



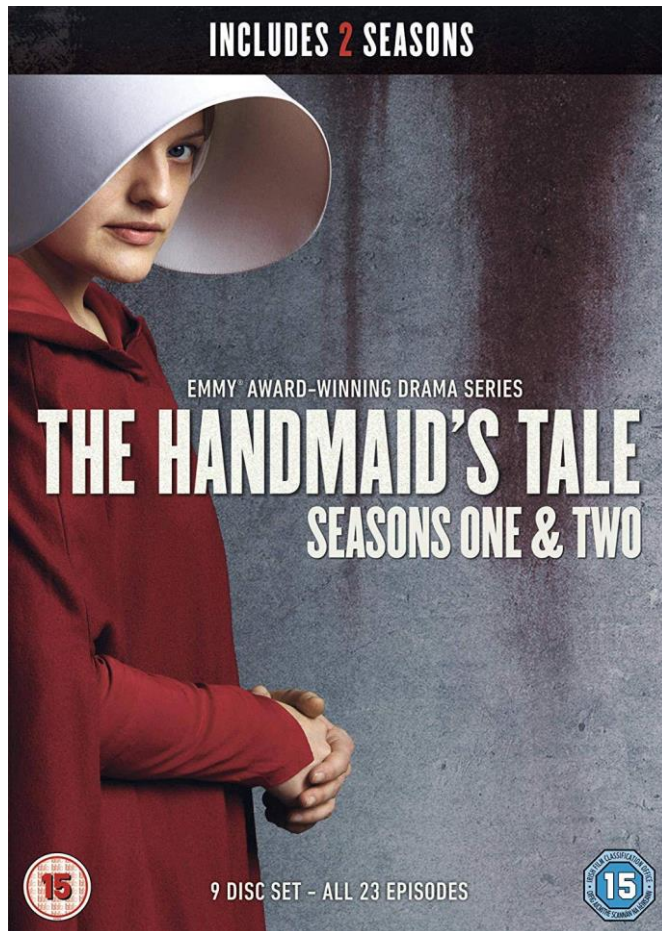
Margaret Atwood

(18 Nov 1939- present)

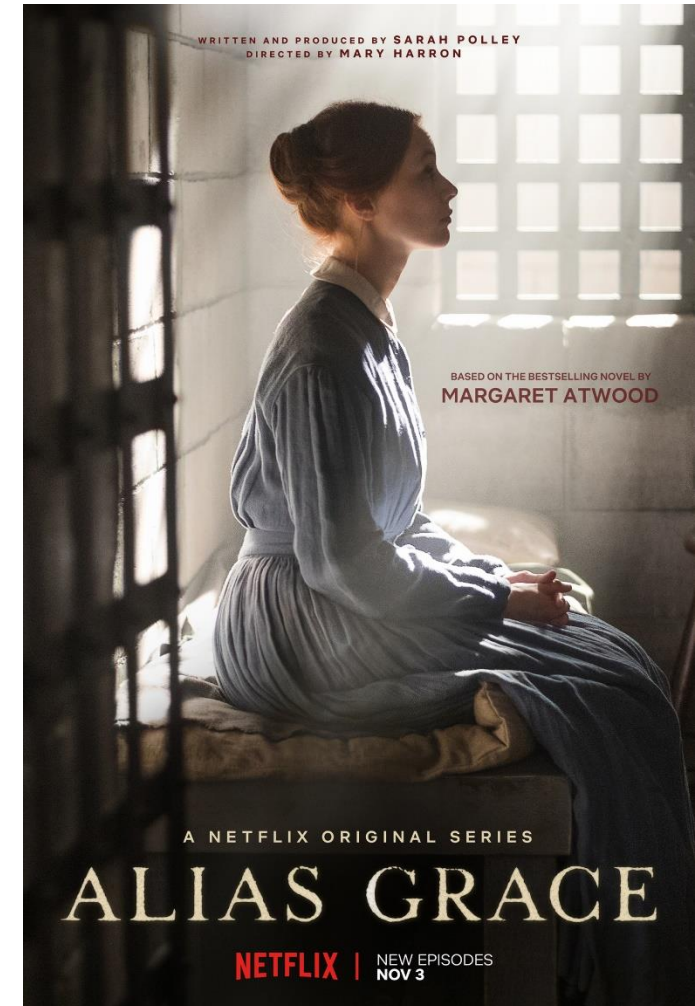
Margaret Eleanor Atwood is a Canadian poet, novelist, literary critic, essayist, inventor, teacher, and environmental activist. Since 1961, she has published 18 books of poetry, 18 novels, 11 books of non-fiction, nine collections of short fiction, eight children's books, and two graphic novels, as well as a number of small press editions of both poetry and fiction. Atwood has won numerous awards and honours for her writing, including the Booker Prize (twice), Arthur C. Clarke Award, Governor General's Award, Franz Kafka Prize, and the National Book Critics and PEN Center USA Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Atwood is also the inventor and developer of the 'LongPen' and associated technologies that facilitate remote robotic writing of documents. In 2004, Atwood conceived the concept of a remote robotic writing technology to enable a person to remotely write in ink anywhere in the world via tablet PC and the Internet.





A number of her works have been adapted for film and television, increasing her exposure. Most recently the popular TV production of *The Handmaid's Tale*.



Atwood's works encompass a variety of themes including gender and identity, religion and myth, the power of language, climate change, and 'power politics'.

Atwood's work has been of interest to feminist literary critics, despite Atwood's unwillingness at times to apply the label feminist to her works. Starting with the publication of her first novel, *The Edible Woman*, Atwood asserted, 'I don't consider it feminism; I just consider it social realism.' Despite her rejection of the label at times, critics have analysed the sexual politics, use of myth and fairy-tale, and gendered relationships in her work through the lens of feminism. She later clarified her discomfort with the label feminism by stating, 'I always want to know what people mean by that word [feminism]. Some people mean it quite negatively, other people mean it very positively, some people mean it in a broad sense, and other people mean it in a more specific sense. Therefore, in order to answer the question, you have to ask the person what they mean.' In an interview with Penguin Books, Atwood stated that the driving question throughout her writing of *The Handmaid's Tale* was 'If you were going to shove women back into the home and deprive them of all of these gains that they thought they had made, how would you do it?', but related this question to totalitarianism, not feminism.