of her dead mother, who Immanuelle is shocked to learn once sought sanctuary in the wood. Fascinated by the secrets in the diary, Immanuelle finds herself struggling to understand how her mother could have consorted with the witches. But when she

begins to learn grim truths about the Church and its history, she realizes the true threat to Bethel is its own darkness. And she starts to understand that if Bethel is to change, it must begin with her.

*The Handmaid's Tale* *The Handmaid's Tale* Instant New York Times No.1 Bestseller. A YA Pacific Rim meets the *Handmaid's Tale* retelling of the rise of Wu Zetian, the only female emperor in Chinese history. I have no faith in love. Love cannot save me. I choose vengeance. The boys of Huaxia dream of pairing up with girls to pilot Chrysalises – giant transforming robots that battle aliens beyond the Great Wall. It doesn't matter that their female co-pilots are expected to serve as concubines and often die from the mental strain. When 18-year-old Zetian offers herself up as a concubine-pilot, her plan is to assassinate the ace male pilot responsible for her sister's death. But after miraculously surviving her first battle, Zetian sets her sights on a mightier goal. The time has come to stop more girls from being sacrificed. 'This is the historical-inspired, futuristic sci-fi mash-up of my wildest dreams.' Chloe Gong 'Raging against the patriarchy in spectacular style.' Observer, best books of the year 'Zetian is unstoppable, and I dare you not to cheer her on.' Elizabeth Lim, author of *Spin the Dawn*

*Sin Eater* Librofilio

"For fans of *The Handmaid's Tale*...a debut novel with a dark setting and an unforgettable heroine...is a riveting depiction of hard-won female empowerment" (The Washington Post).

*The Sin Eater* walks among us, unseen, unheard Sins of our flesh become sins of Hers Following Her to the grave, unseen, unheard *The Sin Eater Walks Among Us*. For the crime of stealing bread, fourteen-year-old May receives a life sentence: she must become a Sin Eater—a shunned woman, brutally marked, whose fate is to hear the final confessions of the dying, eat ritual foods symbolizing their sins as a funeral rite, and thereby shoulder their transgressions to grant their souls access to heaven. Orphaned and friendless, apprenticed to an older Sin Eater who cannot speak to her, May must make her way in a dangerous and cruel world she barely understands. When a deer heart appears on the coffin of a royal governess who did not confess to the dreadful sin it represents, the older Sin Eater refuses to eat it. She is taken to prison, tortured, and killed. To avenge her death, May must find out who placed the deer heart on the coffin and why. "Very much reminiscent of *The Handmaid's Tale*...it transcends its historical roots to give us a modern

heroine" (Kirkus Reviews). "A novel as strange as it is captivating" (BuzzFeed), *The Sin Eater* "is a treat for fans of feminist speculative fiction" (Publishers Weekly) and "exactly what historical fiction lovers have unknowingly craved" (New York Journal of Books).

**The Year of the Flood** HarperCollins

As portrayed in Homer's *Odyssey*, Penelope - wife of Odysseus and cousin of the beautiful Helen of Troy - has become a symbol of wifely duty and devotion, enduring twenty years of waiting when her husband goes to fight in the Trojan War. As she fends off the attentions of a hundred greedy suitors, travelling minstrels regale her with news of Odysseus' epic adventures around the Mediterranean - slaying monsters and grappling with amorous goddesses. When Odysseus finally comes home, he kills her suitors and then, in an act that served as little more than a footnote in Homer's original story, inexplicably hangs Penelope's twelve maids. Now, Penelope and her chorus of wronged maids tell their side of the story in a new stage version by Margaret Atwood, adapted from her own wry, witty and wise novel. *The Penelopiad* premiered with the Royal Shakespeare Company in association with Canada's National Arts Centre at the Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, in July 2007.

**Desdemona** Penguin

"A Modest Proposal" by Jonathan Swift is a satirical masterpiece that employs biting wit and irony to address the pressing issue of poverty and overpopulation in 18th-century Ireland. Swift's proposal, presented in a straightforward and logical manner, suggests a shocking and absurd solution to the problem: the consumption of infants. As readers delve into this essay, they quickly realize that Swift's proposal is not to be taken seriously but is a scathing critique of British policies and their detrimental impact on Ireland. Swift adopts the persona of a rational economist to highlight the callousness of the British ruling class towards the impoverished Irish population. Swift's brilliant use of irony and satire forces readers to confront the harsh realities faced by the Irish under British rule. The essay serves as a scathing indictment of colonialism and the exploitation of the Irish people. "A Modest Proposal" is a timeless work of political satire that continues to be studied and admired for its sharp critique of social injustice. It challenges readers to think critically about the consequences of economic and political policies and the importance of empathy and compassion in addressing societal issues. Delve into the world of Swift's biting satire and discover

the power of literature to provoke thought and ignite change. "A Modest Proposal" remains a compelling and thought-provoking piece that resonates with readers concerned with social justice and political commentary. ABOUT THE AUTHOR Jonathan Swift (1667-1745) was an Irish satirist, essayist, poet, and cleric, best known for his works that blend sharp wit with social commentary. Born in Dublin, Ireland, Swift is celebrated for his satirical writings, including "Gulliver's Travels," a biting critique of society and politics. Swift's writing style is characterized by his use of irony, humor, and allegory to criticize the shortcomings of the human condition and the follies of his era. "Gulliver's Travels" remains one of the most enduring and widely read satirical novels in English literature. In addition to his literary contributions, Swift was also a clergyman and served as Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. His multifaceted career and his ability to use humor as a tool for social commentary have cemented his place as one of the foremost satirists in literary history. Swift's legacy lives on through his timeless works, which continue to be studied and enjoyed for their insightful and entertaining critiques of society.

#### **The Year of the Witching** Penguin

In the mid-21st century, a young woman in Texas awakens to a nightmare: her skin has been genetically altered, turned bright red as punishment for the crime of having an abortion. A powerful reimagining of *The Scarlet Letter*, *When She Woke* is a timely fable about a stigmatized woman struggling to navigate an America of the not-too-distant future, where the line between church and state has been eradicated, and convicted felons are no longer imprisoned and rehabilitated but "chromed" and released back into the population to survive as best they can. In seeking a path northward to safety, through an alien and hostile world, Hannah unknowingly embarks on a journey of self-discovery that forces her to question the values she once held true and the righteousness of a country that politicizes faith and love.

#### **Born to Run** Faber & Faber

From the author of the New York Times bestselling novels *The Handmaid's Tale*—now an Emmy Award-winning Hulu original series—and *Alias Grace*, now a Netflix original series. A powerfully and brilliantly crafted novel, *Bodily Harm* is the story of Rennie Wilford, a young journalist whose life has begun to shatter around the edges. Rennie flies to the Caribbean to recuperate, and on the tiny island of St. Antoine she is confronted by a world

where her rules for survival no longer apply. By turns comic, satiric, relentless, and terrifying, Margaret Atwood's *Bodily Harm* is ultimately an exploration of the lust for power, both sexual and political, and the need for compassion that goes beyond what we ordinarily mean by love. *The Handmaid's Tale* Simon and Schuster In this sequel to the New York Times bestseller *99 Days*, perfect for fans of Jenny Han and Morgan Matson, Molly Barlow finds herself in Europe on her summer vacation, desperately trying to forget everything that happened a year ago. But over the course of nine days and nine nights, her whole life will be turned upside down once more. . . . Molly Barlow isn't that girl anymore. A business major at her college in Boston, she's reinvented herself after everything that went down a year ago... After all the people she hurt and the family she tore apart. Slowly, life is getting back to normal. Molly has just said I love you to her new boyfriend, Ian, and they are off on a romantic European vacation together, starting with scenic London. But there on a tube platform, the past catches up to her in the form of Gabe, her ex, traveling on his own parallel vacation with new girlfriend Sadie. After comparing itineraries, Ian ends up extending an invite for Gabe and Sadie to join them on the next leg of their trip, to Ireland. And Molly and Gabe can't bring themselves to tell the truth about who they once were to each other to their new significant others. Now Molly has to spend 9 days and 9 nights with the boy she once loved, the boy whose heart she shredded, without Ian knowing. Will she make it through as new and improved Molly, or will everything that happened between her and Gabe come rushing back?

#### *The Land of Green Plums* Seven Stories Press

"Ten days after the war ended, my sister Laura drove a car off a bridge." These words are spoken by Iris Chase Griffen, married at eighteen to a wealthy industrialist but now poor and eighty-two. Iris recalls her far from exemplary life, and the events leading up to her sister's death, gradually revealing the carefully guarded Chase family secrets. Among these is "The Blind Assassin," a novel that earned the dead Laura Chase not only notoriety but also a devoted cult following. Sexually explicit for its time, it was a pulp fantasy improvised by two unnamed lovers who meet secretly in rented rooms and seedy cafés. As this novel-within-a-novel twists and turns through love and jealousy, self-sacrifice and betrayal, so does the real narrative, as both move closer to war and catastrophe. Margaret Atwood's Booker

Prize-winning sensation combines elements of gothic drama, romantic suspense, and science fiction fantasy in a spellbinding tale.

#### *Who Have Never Known Men* Emblem Editions

\*BELLETRIST'S AUGUST 2020 BOOK PICK\* "[Mackintosh's] writing is clear and sharp, with piercing moments of wisdom and insight that drive toward a pitch-perfect ending...Blue Ticket adds something new to the dystopian tradition set by Orwell's 1984 or Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*." --New York Times Book Review From the author of the Man Booker Prize longlisted novel *The Water Cure* ("ingenious and incendiary"--*The New Yorker*) comes another mesmerizing, refracted vision of our society: What if the life you're given is the wrong one? Calla knows how the lottery works. Everyone does. On the day of your first bleed, you report to the station to learn what kind of woman you will be. A white ticket grants you marriage and children. A blue ticket grants you a career and freedom. You are relieved of the terrible burden of choice. And once you've taken your ticket, there is no going back. But what if the life you're given is the wrong one? When Calla, a blue ticket woman, begins to question her fate, she must go on the run. But her survival will be dependent on the very qualities the lottery has taught her to question in herself and on the other women the system has pitted against her. Pregnant and desperate, Calla must contend with whether or not the lottery knows her better than she knows herself and what that might mean for her child. An urgent inquiry into free will, social expectation, and the fraught space of motherhood, *Blue Ticket* is electrifying in its raw evocation of desire and riveting in its undeniable familiarity.

#### **Hag-Seed** Emblem Editions

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • GOOD MORNING AMERICA BOOK CLUB PICK • "A heartwarming mystery with a lovable oddball at its center" (Real Simple), this cozy whodunit introduces a one-of-a-kind heroine who will steal your heart. FINALIST FOR THE EDGAR® AWARD • "The reader comes to understand Molly's worldview, and to sympathize with her longing to be accepted—a quest that gives *The Maid* real emotional heft."—*The New York Times* Book Review (Editors' Choice) "Think Clue. Think page-turner."—*Glamour* ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: Reader's Digest WINNER: The Anthony Award, The Fingerprint Award, The Barry Award In development as a major motion picture produced by and starring Florence Pugh Molly Gray is not like everyone else. She

struggles with social skills and misreads the intentions of others. Her gran used to interpret the world for her, codifying it into simple rules that Molly could live by. Since Gran died a few months ago, twenty-five-year-old Molly has been navigating life's complexities all by herself. No matter—she throws herself with gusto into her work as a hotel maid. Her unique character, along with her obsessive love of cleaning and proper etiquette, make her an ideal fit for the job. She delights in donning her crisp uniform each morning, stocking her cart with miniature soaps and bottles, and returning guest rooms at the Regency Grand Hotel to a state of perfection. But Molly's orderly life is upended the day she enters the suite of the infamous and wealthy Charles Black, only to find it in a state of disarray and Mr. Black himself dead in his bed. Before she knows what's happening, Molly's unusual demeanor has the police targeting her as their lead suspect. She quickly finds herself caught in a web of deception, one she has no idea how to untangle. Fortunately for Molly, friends she never knew she had unite with her in a search for clues to what really happened to Mr. Black—but will they be able to find the real killer before it's too late? A Clue-like, locked-room mystery and a heartwarming journey of the spirit, *The Maid* explores what it means to be the same as everyone else and yet entirely different—and reveals that all mysteries can be solved through connection to the human heart. ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *Glamour*, *Elle*, *PopSugar*, *Newsweek*, *Mental Floss*, *She Reads*, *Kirkus Reviews*

**Margaret Atwood** Ballantine Books  
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**The Heart Goes Last** Anchor

From the bestselling author of *The Handmaid's Tale* and *The Testaments*—one of Margaret Atwood's most unforgettable characters lurks at the center of this intricate novel like a spider in a web. The glamorous, irresistible, unscrupulous Zenia is nothing less than a fairy-tale villain in the memories of her former friends. Roz, Charis, and Tony—university classmates decades ago—were reunited at Zenia's funeral and have met monthly for lunch ever since, obsessively retracing the destructive swath she once cut through their lives. A brilliantly inventive fabulist, Zenia had a talent for exploiting her friends' weaknesses, wielding intimacy as a weapon and cheating them of money, time, sympathy, and men. But one day, five years after her funeral, they are shocked to catch sight of Zenia: even her death appears to have been yet another fiction. As the three women plot to confront their larger-than-life nemesis, Atwood proves herself a gleefully acute observer of the treacherous shoals of friendship, trust, desire, and power. Vintage Canada

A stunning and provocative new novel by the internationally celebrated author of *The Blind Assassin*, winner of the Booker Prize. Margaret Atwood's new novel is so utterly compelling, so prescient, so relevant, so terrifyingly-all-too-likely-to-be-true, that readers may find their view of the world forever changed after reading it. This is Margaret Atwood at the absolute peak of her powers. For readers of *Oryx and Crake*, nothing will ever look the same again. The narrator of Atwood's riveting novel calls himself Snowman. When the story opens, he is sleeping in a tree, wearing an old bedsheet, mourning the loss of his beloved Oryx and his best friend Crake, and slowly starving to death. He

searches for supplies in a wasteland where insects proliferate and pigeons and wolvoogs ravage the pleeblands, where ordinary people once lived, and the Compounds that sheltered the extraordinary. As he tries to piece together what has taken place, the narrative shifts to decades earlier. How did everything fall apart so quickly? Why is he left with nothing but his haunting memories? Alone except for the green-eyed Children of Crake, who think of him as a kind of monster, he explores the answers to these questions in the double journey he takes - into his own past, and back to Crake's high-tech bubble-dome, where the Paradise Project unfolded and the world came to grief. With breathtaking command of her shocking material, and with her customary sharp wit and dark humour, Atwood projects us into an outlandish yet wholly believable realm populated by characters who will continue to inhabit our dreams long after the last chapter.

[A modest proposal](#) Random House  
Celebrate the act of giving with the beloved characters from the beloved bestseller *All Are Welcome!* This Step 2 early reader is perfect for emerging readers who are learning to give back to their communities. Get together, lend a hand. Can we do it? Yes, we can! The kids from *All Are Welcome* are working together to give back to their community. How do they do it? By gathering a team to follow a dream and lending a hand when someone is in need. Step 2 readers use basic vocabulary and short sentences to tell simple stories. They are ideal for children who recognize familiar words and can sound out new words with help. Perfect for children who are ready to read on their own!

Best Sellers - Books :

- [Things We Never Got Over \(knockemout\) By Lucy Score](#)
- [A Court Of Silver Flames \(a Court Of Thorns And Roses, 5\) By Sarah J. Maas](#)
- [Fast Like A Girl: A Woman's Guide To Using The Healing Power Of Fasting To Burn Fat, Boost Energy, And Balance Hormones By Dr. Mindy Pelz](#)
- [Fahrenheit 451](#)
- [The Inmate: A Gripping Psychological Thriller](#)
- [The Housemaid](#)
- [I Love You To The Moon And Back](#)
- [A Court Of Wings And Ruin \(a Court Of Thorns And Roses, 3\) By Sarah J. Maas](#)
- [Twisted Love \(twisted, 1\)](#)
- [Dog Man: Twenty Thousand Fleas Under The Sea: A Graphic Novel \(dog Man #11\): From The Creator Of Captain Underpants By Dav Pilkey](#)