

THE HANDMAID'S TALE Episode Guide

Episodes 001–064

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Season One

Offred

Season 1

Episode Number: 1

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Wednesday April 26, 2017
Writer: Bruce Miller
Director: Reed Morano
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bledel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Samira Wiley (Moirra), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Jordana Blake (Hannah)
Recurring Role: Madeline Brewer (Janine), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Bahia Watson (Oferic), Nina Kiri (Alma), Elena Khan (Martha)
Guest Stars: Margaret Atwood (Aunt), Jenessa Grant (Ofsamuel), Shruti Kothari (Woman with Moira), Adam Winlove-Smith (Guardian Prisoner), Jason Boyd (I) (Guardian), Grace Munro (Red Centre Handmaid), Simon Northwood (Guardian 2), Anne Yorke (Aunt 3), Sylvia Zuk (Protestor)
Summary: Offred, one the few fertile women known as Handmaids in the oppressive Republic of Gilead, struggles to survive as a reproductive surrogate for a powerful Commander and his resentful wife.



The episode opens on a woman, a man, and their little girl gunning it down a remote road in their car. Sirens are heard in the distance, it's clear that they're being chased. Their car gets stuck in a ditch after losing control, so the man tells the woman to take the little girl and to run into the woods about two miles north, where someone will meet them. Before they get very far, there are three gunshots back at the car. For a moment, the woman stands there, stunned, before she scoops up her daughter and continues to

run.

Nearby, men's voices grow louder, so the woman and her daughter hide. The men have guns, and are mere steps away from their hiding place. They start running again and, sure enough, the gunmen catch up, wrench the little girl out of her mother's arms as she pleads with them not to do so. Ugh, heartbreaking. Mom is knocked unconscious and dragged off screen, then loaded into the back of a van. In the background, we see their crashed car, but no sign of the man anywhere.

In voice-over, the woman from the woods takes stock of her sunlit bedroom, dressed now in a red habit and white bonnet. The woman is a Handmaid whose name is Offred. She had another name, "but it's forbidden now. Offred has a sit-down with, let's call her Mrs. Green Dress who is clearly in charge of this house. Mrs. Green Dress (MGD) compares the last Handmaid she had to a "dog, only not a very smart one." Charming.

MGD runs down the house rules for Offred, the first of which is "don't call me ma'am. You're not a Martha." Who are the Marthas and why do they have to call you ma'am?

Commander Fred Waterford, MGD'S husband, enters. Offred greets him by saying, "Praise be to you. May God make me truly worthy." I'm from the South, so I'm used to a smattering of non-sequitur God references peppering conversations, but she said, "Praise be to YOU" — meaning the Commander.

Anyway, MGD stares him down, with that look wives give when they're warning their husbands not to flirt with that woman. He smartly heeds her silent warning, sheepishly starts to retreat out of the room with a "Nice to meet you." Successful first interaction over, right? Think again.

Offred screws up by replying, "you too." Everyone immediately reacts as if she farted. Commander W leaves, but it's too late because MGD is super annoyed by this point. Offred is to be seen as little as possible. She goes on to remind Offred that the Commander is HER husband, 'til death do they part. And then she throws in the fancy lady version of "don't start none, won't be none," which is, "If I get trouble, believe me, I will give trouble back." Close-up on Offred's clenched fist after MGD leaves the room. I think Offred might start none, y'all. And as a result, there might be none.

We then meet Rita, who is "a Martha," making bread from scratch. Marthas have to do things that are considered "a return to traditional values," code for keeping yet another group of women deemed worthless trapped in the kitchen all day making a bunch of bleeping bread for MGDs and Commanders.

Rita's annoyed at Offred's very existence. She sends Offred to the market to shop for groceries, which she's forced to do with her "friend," fellow Handmaid, Ofglen. Offred mentally derides Ofglen as a "pious little shit with a broomstick up her ass." Can't wait to meet her, she sounds lovely.

As Offred leaves the Waterford property, she encounters Nick, the Commander's driver, who's hauling dirt in a wheelbarrow and who looks very fine doing so. They have a brief conversation about what she's going to buy and it's subversively flirty, more on his part than hers.

Ofglen and Offred head to the store, discussing nothing, yet speaking volumes. They distrust each other and suspect the other is a spy. After shopping, they walk home, passing a wall where three men are hung: a priest, a doctor, and a gay man, further informing us about the kind of America this has become.

Offred flashes back to her first day at Handmaid indoctrination class. A stern, militant woman in a potato sack style brown dress, explains God's revenge on them for being toxic polluters and whores: the plague of infertility. She rails against birth control pills, morning after pills, abortion, and even Tinder. Yikes.

As Offred takes a seat, she spots Moira, and flashes back to life before all this insanity. They're at some sort of outdoor party. We find out, a) they're old friends and, b) Moira is a lesbian.

Potato Sack Lady lectures about how they're blessed because they've been "left intact" by God, meaning they can have children. Their job will be to serve as baby-makers for the leaders of this hell on earth and their barren wives. It's abundantly clear that Potato Sack Lady really and truly believes they're lucky to have this gig. Easy for her to say: she's beyond child-bearing age.

Janine, another Handmaid newbie next to Offred, is just not buying any of this garbage. Fed up with her attitude, Potato Sack Lady welcomes Janine to the "Rachel and Leah Centre" (biblical references), by shocking her in the neck with a cattle prod and the symbolism is overt. Two other Potato Sack Ladies drag Janine out of the room.

Potato Sack Lady continues to lecture, "Ordinary is just what you're used to. This may not seem ordinary to you right now. But after a time, it will. This will become ordinary."

At bedtime, in a giant cafeteria full of cots, Offred explains to Moira that she tried to escape with her daughter but couldn't. Moira swears that she will find Offred's daughter and that all this "crazy sh*t is gonna end." I love Moira for that.

Moira goes on to tell Offred that her girlfriend, Odette, was rounded up in a purge, reclassified as an "Unwoman," and sent to the colonies. I thought Handmaids had it bad. Unwomen have it worse. Now we know that if they find out Moira is a lesbian, she'll be reclassified as an Unwoman.

Janine is dragged in and put on a cot, with a bandage around her head, whimpering. Come to find out, they removed her right eye because, "If my right eye offends thee, pluck it out." (Matthew 5:29). Nothing justifies violence like a bible quote.

Back to the present, Offred has to rush home to get ready for "the ceremony." Once home, she takes a bath and remembers going to an aquarium with her daughter, "Please, God, let her remember me."

Flashback to the Centre where Janine, sans her right eye, describes being gang-raped in a basement by boys she knew from school. Potato Sack lady victim-blames Janine, "Who led them

on? Whose fault was it?" The Handmaids point at Janine and chant, "Her fault, her fault." God allowed this to happen, according to Potato Sack Lady, to teach Janine a lesson.

Back in the present at the Waterford house, Offred kneels on the floor. Rita and Nick come in and stand behind her. MGD rushes in, irritated that the Commander isn't there yet. The Commander knocks on the door, a sign that he's not in charge. He comes in, reads a passage from the bible about Rachel and Jacob having children.

Next thing you know, the Commander is thrusting into Offred, who lies on the bed, between MGD's legs, her wrists held in place by MGD. No one wants to be there at that moment doing what they're doing. The three people in that room are not happy.

Eventually MGD lets Offred's wrists go, the Commander leaves. MGD orders Offred to "get out." Offred reminds her that "the chances are better" if she lies on her back for a bit. MGD truly does not give a d*mn. She wants Offred out. So Offred leaves. MGD cries. And I do feel sorry for her.

The next morning, three bells ring. We learn that means "there's a salvaging today." Offred does some minor flirting with Nick in the kitchen before she heads out to her salvaging appointment, as one does.

Handmaids file on to a lawn area in front of a huge stage, again guarded by a bunch of men with machine guns. What is with all these men with machine guns?! Janine is there, pregnant, wearing a patch where her right eye used to be. She tells Offred that Moira is dead. Now to be fair, Janine is not all there, mentally. They broke her spirit and her brain at the Centre, so I can only assume she's wrong. But Offred clearly believes her, and she is instantly overcome with grief.

Potato Sack Lady, who we find out here is called Aunt Lydia, announces from the stage that they're there because of their "duty." A man is brought out from backstage. He was convicted of rape, the penalty of which is death. Aunt Lydia announces that the man raped a pregnant Handmaid — and the baby died. Was there a jury trial? Was an attorney appointed him if he could not afford one? Doubtful. Aunt Lydia, doing what she lives for, commands the Handmaids to form a circle around the man. I'm sure you know where this is going. Aunt Lydia blows a whistle, the Handmaids go ham on the guy. Offred leads the charge, in the throws of her grief over Moira and her daughter and this world and the ceremony and everything. They kill him with their bare hands!

Flashback to Offred telling Moira she's pregnant. She's not excited but Moira is! Apparently, it's really hard to get pregnant. Five women at Offred's work miscarried. Moira tells Offred she'll be fine and that won't happen to her. And "no matter what happens, I'll be right here. Just like always." So now I'm in tears.

On the way home from the salvaging, Offred and Ofglen have a heart-to-heart about how all this Handmaid stuff is bullsh*t. And about how they each thought the other was "such a true believer." Offred tells Ofglen how she and her husband tried to cross into Canada from Maine but "they shot him." When they part, Ofglen tells Offred "it was nice to finally meet you." And then she whispers to her, "There's an eye in your house. Be careful."

The last scene of the episode, back in her room, Offred tells us she "intends to survive, for her. Her name... is Hannah. My husband... was Luke. My name... is June." Nice to meet you, June. We're glad you survived.

Birth Day

Season 1
Episode Number: 2
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Wednesday April 26, 2017
Writer: Bruce Miller
Director: Reed Morano
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam)
Recurring Role: Madeline Brewer (Janine), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Bahia Watson (Oferic), Nina Kiri (Alma), Birgitte Solem (Putnam Martha), Joe Vercillo (Guardian)
Guest Stars: Tattiawna Jones (Ofglen 2), Jenessa Grant (Ofsamuel), Eilish Waller (Ofmyles), Ashleigh Rains (Wife 1), Genevieve Adam (Wife 2), Jennie Raymond (Caroline), Angela Vint (Leah), Karen Robinson (Nurse Tania), Tosha Doiron (Nurse 1), Bea Santos (Protester), Lisa Codrington (Officer 2)
Summary: Offred and her fellow Handmaids assist with the delivery of Janine's baby, prompting Offred to recall her own daughter's birth. Offred draws closer to Ofglen while dreading a secret meeting with the Commander.



The episode opens on Offred staring at the ceiling in the Commander and Mrs. Waterford's bedroom, as she lies on their bed, in the midst of a "ceremony."

Offred, Ofglen, and a couple more Handmaids are relaxing against the wall on their way home from the store, as more already executed people are being hung out for display. The casualness of their conversation about the rain as the dead-body hanging takes place is disturbing, which I'm sure is the intent. On their way home, Offred and Ofglen share more personal info about themselves. Offred is from Brooklyn and was an Assis-

tant Book Editor. Ofglen is from Montana and was a Lecturer in Cellular Biology at the University.

We find out that all college professors were sent to the colonies, but they let Ofglen avoid that because she has two good ovaries. Offred asks Ofglen how she knows there's an Eye (aka spy) in her house. Ofglen tells Offred, "You can join us." Looks like there's network of rebels, y'all (hee hee), and Ofglen is one of them! Ofglen wants Offred to share any info she can on her Commander Waterford.

In voice-over, Offred ponders how The Guardians of the Faithful and American soldiers are fighting in "what's left of Chicago." Anchorage is the capital of the U.S. now, and the flag only has two stars.

Back home, as Offred removes her coat and shoes, Nick enters. Her red habit has been pulled up above one knee, and Nick notices. She leaves it that way long enough for it be clear she's not bothered that he's looking at her leg. She slowly covers herself. Nick warns her about being careful with Ofglen, "Don't get too close to her, it's dangerous." He informs Offred that the

Commander wants to see her in his office at 9:00 p.m. Offred paces, worries about the private meeting, which is strictly forbidden. And I'm worried now too.

Out on the street, a "birth-mobile" pulls up to the Waterford house. Rita rushes in and helps Offred put her coat on because, "They won't wait all day." Rita's less surly with Offred so it seems she's actually excited about this new development. Offred and other Handmaids ride in the back of the birth-mobile to the home of Ofwarren, who is actually not-all-there-anymore Janine. Flashback to June (remember this is Offred's real name), pregnant, on her way to the hospital to give birth to her daughter, Hannah.

Back at Ofwarren's birthing extravaganza, the handmaids file into the house. A bunch of barren Commanders' wives, including Mrs. Waterford, sit around and watch as Ofwarren's boss lady, Mrs. Commander Warren Putnam, pretends to have contractions and be in labor on the floor of her fancy living room. The other wives encourage her to "breathe."

The Handmaids make their way to the bedroom, where Ofwarren is actually having contractions and is actually giving birth to Commander Putnam's baby. They encourage Ofwarren to "breathe, exhale, breathe." Offred tells Ofwarren that she's "doing great."

Flashback to Hannah's birth: June holds newborn Hannah and coos at her lovingly as Luke snores on the couch in the hospital room. A nurse takes Hannah to the nursery to give her a bath. Spotting the empty nursery, June asks where all the babies are and she's told, "We had a difficult night. Two are in the intensive care unit and the others are with God." They're giving us plenty of clues how things got to where they are: rampant infertility, low birth rates, and high rates of infant mortality.

Back at Ofwarren's birthing extravaganza, Offred tells Ofglen that the Commander wants her to meet him alone that night and that she doesn't know why. Ofglen sets out to find out why, assuring Offred, "I'm sneaky."

Mrs. Waterford summons Offred to update some of the Commander's barren wives on Ofwarren's progress, which she does. Barren Wife #1 offers her a cookie and Barren Wife #2 says, "You shouldn't spoil them. Sugar is bad for them." Like Offred's not standing right there.

Mrs. Waterford then asks her if she wants a cookie, to which she responds, "Yes, please. Thank you." Mrs. Waterford plucks a perfect, pastel-colored little macaron from the table, and slowly offers it to Offred, the way you present a treat to a dog, or the way my boss presents my paycheck to me, "Here you are." Offred slowly takes it, and even more slowly, puts it in her mouth. Just then, Barren Wife #1 says, "Aw, isn't she well-behaved?" And in a minor act of rebellion, Offred removes the cookie from her mouth. Mrs. Waterford dismisses her and, as she leaves, Barren Wife #2 remarks, "Little whores, all of them." Nice manners, swamp monster.

In the bathroom, Offred looks in the mirror, spits that bite of perfect, pastel-colored little macaron into the sink, washes it down the drain, and leaves the rest on the counter, uneaten!

Ofwarren's labor has progressed, she declares she needs to walk. The Handmaids help her to her feet, but she collapses. Aunt Lydia, who is here because Lord knows that old so-and-so wouldn't miss a birthing. She tells them to get her to "the chair." She tells Ofwarren it's time for her to push, so she does. The completely ridiculous Mrs. Commander Putnam comes in, still pretending she's in actual labor, and sits on the same chair, right behind Ofwarren. They both push.

The real baby is really born. Is it okay? Is it alive? It cries! It's a girl, "a fine and healthy girl." And all of the women are genuinely relieved and happy. Barren wives, Handmaids, even Aunt Lydia; they're really happy. Mrs. Commander Putnam climbs in her bed and Aunt Lydia gives her the baby girl, who she has decided to name Angela. Mrs. Waterford and Offred share a tortured and meaningful look, a moment rife with expectation and disappointment.

The Handmaids comfort Ofwarren, hugging her.

Flashback to June in the hospital: She wakes up as Luke is returning with a snack. She asks him where Hannah is. He doesn't know. A code alarm sounds and people start running down the hall. The nurse who took Hannah for a bath is laid out on the ground, blood coming from her head. June spots a woman in the hall, walking slowly. The woman turns to face her and she is holding newborn Hannah in her arms!

June asks, "What're you doing?" And the woman says, "She's alive. My baby. I told them." Now I can't even be mad at her. She lost her baby and she's cracked. Her broken brain is telling her that Hannah is her baby. Luke grabs the woman and they get Hannah away from her, put her safely back in June's care.

Back in the birth-mobile, Ofglen tells Offred that she couldn't find out anything about why Commander Waterford summoned Offred to his office that night. Ofglen tells her that she should be careful about Nick because, "A lot of the drivers work for the Eyes." Offred tells her that Nick pretty much said the exact same thing about her. Ofglen is surprised, but also says Nick's right to tell her not to trust anyone, because doing so is dangerous. And then she reveals that she is a lesbian. I am immediately worried about her, despite her two working ovaries.

Over at Commander Putnam's house, a Martha brings Angela to Ofwarren so that she can nurse. She asks if Ofwarren will be okay alone, Ofwarren tells her that she "nursed her son. I've done it before." So the Martha leaves. Ofwarren encourages Angela to nurse, and she does. Ofwarren tells baby Angela that her son, Caleb, is Angela's brother. "I'm Mommy," she tells her. Then she sings Bob Marley's, Three Little Birds to baby Angela as she cries. It's so sweet and so sad because we all know she's getting too attached and we all also know that they will never let Angela call her Mommy.

At the Waterford house, at 9:00 p.m., Offred heads to the Commander's office, as requested. We find out no one is allowed in there except the Commander, not even his wife (whose name is Serena Joy, not just Mrs. Commander Waterford). The long walk to the office in the dark is terrifying. She quietly knocks and he tells her, "Come in."

He thanks her for coming and tells her, "You can look at me." She reminds him that she's not supposed to, but he replies with, "In here, we might be able to bend the rules just a bit."

She looks up him, distrustful, as she should be. He then says something that could truly go in a number of very different directions, "I'd like to play a game with you." He pulls something out of his desk and we see that it's scrabble.

Offred gets her letters, and starts the game by spelling "nation". Final score: 386 to 383, the Commander wins. He asks for a rematch when he gets back from out of town. She jokes that she'll "check her schedule," and he asks that she "see if you can squeeze me in." He tells her he's going to D.C.

She agrees to a rematch after he returns. And he says, "It's a date. Now I think it's time for you to go home." You know, all the way home, to her sad little bedroom in the same exact house. He follows her to the door of his office. She thanks him for the game, he grasps her hand in his and holds it long enough so that it's creepy. She goes back to her room and laugh-cries, but mostly laughs, quietly.

The next day, in slow motion, Offred puts on her coat and winged bonnet, walks by Nick heading into the garage, as "Don't You Forget About Me", by Simple Minds, plays. Still in slow motion, Offred heads to the gate to meet Ofglen, who's waiting, back turned. Lo and behold, she turns around and it's not Ofglen! It's June's sorta-pal, Alma, from the Red Centre.

Offred asks her if Ofglen has "been transferred to a new post so soon?" And Alma responds, "I am Ofglen." Ohhhhhhh no. The episode ends with Offred thinking to herself, "F*ck."

Late

Season 1

Episode Number: 3

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired:	Wednesday April 26, 2017
Writer:	Bruce Miller
Director:	Reed Morano
Show Stars:	Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam)
Guest Stars:	Madeline Brewer (Janine), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Samira Wiley (Moirra), Jim Cummings (Burke), Tattiawna Jones (Ofglen #2), Dan Beirne (Barista), Nicole Stamp (Lenore), Michael Caruana (Roger), Yvonne Gaudry (Female Worker #1), Toni Ellwand (Female Worker #2), Caeden Lawrence (Guardian #1), Jennie Raymond (Caroline), Angela Vint (Leah), Birgitte Solem (Putnam Martha), Alex Frankson (Court-house Tall Eye), Thomas Hauff (Judge), Michael Wacholtz (Gambel), Laura Wilson (Martha), Paul De La Rosa (Guardian Captain), Elena Khan (Martha), Joe Vercillo (Guardian)
Summary:	Offred visits Janine's baby with Serena Joy and remembers the early days of the revolution, before Gilead. Ofglen faces a difficult challenge.



The episode opens on Ofglen (the original one, not the new one we met at the end of the last episode who we decided is actually Alma from the Red Centre) being led by guards down a bright hallway to a locked cell, with some sort of mask over her mouth.

Offred thinks, "Now I'm awake to the world. I was asleep before. That's how we let it happen. When they slaughtered Congress, we didn't wake up. When they blamed terrorists, and suspended the Constitution, we didn't wake up then either."

Flashback to June and Moira jogging in the city, earbuds in, as Peaches', F**k The Pain Away plays. Seems like a normal enough thing, but when they jog by a woman on the street, she looks them up and down and gives them the dirtiest look. And I realize, mmm no, all is not well.

At a coffee shop, a mouthy little jerk of a cashier, harasses Moira and June after June's credit card is declined for insufficient funds, which makes no sense to her since she just deposited her paycheck. He calls them "f*cking sluts." And then tells them to "Get the f*ck out of here." So I guess this is the moment when the "it" that happened starts to happen. Clearly, this dude's feeling himself with a dose of extra strength straight-white-male-privilege.

At work, June sees a bunch of armed dudes assemble in the back of the office. The boss, Roger, announces that he has to let all the women go. As in laid off, "let go." Because it is against the law for them to work anywhere. When June asks Roger why it's just the women, he says, "I don't have a choice." Apropos word usage — choice.

It's surreal to the women, as they pack up their desks and say their goodbyes. As they all leave the building, there are more armed dudes everywhere. One of them holds the door open,

June thanks him and he responds, "Under His eye." And June's like, wtf, "Excuse me?" And he ignores her, because of course he does.

Back to the present, at the Waterford house, Rita politely tells Offred she's got her lunch ready for her. Rita happily serves her, which is weird. She brings Offred a white rose in a vase and places it next to her freshly prepared lunch.

Rita tells Offred that Mrs. Waterford picked it especially for her, because they're all so hopeful, because she hasn't asked for "her napkins yet this month." They all think that she might be pregnant. Mrs. Waterford comes in and straight away asks Offred if she's nauseous or if her breasts are tender.

Mrs. W then invites Offred with her to go visit baby Angela. She tells Offred that she should finish her lunch because she needs "to be in the clean plate club."

Over at baby Angela's, Mrs. Waterford and some other Commanders' wives are there, drinking coffee or tea out of fancy china and, I assume, sharing woe-is-me stories about being barren. Mrs. W, who is holding Angela, asks Offred if she'd like to hold her. Then she lets spill that Offred will be fine holding her because, "she's done it before." Oh snap. Serena Joy isn't as dumb as she looks. She's done her homework on Offred, and she knows she has a daughter!

Mrs. Putnam joins them and tells everyone that Ofwarren bit her hand after she took Angela out of her arms. "I'm just counting the days until Angela's weaned and that girl is out of my house."

Offred goes to Ofwarren's room to check on her. Offred, asks, "Janine, did you bite Mrs. Putnam?" Janine tells Offred that Mrs. P is always grabbing at her, grabbing "Charlotte." She tells Offred that she can do anything she wants because she had a healthy baby. They'll let her do anything. She then tells Offred a secret that she can't repeat, "He loves me. He loves me so much. We're going to run away together." He, as in, Commander Warren Putnam, the baby daddy. Oh, Janine. Poor, broken Janine. Offred knows this is never going to happen, but she doesn't have the heart to set Janine straight.

Downstairs, Mrs. Waterford and Offred wait for the car to pick them up. And their conversation is — odd. Serena Joy asks Offred if she enjoyed visiting with her friend, "I imagine you two have a lot to talk about these days." In the understatement of the century, Offred admits that she's afraid Ofwarren might be "losing touch." Serena responds with, "That can happen with the weaker girls." She admits to Offred that what they both have to do, as women, is "terribly hard and we must remain strong. Which is why I feel so blessed to have you." Then she decides to stay back and let Offred ride home with Nick, alone. Perhaps there's more to old barren Mrs. W than meets the eye.

In the car, Offred questions Nick about why he said Ofglen was dangerous. He proceeds to break it down for her, 1) things aren't gonna change, no matter what you do, 2) no point in trying put on a brave face, 3) everybody breaks at some point.

As they pull into the driveway at home, Aunt Lydia is there with a scary black van, which usually means someone's getting taken away. Nick tells Offred to "tell them whatever they want to know." Offred yells, "Nick!?"

In a flashback, Moira and June commiserate over how their bank accounts have been wiped / frozen / stolen because they're women, but it's cool because your closest male next-of-kin can access your account and just give you money as they see fit. On top of that, there's a new law that women can't own property anymore.

D.C. is under martial law because of "terrorists," which Moira's not buying. She's organizing a march. Luke wanders in and tells them, "We'll figure this out. This can't last." He tells Offred, "You know I'll take care of you," which Moira finds pretty patronizing. Poor Luke. He doesn't realize the severity of his own wife's situation or his role in it, just like my husband didn't, pre-lecture.

They proceed to have a very timely and relevant conversation about marriage and feminism. Moira lays into Luke about how June doesn't need him to take care of him, that she doesn't belong to him. But when it's time for her to leave, she needs Luke to walk her to the train station because it's too dangerous for her to walk alone.

Back in the present, Offred prays that she doesn't want to die, she'll do whatever she has to do to stay alive. Out of seemingly nowhere, Aunt Lydia zaps her in the neck with that blasted cattle prod she carries with her everywhere. Some Guardian Cop questions her about Ofglen and what they talked about. She tells him they talked about shopping and the weather, both true. He

asks her if they ever took the long way home, by the river. She tells him, "it's pretty by the river," and this a-hole says, "It's private. What'd you talk about when you walked by the river?" Again, she tells him, shopping and the weather and nothing else.

Aunt Lydia chimes in by saying how beautiful Ofglen is. When Offred agrees, Aunt Lydia acts like Offred was the one who just called Ofglen beautiful. Is there a word for this? I wanna say gay-baiting? The Guardian Cop asks if they ever did anything "more than just talk" on their private walks, "Did she ever touch you?" Aunt Lydia asks, "Did you know she was a gender-traitor?"

Offred admits that she knew Ofglen was a lesbian, because she mentioned her wife, from before. She didn't report it because she just didn't think about it. The Guardian Cop then asks if Offred knew about Ofglen's forbidden relationship with a Martha. Offred, feeling her oats, looks Aunt Lydia right in her smug face and says, "I knew she was gay." And of course, Aunt Lydia shocks her with the cattle prod because the word "gay" is forbidden.

Aunt Lydia says, "Blessed are the meek." Offred stubbornly responds, "And blessed are those who suffer for the cause of righteousness. For theirs is the kingdom of heaven." I fully expected Aunt Lydia to shock her with the cattle prod, and she did. But not before whacking her across the body with it as hard as she possibly could.

Mrs. W runs in and yells at them, "She's pregnant!" The Guardian Cop congratulates them on the blessed news but it's not enough for Mrs. W. She tells him to get out of her house!

Over at Gender-traitor prison, Ofglen is led into a meeting room, which is bible court, as far as I can tell. Ofglen and her Martha partner have been charged with "gender treachery" in violation of Romans 1:26. Bible judge pounds a gavel and says "guilty." Because, this is not America anymore and sh*t is fully out of control.

The Martha is "sentenced to the common mercy of the state." Bible judge lectures Ofglen about how much God hates her and then tells her that because she's fertile, she's sentenced to "redemption." Both women are loaded into the back of a black van. They sit, facing each other, and grasp each other's hands. The Martha kisses Ofglen's hands. They break down, sobbing. It's a powerful and tender moment. Which makes the next scene that much more upsetting.

The van comes to a halt, the Martha is dragged out of the van, and hung. Executed right in front of Ofglen, and in front of us. As her girlfriend struggles in her last moments, the van pulls away, with Ofglen still in back, watching from the window and wailing in grief.

Nick checks on Offred in her room at the Waterford house to see if she's okay after her interrogation. He tells her, "I should've just driven away with you," and they allllllmost kiss.

In the bathroom, Offred holds her blood stained undies, so looks like she'll be asking for her monthly supply of napkins after all.

In a flashback, June and Moira are at a march. Deja-vu (please see America: 2017). Violence breaks out between the protestors and the police, who are armed with machine guns. And they fire their guns at the protestors. When the shooting starts, June and Moira hide in a store, watching the police continue to purposely kill protestors.

Back at the Waterford home, Serena Joy shows Offred the room she's converting to a nursery, because she still believes Offred is pregnant. Serena Joy calls Offred her "miracle" with tear-filled eyes. Offred, feeling guilty. can't take it anymore, she admits that she's not pregnant, that she got her period. Mrs. Waterford loses her ever-loving mind, drags Offred upstairs and throws her in her room, "You will stay here and you will not leave this room. Do you understand me?" She adds, "Things can get much worse for you." We know she's not bluffing because we just watched a Martha die because of who she loved.

Original Ofglen, whose real name is Emily, wakes up in a hospital bed with a bandaged crotch. Aunt Lydia informs her that she can still have children, but things will be so much easier for her now, "You won't want what you cannot have." Emily's been mutilated by these savages.

Nolite Te Bastardes Carborundorum

Season 1

Episode Number: 4

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Wednesday May 3, 2017
Writer: Leila Gerstein
Director: Mike Barker
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam)
Guest Stars: Madeline Brewer (Janine), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Samira Wiley (Moira), Kristian Bruun (Doctor), Edie Inksetter (Aunt Elizabeth), Nina Kiri (Alma), Lauren Horejda (Helen), Ishan Morris (Guardian Nurse), Cam Parkes (Young Guardian), Troy Blundell (Guardian #1), Joshua David Pivato (Official J), Joe Vercillo (Guardian)
Summary: Punished by Serena Joy, Offred begins to unravel and reflects on her time with Moira at the Red Center. A complication during the Ceremony threatens Offred's survival with the Commander and Serena Joy.



The episode opens on June, Luke, and Hannah at a carnival together, laughing, enjoying each other. Offred tells herself she shouldn't get too deep into her memories, or she'll never get out of them. As you'll remember from the last episode, Serena Joy ordered her to stay in her room, and she hasn't dared defy orders. She's been in her room for 13 straight days.

She lays down inside her closet and runs her fingers across words carved into the wall, "Nolite Te Bastardes Carborundorum." Offred realizes this must've been carved by the previous Offred, as a message for her, the next one.

In a flashback at the Centre, Moira sharpens some kind of metal thing she removed from the toilet (desperate times and all), while June watches from the adjoining stall. Moira carves "Aunt Lydia SUX" into the wall. "Once we get out of here, there's gonna be a girl that comes in here and reads it. It'll let her know she's not alone." Right on, Moira. Right on! Aunt Elizabeth (she's a new one) comes in and demands they get out of the bathroom.

Back on the floor of the closet, Offred silently thanks the previous Offred for carving those words for her into the wall, to let her know she's not alone.

Serena Joy, in a green bathrobe (is she only allowed to wear green, wtf), joins good old Commander Fred at the dining table for breakfast. He informs her that an Aunt escaped last night and crossed the border into Canada.

She was interviewed by the Toronto Star and, according to Commander Fred, she spewed "lies and hyperbole." Serena Joy, strategizing politically as if she's got a brain or something, advises Commander Fred not to discredit what the Aunt told the paper, but that rather, the Aunt, should be personally discredited. His response: "We've got good men working on it." Yeah, Freddy? Your best men are working on discrediting a woman who escaped your clutches and told the truth about you?! Serena Joy's not at all happy with that, though she responds with fake enthusiasm, "Praise be."

Rita takes Offred some food in her room, finds her on the floor of her closet. Startled at the sight of her on the floor, Rita drops the tray of food. Offred tells Rita that she must've fainted. What she doesn't tell her is about those carved words she found.

In the dining room, Serena Joy asks Rita, "What'd she do this time?" Rita tells her, "She said she fainted." Commander Fred freaks, "She fainted?" Rita asks if she should call a doctor since, "We do have the ceremony tonight." Serena Joy reluctantly tells her to call the doctor. Commander Fred gathers his things and jets, leaving Serena Joy and her overly tight hair bun alone at the table.

In her room, Offred's thrilled to have to walk to the doctor's office because it's at least an hour each way. She'll get to feel the rain on her skin and smell the air outside her room. Think again, Offred, because Serena Joy's not having it. The car's waiting for her out front. She's not about to give Offred the pleasure.

Nick walks her to the car. Serena Joy reaches in the front seat of the limo and raises the privacy window, to separate Offred and Nick.

In a flashback at the Red Centre, Aunt Lydia, along with Aunt Elizabeth, leads a lesson on "the ceremony." It's a lot like a Lamaze class, only the vibe is way more rape-y. Some of the Handmaids-In-Training role-play as the barren wife, the others as... you guessed it — Handmaid.

Aunt Lydia, bless her cold, black heart, can't wait to describe the ceremony to them. She explains that when they're ovulating, they'll get to lay between the legs of the Commander's wife where, "the two of you will become one flesh." Somebody needs to inform her that this is one of those things that might sound great in theory (it doesn't), but in practice, is something else entirely.

Aunt Lizzy instructs the girls sitting behind to hold the wrists of the girls in front, who are laying between their legs. Moira raises her hand and asks, "Are you saying that we will be having intercourse with the men between the wives' legs?" Aunt Lydia rattles on about Rachel and Jacob and Rachel's maid bearing Jacob's children. In short, the answer is yes.

At the doctor's office, pictures of Commander's wives holding newborns adorn the wall of the waiting room. And as you'd expect, the front office staff is nothing but armed Nazi-esque looking dudes in all black barking at patients when it's their turn to be seen by the doc.

In the exam room, Offred lays on the table, her lower half covered by a privacy screen. The doctor enters, stays behind the privacy screen, and makes inane small talk the same way doctors do. Offred responds with robotic, one word answers. He says, "You know, you can talk to me. I can't do much about your situation but I'm a good listener."

He tells her he's going to take a look at her, since she's there anyway. He tells her, "You're ripe, right on schedule." Because blessed be the fruit, and she is the fruit. And then he says "Doesn't really matter. Waterford's probably sterile. Most of those guys are."

Doc McFingers then locks the exam room door. He says, "I can help you," as he straight-up caresses her leg. "If Waterford can't get you pregnant, they won't blame him. It'll be your fault." Then he peeks around the privacy screen at her and he says, "I'll only take a few minutes, honey."

Offred tells him it's too dangerous and he goes, leaving her there to wonder if she should've just let him get her pregnant so this could all be over.

On her way home from the doctor's office, she dives back into her memories at the fair with Luke and Hannah. In a burst of rage, she bangs the h*ll out of the privacy window dividing her and Nick. In the driveway at home, Nick tells her, "I'm sorry this is happening to you."

At home, Serena Joy sarcastically asks, "So, are you dying?" Offred stands behind a fancy couch and holds on to the gilded wood that keeps it together for dear life as Serena continues, "Everything is in working order for this evening? Did he check?" Offred apologizes to her and begs forgiveness. Serena Joy barely stops knitting long enough to tell her to go back to her room.

Offred goes right back to her closet and lays down, rubbing her hands over the carved words again, *Nolite Te Bastardes Carborundorum*.

In a flashback at the Centre, June summons Aunt Lizzy to the restroom because "one of the toilets is overflowing again." But it isn't. Moira's in there, ready to pounce! She bashes Aunt Lizzy's head against the wall, holds that homemade toilet shiv to her throat, and tells her not to make a peep.

Near an exit, June demands Aunt Lizzy take off her clothes, and then she zaps her in the neck with her own cattle prod and ties her to a beam. Moira puts on Aunt Lizzy's potato-sack dress and coat. Moira waves the cattle prod in her face and reminds her that if it ever comes down to

it, Aunt Elizabeth should remember Moira didn't shove the cattle prod down her throat or worse, up another part of her body.

And then Moira and June walk out the front door. One of the Guardians at the locked gate asks, "Where are you taking this Handmaid?" Moira snaps at him without even slowing down, "Open the gate!" He does, right away, with a "Yes ma'am."

They're out! But this is a flashback, so I know this freedom will not last. At least not for June.

Back at the Waterford house, Offred kneels in preparation for the stupid ceremony. Only things are not progressing the way they're supposed to. First, the household staff is supposed to come in, then Serena Joy, then the Commander is supposed to knock. This time, Commander Fred just strolls right in of his own accord, leaving home alone with Offred. He stands there, looking down on her and fondling a key in his hand. "I just wanted to say hello. I haven't seen you in a while," he tells her.

He's down for a Scrabble rematch tonight at 9:00, in his office, "What do you think?" Before she can answer, Rita and Nick come in, then Serena Joy. Serena Joy is annoyed that Commander Fred is already there, not following protocol.

In their bedroom, Serena Joy sits behind Offred on the bed, who lays between her legs, while they wait for old what's his name, who isn't in the room. Serena Joy barks, "Fred." He finally comes in, looking distracted and unhappy. He halfheartedly tries to do his part, but fails to rise to the occasion.

We all wait while he attempts to resolve his issue himself, but can't. He leaves and Serena Joy looks like someone just punched her in the ovaries.

In a back room full of tchotchkes and fancy porcelain do-dads Fred continues to try to resolve his situation for himself. Serena Joy finds him there, and wants to help.

For the first time ever, they look almost like a couple in love. There's a glimpse of shared tenderness and vulnerability that they usually hide from each other. Are they not allowed to touch each other like this, since they can't reproduce?

Just as they start to become more intimate, he tells her, "Don't," and leaves. Serena Joy sends Offred back to her room. Offred thinks she's going to get blamed for this disaster that isn't a disaster.

In the "Moira and June escape" flashback, they're trying to get to the city because "the Collective has some safe houses." They don't know where they are. There are no street signs anywhere and everything's unrecognizable. They go by a building that's riddled with hanging corpses. Guardians wheel carts full of dead people by them. They pass a bonfire where artwork and books are being burned. It's a hellscape.

In a subway station, Guardians are taking down the station signs. June asks Moira, "Which track goes to Boston?" They don't know which way to go. Moira, in one of those amazing acts of bravery bordering on complete stupidity goes to ask a Guardian for help. While she's gone, a different Guardian asks June where her partner is and, "Can I see your ID card?" As the train to Boston pulls in to the station, "Where are you posted?" he asks her.

Moira is at the door of the train, looking back at June, who's now got two Guardians up in her grill. June smiles at her, nods ever so slightly, giving her the okay to get on the train. Moira hesitates. The Guardians take June out of the station as the train to Boston pulls away, with Moira on it.

In her bedroom closet, Offred talks herself back to sanity in the name of Moira, "Get up. Get your crazy ass up." She goes to Commander Fred's office, knocks. Cut to, they play Scrabble and she asks about his trip, like a couple of old friends. She plays a word that he thinks is "archaic" so he challenges, tells her to "hand him the dictionary, lower shelf."

At the bookshelf, Offred takes her time looking at the books. One catches her eye, Latin Grammar. She asks him if he studied Latin and he hits us with, "Oh yes, my parents thought it would help me with the SATs."

He finds her word, "silth — a thin and graceful girl," in the dictionary. 26 points to Offred. Offred wonders if the previous Offred had played Scrabble with Commander Fred, "Did she displease him?"

In a flashback, June is back at the Red Centre strapped to a table by some Aunts. Aunt Lydia tells her, "The most painful thing in this entire ugly incident is the ingratitude." She goes on, "You were an adulterer, a worthless slut." Again with the slut shaming. "But God found a way to

make you useful." She touches June's hand. Aunt Elizabeth comes in like a dominatrix holding some kind of twisted-looking back scratcher.

Aunt Lizzy tells two subordinate Aunts to take off June's socks, which they do. She commences to beat the holy crap out of the bottoms of June's feet. Later, feet bloodied and bandaged, she's dragged to her cot in the cafeteria.

Back in the present, Commander W declares she let him win their game. He wants another rematch. Then she asks him for a favor. "Sure, anything. Within reason, of course." She wants him to translate Latin for her: *Nolite Te Bastardes Carborundorum*. He says it doesn't really mean anything because it's a joke that only a 12-year-old boy studying Latin would find funny. He brings her the Latin Grammar book and shows her that those exact words are handwritten inside the front cover. And then he does translate it. It means "Don't let the bastards grind you down."

He asks where she heard it, and he's not just asking out of curiosity, it's a loaded question. When she says she heard it "from a friend," he follows up with, "Did you know her somehow?" She doesn't. She asks, "What happened to her?" "She's dead," he says. She asks him again, "What happened to her?" Offred #1 hung herself in the room that our Offred now calls her own.

The next morning, Offred heads outside. Birds are singing, the air is fresh, and she knows things are different now. She heads to the gate, gives Nick a little smile, gives Serena Joy, who's watching her from an upstairs window, an "eat sh*t and die" look, and heads out the gate.

In a flashback to the Red Centre. She's lying in her cot, feet still bloodied and bandaged. The other Handmaids-In-Training shuffle by, dropping off bits of food they probably stole for her. It's a lovely act of sisterhood.

Back in the present on the street, Offred and Ofglen #2 walk. Offred thinks, "There was an Offred before me. She helped me find my way out. She is dead. She's alive. She is me. We are Handmaids." They're joined by a swarm of other Handmaid pairs walking in the street.

"*Nolite Te Bastardes Carborundorum... b*tches.*"

Faithful

Season 1
Episode Number: 5
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Wednesday May 10, 2017
Writer: Dorothy Fortenberry
Director: Mike Barker
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam)
Guest Stars: Madeline Brewer (Janine), Samira Wiley (Moirra), Tattiawna Jones (Ofglen #2), Nina Kiri (Alma), Paula Boudreau (Grace Williams), Bahia Watson (Oferic), Jenessa Grant (Ofsamuel), David Chinchilla (Guardian #1), Gary 'Si-Jo' Foo (Guardian — Shooter)
Summary: Some people in Offred's life are taking on surprising new roles. The former Ofglen, now Ofstevens, has information to share with Offred before shocking everyone gathered near the market place. Flashbacks reveal the unconventional beginning of the relationship between June and Luke.



The episode opens on Offred, lounging on the floor of Commander Fred's office, playing Scrabble. And she's finally won, after 34 games. "I got lucky," she says. "Maybe you're just learning my weaknesses," he replies.

He presents her with a seemingly innocuous gift, a copy of a "women's magazine" that you might see plastering our newsstands in 2017. "It's not allowed," she protests. "It is with me," he tells her. As she thumbs through it, she thinks how insane the models all look to her now, "like zoo animals."

In a flashback, June and Moira are at a food truck, looking at June's Tinder on her phone. Moira spots a guy standing nearby, who turns out to be Luke. Moira tells Luke that June's Tinder profile pic is attracting a lot of "chumps."

She asks him to take a look and give his objective opinion, so he does. "Uh, yeah it's nice," he says. He then scrolls through the pics on her phone to find an alternate profile pic and lands on pics of her cats, who are named Lucy and Ethel.

He finds a pic he thinks she should use for her profile because "you look invincible." Back in the Waterford kitchen, June eats at the table. Nick wanders in, lingers longer than necessary just to be near Offred. When he turns away to wash his hands, she looks at him the way with passion. Serena Joy comes in and ruins the fun. "Offred, can you help me outside for a bit?"

Offred is afraid she's found out about some of her secrets, the Scrabble, the magazine, the Nolite Te Bastardes Carborundorum carving in her closet. Nope. Serena Joy wants to know if Offred's pregnant. "Your time is running out here." And then she says what we already know, "Maybe he can't, the Commander." Old Doc McFingers dropped that knowledge on us last episode: most of the Commanders are sterile.

She wants to "try another way," and June, smartly, plays dumb, "I'm sorry, I don't know what you mean." Serena Joy explains that women do this all the time, find another dude to pollenate their Handmaid's flower, no biggie. She wants to use someone they trust: Nick. Offred said, "Nick?" all casual-like.

In pimp-like fashion, Serena Joy preemptively asked Nick if he'll try to impregnate Offred and "he's already agreed." Serena Joy's set up their tryst for this afternoon, after the shopping.

At the store, New Ofglen and Offred stroll the aisles. Who else is there? None other than the original Ofglen (Emily)!

Offred cannot contain herself. She joins Emily and we find out she's now Ofsteven (or Ofstephen, unsure at this point).

Ofsteven tells Offred she's "fine." But clearly, she isn't. She can't talk to Offred about the Eye in her house because it's "too dangerous to be a part of it." Offred asks, "Part of what?" Ofsteven answers, "Mayday." Offred's about to ask, "Please tell me more of this Mayday you speak of," but New Ofglen interrupts them and takes Offred away with her.

As they walk home, New Ofglen lets Offred have it. New Ofglen's life was not good before all this. Now, "I've got a safe place to sleep every night and I have people who are nice to me." She doesn't want Offred's cozy friendship with Ofsteven to f things up for her.

Back at home, Serena Joy takes Offred to Nick's room above the garage for their appointment.

In a flashback, June and Luke are on a lunch date. He asks her if she and Moira ever hooked up in college, since they're both attractive. She starts to politely explain why his question is misguided, but then she smiles, laughs, continues to flirt and coyly says, "No."

Luke reveals that he hasn't been telling "Annie" about his lunch dates with June. Annie? Annie, who? Annie is Luke's wife!

They joke about how people in the movies have affairs, about how they go to dirty motels with vibrating beds or, I don't know, The Hyatt. They discuss how they'd go about meeting each other at the Hyatt, if they were to do something crazy like that. "But it's not gonna happen," they agree.

Back at Nick's room over the Waterford's garage, he asks Serena Joy, "Do we pray first?" Serena Joy just wants the business to commence, "No, there's no time." Offred makes her way to his bed as he starts to unzip, the same way the Commander does for the ceremony. She stays clothed, the same way she does for the ceremony.

In a flashback, June and Luke let themselves in to their freshly-rented Cheaters Suite at the Brooklyn Hyatt. June thinks they're only going to do this once, so she wants things to be — just so.

Back in Nick's room, at first, Serena Joy looks away as Nick and Offred "have relations" (as my grandmother used to say). It's as cold and emotionless as the ceremony always is. Serena Joy peeks at them, and doesn't look away again (cheeky). Offred looks around the room and notices a gun on Nick's table.

As Nick wraps things up, Offred caresses his elbow. That doesn't happen in the ceremony.

Serena Joy sneaks Offred back into the main house. She asks, "How do you feel? Do you feel any different?" Offred's so fed up with this woman, she snaps, "You don't just feel pregnant 30 seconds after a man comes." Serena Joy, off the mark as ever, quotes a bible verse and tells her to go lie down.

Ofsteven is at her new home, playing fetch outside with their German Shepherd. Her Commander's wife joins her. "He's so happy to have someone to play with." Ofsteven and you and I all wonder if she's talking about the dog, or the Commander.

She tells Ofsteven that she's feeling sick and that they'll have to skip tonight's ceremony, which she has obviously used as an excuse before, because Ofsteven says, "You can't be sick every month." It's become clear that the wife knows what they did to Ofsteven, and she's going to do her best to limit the "ceremonies" for her. This is a kindness from a Commander's wife that we haven't seen before.

Speaking of ceremonies, time for Offred's. They begin, as usual, with Fred reading from the bible. In their bedroom, it's business as usual. Serena Joy, teary-eyed, can't watch. Offred tries to think about something else, Fred broods as he thrusts. Offred notices him lock eyes with her as he moves his hand down her leg. Offred panics that Serena Joy will notice.

Later, she goes to his office, unsummoned, and tells him, "Don't you ever do that again! Touch me like that, when she's there!" He apologizes. In the understatement of the season he declares, "I just find the whole thing so impersonal."

He offers her another magazine, this one's called LadyFab. He thumbs through it, ruminates on how women had problems before. They felt they weren't young enough, or pretty enough. She tells him, "We had choices then." He replies, "Now you have respect. You have protection. You can fulfill your biological destinies in peace."

He thinks the only reason for living is to have children, "What else is there to live for?" She answers, "Love." Commander Fred believes "love was never anything more than lust, with a good marketing campaign".

When she essentially tells him he's wrong, he looks like he's going to reach across the desk and choke the word "love" right out of her. This is the real threat he feels. The reason he keeps the whole Handmaid system in place. It's not sex that he finds threatening. It's love.

He alludes to how Ofglen was punished for who she loved, with not an ounce of regret or disgust.

Offred asks him what they did to Ofglen (Emily) and his answer made me hulk out. "We helped her. We saved her. We had a doctor take care of the problem. It's such a small problem, truth be told."

He goes on, "Every love story is a tragedy, if you wait long enough." Ouch. Here's where I paused to let those words flow through me and then vanish like vapor into the air.

June leaves, crying. He tells her, "We only wanted to make the world better. Better never means better for everyone, it always means worse for some."

June pukes up her emotions, figuratively, and her stomach contents, literally, in the kitchen sink. Nick comes in, asks if she's sick. "Are you spying on me?" she asks. "Go to bed," he says. She asks, "Do you know what they did to Ofglen?" He does. "Do you know because you're one of them?" He says, "You shouldn't be down here." His non-answer answers are upsetting.

He apologizes for not saying "no" to Serena Joy's pimp-a-thon. She begs him to please answer her question, "Are you an Eye?" He hesitates, but then mutters, "Yes. Now go to bed, before I report you."

In the flashback to the Hyatt. June watches Luke dress. She tells him, "I want you to leave your wife." And Luke says, "Okay." Just like that. They're in love, so yeah, just like that. There's nothing to think about.

At an outdoor market full of shopping Handmaids, Offred spots Ofsteven again. Offred tells a rando Handmaid that the lilies are really beautiful and that "my companion might like them." Luckily, the helpful and quick-minded rando Handmaid takes Ofglen away to go check out those gorgeous lilies.

Offred sidles up to Ofsteven, "I know what they did to you. I'm so sorry." Ofsteven tells her that she can help Mayday. Mayday is a THEM. "Who are they?" Offred needs details. They're fighting back!

New Ofglen, not putting up with this crap, pulls Offred away, "You are gonna come by the lilies and you are gonna stay by the lilies."

A black car pulls up, the driver gets out and opens the door for a Commander's wife. Ofsteven races to the car, jumps in the driver's seat and drives away! She races past armed Guardians, drives in a circle. Throws it in reverse, runs into two of these goons.

She locks eyes with Offred, and guns it — running over one of the goons in the process, while all the Handmaids watch. Another goon smashes the window with his gun and they pull her out of the car, throw her in the back of a black van.

At home, as they prepare to part ways, New Ofglen tells Offred, "It'll be okay. We're gonna look out for each other."

Offred remembers how Luke once explained to her where the term "Mayday" comes from. It's French for "help me." M'aidez.

Serena Joy asks Offred, "I heard there was a bit of trouble in town." Word's spreading like wildfire. "Are you alright?" Offred ignores her question, a real power move, as she strolls across the room to inspect Serena Joy's painting. She spots the garden shears on the table and keeps her eyes fully locked on them while Serena Joy blathers on again about how some women can't handle their positions but that Offred can, because she's smart.

In her room, Offred bathes in the memory of Emily driving the car and running over that Guardian. "She looked invincible."

That night, Offred sneaks out of the house, heads to Nick's room. He lets her in. She locks the door and removes her bonnet, lets her hair down.

She then takes off his shirt. They make love and it's the opposite of the "ceremony." Because it's about love and intimacy, and not just a biological obligation to produce children. I can see what Commander Fred finds so threatening.

A Woman's Place

Season 1

Episode Number: 6

Season Episode: 6

Originally aired:	Wednesday May 17, 2017
Writer:	Wendy Straker Hauser
Director:	Floria Sigismundi
Show Stars:	Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam)
Guest Stars:	Madeline Brewer (Janine), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Christian Barillas (Mr. Flores), Zabryna Guevara (Mrs. Castillo), Tattiawna Jones (Ofglen #2), Stephen Kunken (Commander Putnam), Jenessa Grant (Ofsamuel), Nina Kiri (Alma), Todd Thomas Dark (Commander Derek Chambers), Glen Schultz (Commander Glen Cooper), Angela Vint (Leah), Edie Inksetter (Aunt Elizabeth), Alastair Thorburn-Vitols (Young Singer), David Gudjonsson (Commander), Joe Vercillo (Guardian)
Summary:	Mexican Ambassador visiting Gilead questions Offred about her life as a Handmaid. Serena Joy reflects on her marriage and the role she once played in Gilead's inception.



The episode opens on Offred remembering her passionate night with Nick. Cut to a gaggle of Handmaids scrubbing the blood of the dead off of the "hanging wall" by the river while Aunt Lydia shouts bible-y motivational quotes at them. They're cleaning because they're going to have diplomatic visitors.

At home, Rita informs Offred that she needs to put on her clean dress and go see Serena Joy in her room. She replies, "awesome" and Rita can't help but smile a little because like anyone with a brain,

she appreciates the effective use of Offred's sarcasm.

In the Waterford's bedroom, Offred arrives before Serena Joy. Serena Joy pops in, explains that a trade delegation from Mexico is coming to visit. She inspects Offred to make sure she's presentable, deems her "fine," to which Offred offhandedly replies, "Red's my color." I fully expected Serena Joy to lose it but she simply says, "Well, that's lucky."

There's a high possibility that the visitors will question Offred and Serena Joy wants her to watch her mouth. Offred says "I'll try to" and then lingers a bit too long after S.J. dismisses her.

Serena Joy starts to head downstairs, spots Fred, and for the first time, we get a glimpse into her history. She has a flashback to her and her husband before all this. She was a career woman who rushed home to try have a quickie with her husband in an effort to get pregnant. Only he's whiny and "needs to be romanced" because he's not her "boy toy." They recite bible quotes to each other about pregnancy and then proceed.

Back in the present, Serena Joy reassures Fred that he shouldn't be nervous, "They're having dinner at the home of a very powerful Commander. Let them be nervous."

Offred sidles up to Nick, amid the hustle and bustle of prepping for the visitors. He tells her she looks pretty, and she says "Thanks. I wore it just for you." They subtly hold hands for just a

second until Fred summons Nick to "bring her in." "She's standing right there, d-bag. Just talk to her directly," I grumbled.

Nick and Offred enter the Commander's office, which is full of members of the Mexican delegation. Fred introduces Offred in Spanish. There is a woman in the Mexican delegation, in a power suit. Turns out she's the Mexican ambassador, her name is Mrs. Castillo.

Mrs. Castillo's assistant, Mr. Flores, asks Offred, "What is your given name? From before?" Uhhh. Can she answer this? Is this a trick? She doesn't give him her name.

Fred explains that Handmaids are named Of-whatever-dude-they-belong-to. No one bats an eye. Except me, and Offred, and you.

Mrs. Castillo asks Offred, with genuine curiosity, "Did you choose to be a Handmaid?" You can practically see the color drain out of Fred's face as he begs her with his eyes not to tell the truth. She lies and says, "Yes."

The delegates are summoned to dinner by Serena Joy and as they file out, Mrs. Castillo asks Offred, "Are you happy?" After a long and tense pause, in which every member of the Waterford home waits and watches with baited breath, she responds, "I have found happiness, yes."

Just off the dining room, a bunch of Commanders sit around mansplaining crops and trade to Mrs. Castillo but she's no dummy. The minute she gets the chance, she asks, "How does the quiet half of the room feel about Gilead?" She means the Commander's wives, who are all posed like "Conservative/Barren Barbie" in the corner of the room.

Mrs. Warren is the first to answer, "It's absolutely wonderful." But Mrs. Castillo is not buying it.

She looks at Serena Joy, wants her to answer, and she does, "I'm blessed to have a home and a husband to care for and follow." Fred jumps in and rattles off some straight up b.s. about how "traditional values" rule everything in Gilead.

Mrs. Castillo serves them some knowledge right quick, "Never mistake a woman's meekness for weakness."

Not so fast.

Serena Joy Waterford wrote a book about domestic feminism before the war. She spoke at a number of rallies. She was arrested for inciting a riot.

It's abundantly obvious now that Mrs. Castillo made this trip from Mexico to speak to 1) Offred and 2) Serena Joy. She couldn't care less about these puffed up Commanders. She wants to know if this is what Serena Joy wanted, a society in which women aren't allowed to read. Serena Joy's answer, which is "no, but..." is diplomatic and eloquent and seemingly well-thought out. She's the politician, not Freddy.

After dinner, Fred laments they shouldn't have invited the wives. If Gilead doesn't make a trade deal in six months, their currency will tank. Serena Joy asks to go over the details with him and he just dismisses her.

In another flashback to before the war, Serena Joy cuts flowers in her kitchen as Fred comes home after a stressful day of trying to revolt against the U.S. government. Serena Joy declares that they're "going out." At a movie theater, they talk about her second book, which she thinks should be about infertility as a natural resource.

Fred gets a text and says, "It's happening. They issued the orders." He explains that there will be three separate attacks: Congress first, the White House next, then the Court and Serena Joy is happy. She says, "Praise be. Things have to change." She tells him "We're saving them. We're doing God's work." He's the one who's skeptical.

In the present, Nick visits Offred in her room to tell her Fred wants to see her in his office. In the hallway, he kisses her tenderly, she kisses him back.

In his office, Fred rants to Offred about how poorly the delegation visit went while downing too much scotch. "Being in here is a privilege." Annoyed, he tells her, "Time to go."

She heads to the door, super angry, settles herself, turns back and apologizes, then asks if she can "stay here with you, please?" It works. He summons her over to him, fondles her in a drunk, clumsy, aggressive way, then demands she kiss him. She does, but he knows she doesn't mean it.

She kisses him again, pretending to mean it more effectively. "Sweet girl." Then he dismisses her again. She rushes back to her room and brushes her teeth over and over until her gums are bloody.

Aunt Lydia stands before a gaggle of Handmaids in some fancy-shmancy official Gilead building lobby. Serena Joy comes over, tells her to line them up and Aunt Lydia is like, who the f do you think you're talking to? Serena Joy repeats the request, less politely, "Now, Aunt, if you would." She then asks Aunt Lydia to "remove the damaged ones."

Aunt Lydia explains that just because some of them were punished, doesn't mean they don't deserve to be "honored." Serena Joy, salty as a pretzel, retorts, "You don't put the bruised apples at the top of the crate. Do you?"

Aunt Lydia calls out the names of the "damaged" Handmaids, including Ofwarren. But as usual, Ofwarren doesn't understand why she can't join them inside at the "party" so she starts to make a scene. Aunt Lydia calls her Janine and reassures her that she'll get a "whole tray of dessert" if she leaves quietly right now. Then she kisses her on her missing eye.

Inside, it's a fancy dinner banquet for the Mexican delegation. The Handmaids file in and make their way to their tables.

In a flashback, Serena Joy reviews her notes outside a U.S. Government building door labeled "The Gallery." Fred comes out and tells her that "they" won't let her speak. She looks crushed, leaves.

Another Commander joins him, asks Fred if Serena Joy is okay. Fred explains that she's frustrated because she expected to be involved in the decision-making process.

And he says, "This is our fault. We gave them more than they could handle. They put so much focus on academic pursuits and professional ambition. We let them forget their real purpose. We won't let that happen again."

Back at the dinner, Serena Joy makes a grand entrance, addresses the room, "I want to welcome our guests." She asks the Handmaids to stand because they're being honored at this dinner. She says she wants to present to the guests, the "children of Gilead." Is Hannah coming out? Where's Hannah? Is she alive? Is she here?

Aunt Lydia and some wives escort a bunch of kids in. Offred scans the room for her daughter. Some of the other Handmaids spot their children. But Hannah's not there.

Alma asks Offred if she's heard anything about the trade deal from Commander Waterford. Annoyed, Offred's like leave me alone about trade, dummy, I'm trying to spot my kid. But then Alma clarifies the trade situation. Mexico doesn't want to trade crops with Gilead. They want to trade for Handmaids!

In a flashback, Serena Joy empties out her closet of any items that are not green so she can fill it with a bunch of crap that is only green. Fred tells her that she should be coming with him to work. Instead, her plans for the day are to "make this place a home."

Nick carries a box out of the house for the garbage truck to take away. On top of the stack is A Woman's Place. Literally, a woman's place is in the garbage. Along with her high heels.

Back in the present, at home. after the fancy dinner, Fred tells Serena Joy, "You're an amazing woman. I forgot." She kisses him, he kisses her back. Then he says, "We should stop." She gets undressed. Aaaaand they don't stop.

Later, Offred goes to Nick's room. She tells him she shouldn't have lied and told the delegation she was happy. He assures her she had no choice. Offred loses it. She tells him not to call her Offred because it's not her name. "My name is June." He says, "It's nice to meet you, June." They embrace.

The next morning, at the Waterford home, Mrs. Castillo and Mr. Flores arrive to meet the Commander. They're early and Offred catches them alone. Mrs. Castillo gives her a gift of Mexican chocolate to thank her for her "candor." Offred smiles politely, then pauses. Offred turns and says, "I lied to you. This is a brutal place. We're prisoners. If we run, they'll try to kill us, or worse. They beat us. They use cattle prods to try to get us to behave. If we're caught reading, they'll cut off a finger." She goes on, "They gouge out eyes. They just maim us in worse ways than you can imagine."

Mrs. Castillo is stunned but does Offred stop? She does not, "They rape me every month, whenever I might be fertile."

She tells her, "I didn't choose this. They caught me. I was trying to escape. They took my daughter. So don't be sorry, okay? Please don't be sorry. Please do something."

Mrs. Castillo stumbles and says, "I can't help you."

Offred becomes indignant. "What are you gonna trade us for?! Hmm?! What?! F*cking chocolate?!"

Mrs. Castillo explains that there hasn't been a living child born in the city she's from in six years, "My country is dying." Offred waits a sec and says, "My country's already dead."

Fred wanders in the room, asks if everything's okay.

Mrs. Castillo tells him she has a farewell gift for Mrs. Waterford. They go off to find Serena Joy.

Offred and Mrs. Castillo's assistant, Mr. Flores, are left there — alone.

He says, "I want to help you. I don't know where your daughter is but I think I can get a message to your husband."

Offred tells him her husband is dead. And then this dude pretty much just recites Luke's social security #, his date of birth, his mother's maiden name, and his gmail password to her from memory.

"He's alive," Flores tells her.

He hands her a pad of paper and a pen, and calls her June (she didn't actually ever tell him that was her name).

He tells her to write whatever she wants because he'll try to get it to Luke.

She's frozen in shock!

The Other Side

Season 1

Episode Number: 7

Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Wednesday May 24, 2017
Writer: Lynn Renee Maxcy
Director: Floria Sigismondi
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bledel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam)
Guest Stars: Rosa Gilmore (Zoe), Tim Ransom (Whitford), Erin Way (Erin), Jordana Blake (Hannah), Ben Lewis (Peter), Kim Roberts (Christine), Shane Daly (Joe Bradley), Marvin Kaye (Boat Captain), Krista Morin (Rachel Tapping), Raimo Kurppa (Refugee), Joe Vercillo (Guardian)
Summary: What happened to Luke after he was separated from June and his daughter Hannah. He tries surviving the harsh, new world alone so he can find them again.



This episode opens on the car crash we saw in the first episode. It plays out the same as we saw it before, with June and Hannah running into the woods. Only now, we follow Luke.

After June and Hannah take off, Luke opens the car trunk, grabs a gun, loads it. The sirens are getting closer. He takes aim, shoots, but then he's shot in the abdomen by a Guardian! He blacks out.

He wakes up in the back of an ambulance, strapped to a gurney, as the ambulance rolls off the road. When it comes to a stop, upside down, he unstraps himself from the gurney, finds some meds,

his glasses, medical supplies, a dead Guardian's coat and his gun, and heads off.

Except he doesn't know where he is.

Eventually, he finds the road, starts walking.

Later, it's cold, he's bleeding, and he ends up back at his crashed car. He heads into the woods, where he finds Hannah's stuffed rabbit and one of her little boots.

At nightfall, he wanders into a town that's abandoned. "Gender Traitor" and "Fags Die" are spray-painted on the windows of shops and homes, you know — super chill. He rests inside an abandoned restaurant, gun in hand, still bleeding from that gunshot to the gut.

In a flashback, June, Luke and Hannah are on their way out of town — to escape. Luke glances back at Hannah, who's asleep, and asks, "She's alright? We didn't give her too much?"

They drugged her to get her to sleep and probably so she'd be quiet. June wishes they'd left when she lost her job, instead of waiting. Moira already left, crossing the border on foot. June wishes they'd left when Moira did. Luke agrees.

Outside of town, they meet up with an old family friend of June's, Mr. Whitford. Apparently, a long time ago, June's mother performed a vasectomy on Mr. Whitford, even though it was illegal, so he's now repaying the favor.

He takes their phones, crushes them. He also takes their backpack, but not before Luke removes his photo albums (awww). Mr. Whitford tells them they'll all three have to get in the

trunk while he drives their car. They argue about that a little, but then concede and climb in the trunk of their own car with their drugged daughter.

As they're well on their way, June hears sirens whizz by and she starts to panic. Luke calms her down. But then they stop. A car door slams. No voices though, just radios. A Guardian opens the trunk, flashes his flashlight on the three of them, declares, "All good, nothing in here."

Mr. Whitford closes the trunk, just as he whispers, "You good?" They don't answer.

They pull up to a picturesque house in the snowy woods. The closest neighbor is two miles away, according to Whitford. The house has no heat, so Whitford suggests they use the fireplace instead.

Whitford tells Luke there are "lots of patrols between here and the border. It isn't safe for the ladies." He gives Luke a revolver, quickly explains how to load and shoot. Luke pretends to understand, but he's semi-afraid of Whitford holding the gun.

Whitford declares, "I'll be back and then we will get you all safe and sound to the magical land of the North." Whitford leaves.

Back in the abandoned restaurant, Luke wakes up to a tiny woman shining a flashlight in his face and kicking him. Another woman points a gun at him and yells, "Where are the others? Your unit?" He explains he's not a Guardian. He tells her he got shot, his wife and daughter were taken. She inspects his wound. "You're going to bleed to death." The two women and the guy who's with them load Luke into their mini-bus.

On the bus, they clean Luke's wound. The tiny woman has a red tag on her ear, just like the Handmaids. So we know, she's escaped or been rescued. The woman with the gun, Zoe, seems to be in charge.

Zoe starts an IV of antibiotics for Luke so he doesn't go septic. Luke asks who they are. The guy responds, "We got an army brat, two strays, a gay, and a nun." Christine (nun), Lila (bus driver, stray), Peter (gay), and TBD (the tiny Handmaid hasn't spoken since they picked her up so she's TBD).

In a flashback to the safe house, June makes chocolate chip pancakes for Hannah. If we didn't know any better, it looks like they're on a fun family vacation in the winter woods. Instead, they're trying to flee the country they were born and raised in because a dangerous group of religious zealots have overthrown the government and are systematically stripping citizens of their constitutional rights one after the other.

On the bus, the Handmaid is freaking out, yelling and crying. Zoe (the army brat and the one with the gun) was stationed at a base in South Carolina when they heard rumors about the "Centers." They raided an old high school and found about fifty women there. Zoe rescued just this one.

Flashback to the safe house, Luke, June, and Hannah, are skipping rocks on a half frozen lake. A hunter and his dog spot them, surprised. "Hi there, I'm Joe," he says. He looks friendly enough, but all I can think is "great, now you've been spotted by a dude with a hunting rifle, you dummies." He goes about his business, seemingly uninterested in them, and they head back to the house.

On the bus, Luke holds Hannah's stuffed bunny. He realizes they're headed to Canada but he wants to get out, head back to Boston. "Stop the bus!" he yells. Zoe tells him to sit down, and cocks the gun at her side.

Peter tells him he might be able to catch a boat back down once they get to the border. The rescued Handmaid gives him a drink, one freaked out passenger to another.

Safe house flashback: Luke realizes they've blown their cover. He grabs the gun, teaches Offred how to load it.

The hunter from before, Joe, comes in the front door. June points the gun at him!

He says he's a friend and that he heard on his scanner that "they're looking for you." He tells them to stay off the main road because they know their car. He tells them Whitford's dead, they caught him and hung him. June puts the gun down.

Joe tells them that he has a friend who can meet them at the border.

Luke's rescue bus stops near the Canadian border. The nun prays with Luke before he heads off. Zoe tells him that their dock is a half a mile down the river, if he decides to stay with them, instead of heading back to Boston.

Then she takes him inside a church where there are a bunch of bodies hanging from the ceiling. Zoe tells him, "There's one of these in every town. This is what they do to people who fight

back. "She warns him that if he goes back, he's going to die.

He decides to stay with them. They have to hurry because Gilead's using drones to patrol.

The guy with the boat who's going to take them to New Brunswick says he won't take 6 people, he only got paid for 5. Luke gives him a stash of meds he stole from the ambulance. Then he gives the guy his wedding ring. Payment accepted.

As they get on the boat, they're shot at! Zoe is killed! Only Luke and the Handmaid make it onto the boat, which speeds off!

And then this happened...

3 years later, Little America, Toronto, Canada — Luke and the Handmaid are hanging out, under the American flag, the CN Tower in the background. Just another day in Little America. Drinking tea, staring at the flag, wishing they hadn't let the bastards grind them down.

Luke takes a call on his cell phone, next thing you know, we see him enter what must be the Canadian headquarters for the "Gilead Resistance and Lost Loved Ones" organization. The walls are papered with photos and missing persons posters.

A bureaucrat, Rachel, meets with Luke in a conference room lined with American flags and portraits of America's founding fathers, including Alexander Hamilton (an immigrant — who got the job done).

Rachel asks, "Luke, do you know a woman named June Osborne? She's 31, blonde hair, blue eyes, from Boston?"

"Yeah, that's my wife."

"That's what we thought," she says.

Then she hands him the note that Offred wrote in the last episode. He takes out his glasses, puts them on, unfolds the note.

"Where did you get this?" He asks her.

She tells him it's from their contact in the Mexican delegation. Then he asks, "When?"

Three weeks ago!

"So she's alive?"

"We believe so, yes."

"Can I have a moment?" he asks.

Rachel leaves.

He cries and smiles and cries and smiles. And cries.

We see Offred in her room, thinking, "I love you so much. Save Hannah."

Jezebels

Season 1

Episode Number: 8

Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Wednesday May 31, 2017
Writer: Kira Snyder
Director: Kate Dennis
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam)
Guest Stars: Robert Curtis Brown (Andrew Pryce), Kristen Gutoskie (Beth), Samira Wiley (Moira), Justin Landry (Pushy Job Seeker), Damien Howard (Checkpoint Guardian), Christian Lloyd (Commander Guthrie), Kirsten Johnson (Aunt), Adrian Griffin (Commander Davidson), Evgeny Aki-mov (Commander), Charlie Riina (Handmaid), Nora Sweet-Underhill (Wife), Cyndy Day (Handmaid), David Gudjonsson (Commander), James McDougall (Driver #1), Amish Patel (Driver #2)
Summary: The Commander surprises Offred with a secret adventure in Gilead. Due to his troubled past, Nick is recruited by the Sons of Jacob.



This episode opens on June in Nick's bed, thinking about Luke and self-shaming for being with Nick.

Flashback to Nick at an unemployment office, getting derided by the employment agent. Some rando bully tries to get Nick to hurry up and go so he can get his turn with the agent. Nick's not having it.

He stands up to the guy, the agent intervenes and Nick punches him, prompting him to get thrown out of the agency. The agent follows him outside and asks him if he's okay.

At a diner, Nick and the agent discuss rampant unemployment. The agent quotes Bible-y type verses at Nick, trying to convert/proselytize at/cult-recruit him.

He talks a good talk and, what luck, he's the head of the "chapter" of this great new group that's sweeping the nation. They have meetings about the "screwed up world" and talk about how they can "clean up this country." They're called The Sons of Jacob.

He invites Nick to a meeting where maybe he can somehow find a job.

Back at the Waterford house, Fred is sitting on Offred's bed when she enters her room. He asks her if she's "up for some excitement." He has a plan for "something different tonight." But first, he wants to shave her legs for her.

He does shave her legs for her, and Offred notices he's good at it. "He's done it before," she thinks. After the leg shaving finishes, he gives her some makeup and asks if she remembers how to use it.

Fred holds a hand mirror for her while she applies it. Then he gives her a gold glittery dress and some heels.

Fred lets June's hair down and then takes a big, creepy whiff of it. He declares, "Tonight, I'm taking you out."

Nick's there, ready to drive them to the mystery location. "Mrs. Waterford went to visit her mother, she won't be back until tomorrow," says Fred.

In the back of the limo, they reach a checkpoint, June pulls up the hood of Serena Joy's green cape, which she's wearing. They get through.

When they reach the river crossing, June has to hide on the floor because women aren't allowed to cross the river. Just another fun tidbit about life in Gilead. Anyway, they get through.

Flashback to Nick before the war, driving a limo containing the employment agent, another church-y guy, and you guessed it, Fred Waterford.

Church-y guy says, "All remaining fertile women should be collected and impregnated, by those of superior status, of course."

The employment agent doesn't like this idea, "You're talking about concubines."

Waterford argues, "The wives will never accept it." The employment agent, brainstorming, suggests "maybe the wives should be there, for the act. It would be less of a violation. There is scriptural precedent."

Waterford thinks selling this "impregnating fertile women" thing to the wives is not gonna fly. No way, no how. He thinks they need a better marketing campaign. He wants to brand the Handmaid rapes as "the ceremony."

So there it is. Waterford came up with the name for the rape system: *the Ceremony*.

Nick drops off the employment agent and the bible-y guy (Commander Price and Commander Guthrie, respectively). Alone with Nick, Fred apologizes for their conversation. He asks Nick's opinion about the Handmaid ceremony. Nick tells him it's "better not to form attachments."

Back to Fred's secret date night — Nick, Fred, and June enter a freight elevator in a back alley. Fred tells June they have to use the back entrance because June is considered "contraband." He then puts earrings on June.

They walk through a long hallway while Jefferson Airplane's "White Rabbit" plays.

Fred opens a door and June walks through it — into a room full of men and half-naked women.

Fred holds June's hand while she takes this all in, shocked. But he's not comforting her, he's claiming her.

Fred says, "It's like walking into the past, isn't it?" He goes to the bar to get her a drink. She orders a Manhattan.

Fred explains that the people here are senior officials, foreign visitors, and women who "couldn't assimilate." You know like lawyers, professors, CEOs. In other words, accomplished, ambitious intellectuals. They turned these women into literal whores.

June sips her Manhattan, scans the room and she spots... Moira! Moira spots her as well, leaves her "date" and heads to the bathroom, June subtly makes her way there, leaving Fred at the bar.

They just stare at each other for a sec and then Moira apologizes for leaving her at the train. They hug each other and cry.

An Aunt tells Moira she has to get back "out on the floor," which tells us this is a Gilead-sponsored whorehouse.

Moira tells June to fix her face and find her later. June sits, cries.

In the kitchen of the *whorehouse of accomplished women*, Nick trades drugs and pregnancy tests for booze with a Martha. The drugs are for the girls to spike the drinks of the Commanders so they can go through their phones after they pass out.

In the course of their conversation we find out that this particular Martha is a James Beard Award nominee.

June returns to Fred, she pretends to be happy to see him, which he eats up, because he has a huge ego and thinks he is the greatest gift to ever have roamed the earth. Nick watches them from a side door, unhappy.

Flashback to Nick finding the original Offred hanging from the light fixture in her room in the Waterford house. He cuts her down while Rita screams in horror, watching. Serena Joy, Fred, Rita and Nick watch, in the driveway, as her corpse is loaded into the back of a white van. Serena Joy, seething, grunts at Fred, "What'd you think was going to happen?"

In a bedroom at the *whorehouse of accomplished women*, Fred is drunk as he unloads to June about the political goings-on behind the scenes with the other Commanders.

He asks her what she thinks of "our little club" while he drunkenly gropes her, while she does not even pretend to enjoy it, which makes zero difference to Fred.

Later, Fred sleeps while June gets dressed. She heads back to the bar area downstairs, but not before overhearing various sexual activity happening in the rooms she passes. One of the rooms has an open door.

June finds Moira downstairs. Moira tells her she "looks like the whore of Babylon" (bible-y). June wants to hear all about what happened. Moira took the train to Boston, found a safe house, she was being smuggled out of the city but the Guardians intercepted her.

She was labeled a "corrupting influence" and they gave her a choice — the Colonies or here, which we find out is called... Jezebels.

Moira explains that, at Jezebels, "You can get all the booze and drugs you want until your pussy wears out."

June tells Moira that Luke escaped. Moira, always the survivor, reminds June that Luke isn't them and he isn't stuck there. She tells June to take care of herself. They say they love each other and hug goodbye.

On their way back to the limo, Fred tells June, "Don't worry, we'll get you home before you turn into a pumpkin."

Flashback to Nick giving intel about Commander Guthrie to Commander Price. Guthrie's "been sleeping with his last two Handmaids." Also, he's "skimming from the transportation budget." Commander Price is happy to hear this as we see Commander Guthrie being led into a government building in handcuffs.

Commander Price informs Nick that "as an Eye, you'll chiefly be reporting on the activities of your own Commander, Fred Waterford." Nick knows, and he's 100% cool with it.

Back in the limo — Nick drives Fred and June home from the *whorehouse of accomplished women*.

The next morning, at the Waterford home, Fred opens the door for Serena Joy, greeting her as if he's been waiting there since the moment she left, ever the loyal spouse. He asks how her mother is. He tells her he was lonely without her.

Nick finds Offred in the kitchen. He cold shoulders her. She asks if she'll see him later. He says, "We can't do this anymore."

She tells him she had no choice but to go with Fred to the *whorehouse of accomplished women*, because she has no choice in anything. Still, he refuses to talk to her. She pours out her heart to him, asking, "Is this enough for you, this bullshit life?"

"You know we're being stupid. It's too dangerous," he says. She argues that it isn't.

He embraces her. "My name is Nick Blaine. I'm from Michigan." Too late. She's done. "Under his eye, Guardian Blaine." She leaves.

Serena Joy stops Offred as she heads upstairs, still crying over Nick. She brought her a gift from her childhood home: a ballerina music box that locks, with a key.

In her bedroom, the ballerina spins in the music box as June thinks, "The perfect gift. A girl, trapped in a box. She only dances when someone opens the lid, when someone else winds her up."

In the closet, June carves into the wall, "You are not alone."

She thinks, "I will not be that girl in the box."

The Bridge

Season 1
Episode Number: 9
Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Wednesday June 7, 2017
Writer: Eric Tuchman
Director: Kate Dennis
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bledel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam)
Guest Stars: Madeline Brewer (Janine), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Samira Wiley (Moira), Kristen Gutoskie (Beth), Tattiawna Jones (Ofglen #2), Nina Kiri (Alma), Stephen Kunken (Commander Putnam), Birgitte Solem (Putnam Martha), Matthew Olver (Commander Monroe), Christy Bruce (Emma Monroe), Dana Puddicombe (Econowife), Ian Ronning (Guardian), Jordana Blake (Hannah), Joel Rinzler (Butcher), Elena Khan (Martha)
Summary: Offred embarks on a dangerous mission for the resistance. Janine moves to a new posting. Serena Joy suspects the Commander's infidelity.



This episode opens on the Handmaids filing into the driveway of a home, which turns out to be Ofwarren's (Commander Warren Putnam's) home. Inside the house, Ofwarren says goodbye to baby Angela as she hands the baby to Warren's barren wife. All the while the Commander is reciting some scripture out loud. Ofwarren is not at all into turning the baby over. Aunt Lydia is there, of course, supervising.

Finally, Ofwarren hands the baby over.

She leaves the house, with her suitcase, walking through the gauntlet of

handmaids who say "Blessed be," and "Praise be," as she passes. She hugs Offred and tells her, "Don't be sad. He's coming for me."

As Aunt Lydia passes, Offred asks her, "Does she seem all right, considering?" Aunt Lydia says, "She's tougher than you think." From the back of the red van, Ofwarren waves like a child and yells "Bye!"

After the van pulls away, Offred approaches Alma and says she wants to help with Mayday. Alma says she doesn't know what Offred's even talking about.

Aunt Lydia and Ofwarren get out of the van and approach a house. Aunt Lydia tells her, "You are Ofdaniel now." Commander Daniel and Mrs. Monroe are her new hosts/kidnappers. She tells her, "I am very proud of you, Ofdaniel."

Mrs. Putnam and Serena Joy walk baby Angela in a stroller. A Martha approaches them and says hello to the baby. A Guardian behind them encourages the Martha to move on. Serena Joy asks if Angela is eating okay and Mrs. Putnam says she devoured her bottle, then to the baby, she says, "Who needs that horrid girl, right?"

Serena Joy tells her she should be thankful. Mrs. Putnam tells her she should be grateful she has such an "obedient Handmaid." Serena Joy looks disturbed at that comment.

New Ofglen and Offred walk to the store. Alma pulls Offred aside and tells her, "They need you to go back to Jezebels."

Alma goes on, "We've been trying to get a package out of there. Find Rachel, at the bar." Offred's on her own to figure out how to get back to Jezebels. Alma asks, "Can they count on you or not?" Offred says, "Okay. I'll try."

As she walks away Alma mumbles, "Tonight would be a good time to go."

Back at the Waterford House, Fred finds Offred in the hallway outside his office. She flirts her way inside. She talks up how much she loved dressing up for him and sneaking into Jezebels. She says she just wanted to thank him. He says, "Maybe we could go back there sometime."

"When?" she asks, innocently.

She dials the flirting up a notch, which works. He suggests they go tonight. Outside his office in the hallway, she stops acting and goes back to being terrified.

Later, Nick drives them back to Jezebels (aka the *whorehouse of accomplished women*). June really lays it on thick in the limo, clutching Fred's arm, leaning into him, flirting.

At the *whorehouse of accomplished women*, Nick warns Fred, "Sir, this trip was so last minute, we don't know who might be here tonight. Just want you to be careful."

At home, Serena Joy is awake, sewing a baby blanket. She puts it in her hope chest and then makes her way to the kitchen. Rita finds her there, rifling through a cupboard. She says, "Sorry, I thought the Commander came home hungry." To which Serena Joy replies, "He's in his office."

Rita offers to help her find the chamomile. She proceeds to make her some tea. Serena Joy asks if Offred has "asked for her napkins this month." Nope. She has not. But chill because Rita reminds her "It's not quite her time yet." Then Rita offers Serena Joy "something with a bit more flavor, to settle the soul." She knows Serena Joy needs a stiff drink.

She takes her up on it. Serena Joy invites Rita to join her in the drink, which she does. They're just a couple of girlfriends sharing a drink, chatting about this crazy world.

Rita tells Serena Joy she lost a son, Matthew. He was 19. He was in the war.

At her new home, Ofdaniel (Janine) joins Mrs. Monroe in the bedroom, for her rape, I mean *Ceremony*. Ofdaniel starts to cry and panic as she lays on the bed between Mrs. Monroe's legs.

Commander Monroe comes in, proceeds to rape Ofdaniel as she says "No, I don't want it!" and cries. He smiles at his wife, and she smiles at him. Finally, Ofdaniel has had enough, she yells, "Get the f*ck off me!" and jumps to her feet. "Don't you f*cking touch me!" She runs to the corner, goes fetal, and rocks back and forth, muttering "He's coming for me, he's coming for me."

Back at the *whorehouse of accomplished women*, Fred does what he does as June pretends to enjoy it. She wants to go have that drink at the bar. And he asks her why she's so keen on the bar. She says, "I like the way people treat you. They're all so impressed."

He says, "I'm not dumb. I know why you wanted to come back here. To meet someone."

He tells her he made "the arrangements." He opens the door and Moira comes in! He says, "I know you know Ruby," as he puts his arm around Moira's shoulder, "I know her too."

Clearly, he wants them to get together, in the way that pervs always want women friends to get together. June makes it clear nope, you're out of your depth, dude. He insists that he be thanked for arranging their meeting and for being so nice. They both say "thank you" and he heads to the bathroom.

Moira wants to know, "What the f*ck are you doing back here?"

In the kitchen of the *whorehouse of accomplished women*, Nick and the James Beard Award Nominated Martha chat about any info she has. He wants to know if anybody has said anything to her about "Waterford's Handmaid." Nope. She warns him that asking questions like this is dangerous.

The Martha realizes Nick is crushing on Offred/June. She warns him about that too. He deflects.

Back in the room, Moira freaks out over June being there to pick up a secret package. June says, "Moira, you could get it for me." Moira's like no way, not gonna happen.

Then she tells June, "It's Ruby now." Which is awful. She goes on, "Go home and just do what they say!"

June says, "I thought they strung you up somewhere to rot. It tore me apart. I didn't give up like a coward." She pleads with Moira, "You said we would find Hannah."

June says, "Do not let them grind you down. You keep your f*cking sh*t together! You fight!" Moira says, "I was doing alright until I saw you again." She leaves.

June breaks down, sobbing. Fred exits the bathroom, "She left?" June nods. And then he says, "Good, she's a degenerate."

As she sobs at the door, irritated Fred tells her, "Pull yourself together. We're going."

At home, Serena Joy hears Fred walking upstairs.

She stands at the top of stairs, says, "It's late." Which means, where the f were you?

He says, "You should get some sleep." Which means, I'm not telling you and stop asking me.

She says, "Goodnight then." Which mean, I don't feel like fighting.

He says, "Goodnight, dear. I'll see you in the morning." Which means, don't ask me tomorrow either because I also won't tell you then.

She says, "Yes." Which means, I won't ask tomorrow because I already know where you were and what you were doing so good luck trying to figure out exactly when this is going to come back and bite you in the ass, but rest assured, it will do exactly that.

And she goes to bed.

June climbs in her bed, dreams of sharing good times with Moira, with Luke, and with Hannah.

She's shaken awake by Serena Joy urging her, "Wake up, get dressed, hurry up!"

Nick drives Fred, Serena Joy, and Offred to a blocked off bridge. As they get out of the car, Aunt Lydia runs over to Offred, "Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!"

Janine holds baby Angela, as she stands on top of this bridge, overlooking the icy cold water below.

Warren and Mrs. Putnam are there, pleading with Janine to give them Angela. Janine yells, "Her name is Charlotte, you lying f*ck! You said we would be a family!"

Warren tells his wife, "She's not well."

Janine retorts, "I was well enough to suck your c*ck."

Janine, bless her, goes on, "I did every f*cked up thing you wanted, all the freaky shit she'd never do because you, you promised me we would run off and we would be a family!"

Aunt Lydia is beside herself, she implores Offred to talk to Janine. Offred tells the Putnams, "I need you to move back." Commander Putnam refuses to move. Mrs. Putnam moves back. Fred tells him, "Give her a chance." He finally moves, the dumb*ss.

Offred approaches her. "They all think I'm crazy, but I'm not." Offred tells her, "Janine, change is coming. There's hope. All of this, it's all gonna be over one day. Everything is gonna go back to normal. We are gonna go out. We're gonna go out drinking. You and me."

Janine says, "And Moira? And Alma? Can we do karaoke?"

Offred says, "We're gonna go dancing. We're gonna watch the sun come up."

Janine says, "Come with me. It can't hurt very much. Just for a second. And then we'll be free."

June tells her, "I can't cause of my daughter."

She says, "You have to do what's best for your daughter now. You have to give her the chance to grow up."

Janine tells Angela/Charlotte, "Mommy loves you. Mommy loves you, Charlotte. Mommy loves you so much." She kisses her, hands her to Offred, "Make sure she knows that, please."

Offred promises, holds Charlotte. Janine kisses Offred, quickly says, "bye" and jumps off the bridge into the water. In slow motion, Aunt Lydia freaks out, Offred is frozen in terror. Mrs. Putnam takes Charlotte from Offred.

Later, in a brightly lit, stark white hospital room, Aunt Lydia stands next to an unconscious Janine.

As she brushes aside Janine's hair, Aunt Lydia says, "May the Lord keep you in his mercy, you stupid girl." Aunt Lydia sits down next to Janine's bed.

At the Putnam home, Commander Warren is taken away in a black van by some Guardians. Serena Joy tells Mrs. P, "Hopefully, he'll only receive an admonishment. Let's pray that you won't bear any of the consequences."

At home, S.J. goes into Fred's office. He's not home. Clearly, she's going to turn the place upside down.

Meanwhile, at the store, the butcher tells Offred, "I've got a fine cut of meat for Commander Waterford." Only this isn't just a cut of meat. It's more.

He says, "I saved it for you, special." It's the package she was supposed to get from Rachel at the *whorehouse of accomplished women*.

Offred takes it, walks out of the store, looks at the package.

Meanwhile, Moira is in the bathroom of one of the rooms at the *whorehouse of accomplished women*, a man offscreen asks her, "What's taking so long?" She grabs a metal piece of equipment from inside the upper tank of the toilet and says "Be right there."

Cut to: Moira disguised as a delivery driver outside the *whorehouse of accomplished women*, starting a van, her hand bloodied. She drives away.

Night

Season 1

Episode Number: 10

Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Wednesday June 14, 2017
Writer: Bruce Miller
Director: Kari Skogland
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bledel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam)
Guest Stars: Madeline Brewer (Janine), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Samira Wiley (Moirra), Robert Curtis Brown (Commander Pryce), Tattiawna Jones (Ofglen #2), Stephen Kunken (Commander Putnam), Nina Kiri (Alma), Jenessa Grant (Ofsamuel), Bruce Tubbe (Matthew), Jordana Blake (Hannah), David Kirby (Commander Bennett), Ryan Perlus (Surgeon), Josh Hehner (Assisting Surgeon), Andrew Moodie (Mike Ahn), Bahia Watson (Oferic), Jean Paul Najm (Guardian #1), Lisa Michelle Cornelius (UN Volunteer), Boomer Phillips (Eye), Bas Reitsma (Eye #2), Jacqueline Gagliardi (Handmaid), Elena Khan (Martha), Marissa Kate Wilson (Handmaid)
Summary: Serena Joy confronts Offred and the Commander. Offred struggles with a complicated, life-changing revelation. The Handmaids face a brutal decision.



This episode opens in a flashback to June's first day at the Red Centre. Aunt Lydia calls the women sluts and makes them line up. June gets shocked by Aunt Lydia's cattle prod for not humbling herself.

Aunt Lydia wants an apology from June, which she gets.

June is then taken to a dark room with a single chair in it, on which she sits. Several Aunts surround her. Aunt Lydia drags in a scary machine on a rolling cart. Aunt Lydia picks up a hose-like thing

that's attached to the machine as she apologizes for how painful this is about to be.

"You are so very precious, we wouldn't want to lose you." Two other Aunts hold down June's arms as Lydia says, "Keep still now." She holds the hose up to June's ear and pulls the trigger, it attaches a little red tag to the top of her ear.

Back in the present, Offred's on her way home from the store with the package Moira snuck out to her. While walking, she thinks, "It's their own fault. They should've never given us uniforms if they didn't want us to be an army."

At home, Offred hides the package behind the bathtub in her bathroom. When she enters her bedroom, she gets a backhanded slap across the face from Serena Joy, who rants about how she trusted her, she tried to help her, blah blah blah. Serena Joy picks up the gold dress Fred gave June, which was crumpled up in a ball on the windowsill.

"You could've left me with something," she says to Offred. She drags her into the bathroom. She makes her take a pregnancy test. She then orders Offred to get on her knees and "pray that God makes you worthy in some way," before she storms out.

Serena Joy kneels in the hallway, grasping the pregnancy test as if her entire life depends on the result. She is all-consumed. She's actually praying to the pregnancy test. Meanwhile, in the bathroom, Offred leans her face over the bathtub as the blood from her face drips into it. Serena Joy comes back into the bathroom with the pregnancy test, "Praise be, His mercy." "He's answered our prayers," she says. Offred responds, "You think I prayed for this?"

Later, from her bed, June watches the ballerina in the music box spin. She remembers playfully speculating with Luke what Hannah would be like before she was born.

Downstairs, Fred finds Serena Joy in his office, Scrabble letters scattered on the desk in front of her. He pretends not to notice as he rambles on about his work. She says, "How many tiles do you pick to start?"

He says, "In any case, you know the law." To which she responds, "Yes, I do. I helped write it." She's letting him know she knows he's been playing with Offred, and I mean that in all the ways you know it means. She says, "You need to keep your hands off of her! You are going to control yourself!"

Fred says, "You brought lusting temptation back into this house. On your back, and on your knees. If I've sinned, then you led me to it." She's not into it, "Everybody answers to God." His response: "And you answer to me. Go to your room."

She's still not into it. "She's pregnant," she tells him.

They exchange the required proclamation of "praise be," before Serena Joy drops this truth nugget on ol' Freddy The Rapist: "It isn't yours."

She continues, full of absolute contempt, "You're weak, and God would never let you pass on that weakness. You can't father a child because you're not worthy."

She swipes the scrabble letters off the desk onto the floor and marches out of his office.

In the kitchen, Rita's super happy, so she obviously got the news. She hugs Offred, "God bless you." S.J. summons Rita, who kisses Offred on the cheek before she leaves.

Nick comes in, asks Offred what happened to her face. "She found out," she tells him. Then she tells him, "I'm pregnant." He's surprised. She says, "It's terrible." He says, "No, it's not," as he puts his hand on her belly. She puts her hand over his.

S.J. watches them from the kitchen, Nick makes eye contact with her and leaves. Serena Joy tells Offred to get her cloak. But they won't be needing the car because she's "made other arrangements."

There's a car waiting for them in the driveway. S.J. warns Offred, "We have a long drive ahead, so get comfortable."

Somewhere cold, Moira stumbles through an open, snowy field, until she finds a house. She goes in the garage, wipes the dust off an old license plate: Ontario! She then collapses on the floor of the garage.

Back in the car, on the long drive to we-don't-know-where yet, S.J. knits as Offred nervously watches. The car stops, the driver rolls down the privacy partition and let's S.J. know they've arrived. Offred asks, "Where are we, Mrs. Waterford?" S.J. doesn't answer, just gets out and tells the driver, "She's in the car."

Then she walks into a house for about two seconds and comes out of the house with... Hannah!

Offred watches from the car as Serena Joy talks with Hannah on the front steps of the house. Offred tries to get out of the car, but it's locked. She screams and cries, bangs on the window, yelling "Let me out! Let me out! Hannah!"

Serena Joy knows if she gets back in the car next to Offred, she'll end up dead, so she sits in the front seat, protected by that privacy partition. Offred begs to let her see Hannah.

Serena Joy lowers the partition slightly and tells her, "She's happy and she's well-taken care of." She goes on, "As long as my baby is safe, so is yours."

Offred lays into her, with a heavy dose of truth-telling and a string of cursing and vitriol that I won't recount word for word here.

Across town, at Bible Congress, Commander Warren Putnam admits his crimes against God, his brothers, and Gilead, but not any of his crimes against Janine because she doesn't count as human.

Fred smirks as he watches Putnam make his admission. Putnam leaves and the panel of Commanders discuss what they just heard.

Commander Price, who is in charge, wants to discuss what to do with Putnam. Fred wants to hurry things along. He thinks they should take it easy on Warren because they're all rapists and sinners so, no biggy.

Price says that Warren's wife personally asked him to make sure that Warren receive the harshest possible punishment, which is a shocker to Freddy. He assumed the wife would fall in line and beg for leniency for her hubby.

Cut to: Putnam being wheeled into an operating room on a gurney. With no warning at all, a surgeon cuts off his left arm, from just below his elbow.

Later at night, at the Waterford prison — Offred knocks on Nick's door. He doesn't answer. She waits for him on the steps, in the snow.

After a while, she goes back inside, marches right into Fred's office. He's like, "I've had quite a day. How about you?" She tells him she needs his help, "I need you to protect my daughter, please."

"Protect her from what?" he asks.

"From her. From Mrs. Waterford," Offred says.

He tries to downplay S.J.'s rage, she wouldn't hurt a child, she's just a little woman, women don't get angry, women are docile and obedient.

Offred's all, "You don't know her."

He congratulates her on being pregnant, "Such wonderful news, a miracle really."

He goes on, feeling extra-emasculated, "Is it mine?"

"Of course," she lies. And he knows she's lying, "You do that so well."

Upstairs, June relaxes in her room, listening to that cursed ballerina spin in the music box.

June pulls Moira's package out from behind the bathtub, opens it. The package is a huge stack of letters from Handmaids recounting their experiences, the children that have been taken from them, and their pleas for help. June reads their letters and cries. They're written on napkins, food wrappers, anything they could find to write on.

Back in the magical land of the North, Moira is interviewed by a refugee intake worker who told her she's lucky she got here on mac-and-cheese night.

He's very nice and very welcoming. He gives her a refugee ID card. He gives her a cell phone that's pre-paid for 12 months, \$470 in cash, a medical insurance card, a prescription drug card, and some clothes. Moira, shocked, cannot believe she's safe. She just stares at the Canadian guy, dumbfounded.

At the Waterford house, Serena Joy, crying, sets up the nursery for Nick and June's baby. Fred joins her, he apologizes.

"We're bringing a new life into this world," he says. "Yes. Yes she is," Serena Joy says. "After that, she'll be gone and we'll be a family," he assures her.

Upstairs in her bathroom, June wakes up on the floor next to all the Handmaid's letters. Three bells are heard. "A salvaging today," June thinks.

Alma and Offred head to the salvaging. Once there, Aunt Lydia orders all the Handmaids to kneel. Guardians dump barrels full of stones in front of them as a Handmaid whispers to another, "Oh man, I hate stonings," all non-chalant and irritated.

Aunt Lydia goes on about how beautiful the world is and how it's full of miracles. This is obviously a lot of b.s. build up to something she knows is really horrible. "There is no greater sin than putting a child in danger, am I correct girls?"

"Yes, Aunt Lydia," they respond in unison. They stand, remove their bonnets, and each pick up a stone.

Offred picks one up, stares at it. The Handmaids form a circle.

Guardians lead a person into the circle.

It's Janine.

As they lead Janine in, she waves to everyone and says, "Hi."

Offred realizes what's happening at the exact same moment that we do.

Aunt Lydia says Janine has been convicted of endangering a child and the punishment for this is death by stoning. The Guardians chain Janine to a stake in the center of the Handmaid circle.

Aunt Lydia says, "I know how difficult this is, girls, I do," crying as she speaks. "You know what to do. When I blow the whistle, you are free to begin."

Janine says, "Not too hard, okay?"

You won't believe who stands up to Aunt Lydia. NEW OFGLEN!

"Aunt Lydia, come on, we can't do this!" new Ofglen yells. A Guardian tells her to get back in her place. "No. I'm not gonna do it. I'm not gonna kill Janine, okay?"

He hits her across the face with the butt of his gun, she falls to the ground.

Janine cries, "Are you okay?"

Aunt Lydia blows her whistle.

Nothing. The Handmaids just stand there.

Aunt Lydia screams, "Girls! Girls!"

Offred enters the circle, stone in hand. A Guardian points a gun at her, commands her to get back in line. Aunt Lydia comes down yelling, "These girls are my responsibility."

Offred drops her stone on the ground at Aunt Lydia's feet, "I'm sorry, Aunt Lydia," making her point.

Alma does the exact same thing.

Then another Handmaid, and another, etcetera.

They all do it. Every single one of them.

Aunt Lydia says, "Go home. Go home, all of you, and think about what you have done." She tells Offred, "There will be consequences, believe me."

Offred smiles at Janine for a moment before she leaves.

Nina Simone's, "Feeling Good" plays as the Handmaids walk back to their houses in slow motion, led by Offred.

In the magical land of the North, Moira heads out of the refugee center, when who should happen to walk in — Luke!!!!

"Hi," she says, "How are you here?" He tells her that her name came up on his list of missing family members who'd been found. She hugs him, breaks down in sobs.

At the Waterford house, Offred stares out the window of her room, thinking, "We refused to kill Janine and for that sin we will be punished, I have no doubt. I am in disgrace, which is the opposite of grace. I ought to be terrified, but I feel serene. There's a kind of hope, it seems, even in futility."

A Guardian van pulls up to the Waterford house. Offred waits for them in her room.

Nick comes in, whispers to her, "Just go with them, trust me."

Two Guardians come in right after, she leaves with them, as Rita watches, crying. Offred hugs her, whispers to her where the package of letters is hidden. As they take Offred downstairs, Rita gets it from behind the tub.

Serena Joy freaks out, "I have a right to know where you're taking her." Fred runs up to them, "I need to see your authorization." A Guardian says, "Everything is in order, Commander." Serena Joy grabs Offred's arm, "What did you do?!"

Offred wrestles her arm away from her and goes outside.

She stares into the back of the black van, smirks at Serena Joy one last time, then climbs in.

Offred thinks, "Whether this is my end, or a new beginning, I have no way of knowing. I've given myself over into the hands of strangers. I have no choice. It can't be helped. And so I step up, into the darkness within, or else the light."

Season Two

June

Season 2

Episode Number: 11

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Wednesday April 25, 2018
Writer: Bruce Miller
Director: Mike Barker
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars: Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Bahia Watson (Oferic), Jenessa Grant (Ofsamuel), Nina Kiri (Alma), Ericka Kreutz (Nurse Wheeler), Ryan Turner (Uniformed Eye #1), Daniel Chaudhry (Uniformed Eye #2), David Snelgrove (Eye Commander), Dave Lapsley (Executioner), Edie Inksetter (Aunt Elizabeth), Jordana Blake (Hannah Bankole), Peggy Bree Tam (Punished Handmaid #1), Tasha Attey (Punished Handmaid #2), Brianne Tucker (Punished Handmaid #3), Natalie Dale (Punished Handmaid #4), Ipsita Paul (Aunt Kimberly), Alana Pancyr (OfWyatt), Jonathan Malen (Quinn), Christina Collins (School Worker), Sam Asante (Ultrasound Tech), Paul Beer (Doctor #2), Joel Rinzler (Butcher), Carrie Beale (Traveler), J. Timothy Hunt (Airport Refugee)
Summary: Offred reckons with the consequences of a dangerous decision while haunted by memories from her past and the violent beginnings of Gilead.



We join June back in the van that picked her up from the Waterford's to haul her away. So is this a good thing or a bad thing? We still don't know.

The van stops, June has some sort of leather Hannibal Lecter mouth guard put on her, then she's pulled out of the van into — Fenway Park. As in the oldest baseball park in major league baseball. Where the Boston Red Sox play. Or, in this case, where they used to play. Looks like America's favorite pastime has changed significantly.

There are other Handmaids and Guardians everywhere, dogs are barking, it's chaos. June turns and sees a huge platform with a row of hanging nooses. You read that correctly. A row of hanging nooses. The Guardians lead the Handmaids onto the platform and place the nooses over their necks.

They're all there, waiting to die. A Guardian gives a signal for the platform under their feet to be dropped. And it does. But only about 1/2". It was all a scare tactic! They're not dead! They didn't hang them!

Guess who strolls in? Aunt Lydia. Microphone in hand. Sanctimonious speech and all.

We get our first flashback of the season here — June and Luke are getting an under-the-weather Hannah ready for school. They quickly discuss and decide that they're going to stop using birth control to see what happens. So this is clearly before everything went to h*ll in a hand basket.

Back in the present, Aunt Lydia is making her "girls" stand in the pouring rain while holding up the stones they refused to use to kill Janine.

Aunt Lydia is told that June, err Offred is pregnant. So she lets her go inside out of the rain and presents her a tray of food. Only June's not willing to play along anymore.

She's not going to eat, not going to keep being Lydia's good little girl. Lydia, not surprisingly, isn't going to put up with this. She takes Offred on a little walk to the basement of her Handmaid School For Formerly Free Women. There, we meet a new character. A pregnant Handmaid chained to a beam.

She didn't play by Aunt Lydia's rules and this is the result. Back upstairs, June promptly begins to eat her food. I mean, I get it. No judgment.

Lydia has the other Handmaid's march in and watch as she burns original Alma's hand over an eye on the stovetop. Who else would like 5 minutes alone in a dark alley with Aunt Lydia and that electric cattle prod she's so fond of? Is it just me?

We return to our flashback, June is at work and a coworker brings her phone that's been buzzing non-stop. She checks her voicemail and finds out Hannah's school sent Hannah to the hospital because she had a fever. June rushes there and finds her. A nurse/doctor is keeping her company.

This person has the unmitigated gall, the nerve, the cojones to give June the third degree about why Hannah is sick, why she was at school, why June was at work, why she works at all. Good thing they're in a hospital because this lady is about to need stitches, at the least.

Back in the present, June is getting an ultrasound to check on her pregnancy. What's better than being sprawled out in stirrups with no freedom or rights? Having your rapist's accomplice stroll in to chat you up, that's what. I'm talking Serena Joy, of course. This is the point at which you and I ask Siri (or Alexa, if you've got it like that): define "recalcitrance." Gold star if you use it this week in a sentence!

Fred the rapist strolls in soon enough, smug and trite, as per usual.

Once the doctor confirms Offred is pregnant, Serena Joy changes her tune right quick. Oh thank you, Offred, oh you're the best, Offred, oh you get a break from the raping for a while Offred, etc. etc.

Everyone's so happy, except June but who cares how she feels, right? They clear out, except for an orderly. As he's leaving, June says "Under his eye," and this guy responds by turning to her and saying, "God speed, June." He knows her real name!

As she's putting on her boots, she finds a key in one of them, with a red dot on it. She uses the key to open a door in her exam room, which leads her out into the stairwell!

There are strategically placed red dots throughout, leading her out.

Back at the Waterford house, they're straight up panicking. Fred is calling in favors left and right to try to locate Offred. Serena June meanders around that loveless house, dazed and depressed. Maybe if you hadn't been so horrible, you wouldn't be in this predicament. Girl, bye.

June finds herself red dotted into the back of a refrigerated truck hauling slaughtered meat. The truck is driving. But where?!?!?

Back in our flashback, June and Hannah arrive home from the hospital, St. Holier Than Thou, to find Luke watching breaking news on TV. There's been an explosion at the White House. For those of us who were in the U.S. and watching TV when 9/11 happened, this is going to feel a little too close to home. Brace yourselves.

Back in the present, the truck stops and the drivers lets June out. He leads her into a big warehouse and tells her to stay inside before he takes off. And who is in there? Nick!

He tells her this is temporary until they know it's safe to move her. Meanwhile, she takes off her Handmaid outfit, and places it in an incinerator. She lets down her hair, but notices the "Handmaid tag" on her ear. She grabs some scissors and starts cutting it off of her ear. If you've ever had the upper cartilage of your ear pierced, you know how sensitive that part of your ear is. She just cuts and cuts and bleeds and bleeds. But she manages to finally get that thing off, once and for all!

When she's done, she says, in voice over,

"My name is June Osborne. I am from Brookline, Massachusetts. I am 34 years old. I stand 5'3" in bare feet. I weigh 120 lbs. I have viable ovaries. I am five weeks pregnant. I am...free."

Unwomen

Season 2

Episode Number: 12

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired:	Wednesday April 25, 2018
Writer:	Bruce Miller
Director:	Mike Barker
Show Stars:	Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars:	Madeline Brewer (Janine), Marisa Tomei (Mrs. O'Conner), John Carroll Lynch (Dan), Clea DuVall (Sylvia), Phillip Craig (Maintenance Van Driver), Nicky Guadagni (Aunt Sarah), Novie Edwards (Kit), Soo Garay (Fiona), Keeya King (Jenna), Ian Geldart (Mike), Helen King (Aunt Pauline), Cornelia Luna (Unwoman #1), Ronica Sajnani (Unwoman #2), Josephine Buettner (Unwoman #3), Diana Tso (Unwoman #4), Shahi Teruko (Gwendolyn), Felicia Simone (Crying Student), Janet Pinnick (Ticket Agent), Jason Jazrawy (I.C.E. Agent), Mark Wiebe (I.C.E. Supervisor), Romii Reilly (Unwoman — Stage 4), Chris Tarpos (I.C.E. Agent), Carrie Beale (Travelor)
Summary:	Offred adjusts to a new way of life; the arrival of an unexpected person disrupts the Colonies; a family is torn apart by the rise of Gilead.



June is laying in the back of a truck as they move her to a safe location, which looks to be a generic abandoned industrial building, but later reveals to be the home of the Boston Globe newspaper. She hears sirens approaching and freaks out but nobody comes inside to find her.

In the colonies, Ofglen (Emily) works in the fields. They stop to pray.

In a flashback, we see Emily giving a lecture on microbiology. She talks with a student but gets a call that she needs to

take. Emily is seen talking to Dan, one of the staff, about getting more research time. She's told that she's not teaching next semester and that she should think of this as an opportunity. Dan adds that "the new board of regents is concerned" that she isn't "maintaining a healthy teaching environment", and that there is unrest right now because of what happened in the capital. She tells him that she's teaching next semester.

Emily is seen helping other handmaids with their injuries. She goes to help one but they say don't waste the pill because she can't hold down water. Emily goes outside to pick some mint leaves for tea. She witnesses the arrival of more workers from the colonies. One of them (Mrs. O'Conner) is a mistress. She isn't welcomed by the others. She sits down and begins to pray.

June wanders around the Boston Globe. Walking among office cubicles, she silently ganders at the materials and matter which characterized the world before Gilead. Sports merchandise (Boston Red Sox in particular), family photos, and knick-knacks all decorate the abandoned cubicles; she even finds a DVD of the TV show Friends. June later wanders down to the basement, where she stumbles upon a line of nooses hung on the rafters. She then turns to the wall, which is stained with blood and littered with bullet holes. June is horrified and sickened at the sight of what was obviously a massacre, and briefly cries in silence. Suddenly, she hears noises. She

hides but its only Nick. She asks him to get her out of here because it's a slaughterhouse. He tells her that she has to wait a couple of weeks. She tells him that they need to find Hannah but he says no. She asks for him to give her his keys to the car. He gives them to her and he gives her a gun. She goes to the car and gets in to leave. Nick stands there watching her. She starts to hit the steering wheel because she knows she isn't going to leave. She gets out of the car and gives him back the keys and the gun. They begin to kiss and have sex. They finish and she looks at him. He tells her he can't anymore. She says to try.

Emily works in the fields. Emily talks to the mistress and offers her some advice. They talk and Emily learns that the mistress was sent to the colonies because she slept with another man and fell in love. She asks if she thinks love matters to god. Emily gives her some antibiotics and the woman asks why she's helping her. She says that her mistress was kind to her once.

In a flashback, Emily sees the word faggot spraypainted on the floor. She runs down the stairs to see why and sees Dan hanging from the rafters.

There are a bunch of people at the airport when Emily arrives there with her wife Sylvia and son Oliver. Sylvia and Oliver can get through because they are Canadian citizens but since Emily didn't get a Canadian visa, she still needs a "border traffic bypass stamp" to go through the gates. They go to get permission but learn that they aren't married anymore. This is because of a new law that's been put in place. Emily has to say goodbye to her family and watches as they ride an escalator up to so that they can get on an airplane.

Emily hears someone puking and goes to see that O'Connor is throwing up. Emily asks if she took the antibiotics that she gave her. She says that she doesn't think they are working. The woman realizes that she gave her something else, something deadly. Emily says she did it because every month she held a girl down while her husband raped her. They hang her dead body outside on a cross. As they are walking to the fields, new prisoners arrive. One of them is Janine.

June watches FRIENDS on a laptop. She suddenly gets up and grabs a box. She goes desk to desk and picks stuff from each one to put into it. She sets up a candle vigil for the people who had been murdered downstairs.

Baggage

Season 2
Episode Number: 13
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Wednesday May 2, 2018
Writer: Dorothy Fortenberry
Director: Kari Skogland
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bledel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars: Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Samira Wiley (Moira), Cherry Jones (Holly Maddox), Yahya Abdul-Mateen II (Omar), Erin Way (Erin), Jordana Blake (Hannah Bankole), Philip Craig (Maintenance Driver), Vas Saranga (Kyle), Asia Rempel (Young June), Katie Messina (Carol), Catherine McNally (Sarah), Amanda Barker (Tricia), Michelle Hospedales (Holly's Friend #3), Jessica Greenberg (Holly's Friend #4), Isaiah Rockcliffe (Adam), Joanna Douglas (Heather), Janelle Heron (Econowife), Michala Brasseur (Caitlyn), Trevor Hayes (Pilot), Alex Harrouch (Young Driver)
Summary: Offred reflects on her relationship with her mother as she navigates her way through Gilead. Meanwhile, in Little America, Moira tries to cope with the trauma she endured.



June is seen running through the Boston Globe as she exercises. She stops in front of the mural. We learn that she's been in the facility for two months.

Moira is running through Little America. She goes back to the apartment and makes breakfast for Luke and Erin.

We see June listening to a recording of an interview with an early "Sons of Jacob" member and digging through newspapers cutting out clippings. She pins the clippings to the walls under categories like 'Power Structure', 'Militarization' and 'Curtailed of Civil Rights'. In a voiceover she 'tells' the clippings "You

were there all the time but no one noticed you". She adds "not no one" and then thinks about her mom Holly and how she took her to a rally once where people were tossing the names of their rapists into the fire.

Nick arrives and gives her coffee. He tells her that he should probably get going. He tells her that she might be leaving the Boston Globe soon. He promises to come back on Tuesday. June says that she can't leave. Nick says it will be better for everyone. She replies better never means better for everyone. They hug.

Moira helps a new arrival at the center who tells her his story. She tells him that there are trauma counselors on the third floor and that it gets easier.

June opens the garage and learns that she is leaving now. She grabs her coat and climbs into the back of the truck. She looks back at the building as they drive away.

In a flashback, June goes to her mom's house to pick up a mixer. She tells her group of friends what she does for a living. Everyone seems to be impressed but her mom.

June is dropped off at another location and told that someone would be along to get her soon. She looks around and finds lots of signs that have been taken down. Omar suddenly shows up and asks her if she's a good witch or a bad witch. He tells her to come with him that they're going to smuggle her into Canada. She asks who is "they" and he says someone brave or stupid. As they are walking to his car, he gets an alert that the safe house he's to take her to isn't safe. He goes to leave her behind but she begs him to take her with him. He puts her into the back of his car. She thanks him but he tells her to get down.

Omar takes her to his home where his wife Heather doesn't approve of her being there. She plays with their son Adam while they talk. Heather comes back out and tells her that she can't believe she'd give her baby away. The next day the family leaves to go to church leaving June alone.

In a flashback, June's mom asks her if she likes the job at the publishing place. She says she does. Her mom tells her that she sacrificed for her and that she's settling. She asks about Luke and tells June that she doesn't think she should marry him. Her mom tells her that she thinks its a mistake.

June is in the apartment of her escape helpers when someone comes knocking at the door. She hides under their bed where she finds a Quran. She wanders around the apartment because she is bored. She thinks of Hannah as she waits. They don't come back at 2 like they promised.

In a flashback, Aunt Lydia shows them a slideshow of all the horrible things that have happened. One of the pictures is of June's mother working on a farm. Later, in bed, Moira asks June how she thinks they got her Mom. She doesn't know but that she told her that it wasn't safe what she was doing. Moira tells her that she was right but June says so was she. That she knew this would happen. June says that she waited before but she swore she wouldn't do that again.

She dresses in one of the wife's outfits and leaves the apartment in broad daylight. She walks right past the guards to the bridge and to an underground train station. She gets on the train and pulls out the map to check where she's going. She takes the train all the way to the last stop. When she gets off, she goes through the woods. She thinks about Hannah as she runs and how Hannah left her once but now June has to leave her. She gets to a field where old planes are kept.

Moira is at a club drinking. She spots a girl and they have sex in the bathroom. Moira then introduces to her as "Ruby", her former alias in "Jezebel's". When she returns home early in the morning, she mobs (a still silent) Erin who is having breakfast with cereals. To her surprise, Erin replies "Blessed be the 'froot loops'", spoofing a Gileadean salutation. They laugh.

June finally makes it to the plane and gets onboard. She thinks about her mom and how they sang in the car Hollerback Girl as the plane starts up. But just as they go to take off the plane gets shot at. They are forced to stop and the pilot is taken and shot for helping them. The storage hold where she's hiding is opened and June is then recaptured.

Other Women

Season 2

Episode Number: 14

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Wednesday May 9, 2018
Writer: Yahlin Chang
Director: Kari Skogland
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars: Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam), Stephen Kunken (Warren Putnam), Robert Curtis Brown (Andrew Pryce), Greg Bryk (Commander Cushing), Kelly Jenrette (Annie), Tattiawna Jones (Ofglen #2), Nina Kiri (Alma), Bahia Watson (Oferic), Jenessa Grant (Ofsamuel), Angela Vint (Leah), Ashleigh Rains (Wife #1), Genevieve Adam (Wife #2), Jane Smythe (Wife #3), David Gingrich (Linds), Danielle Height (Handmaid A), Jamila Fleming (Handmaid C)
Summary: A baby shower provokes a troubling shift in Offred's relationship with Serena Joy; Offred reckons with the choice she made that led her to become a Handmaid.



The episode opens with June getting her ear re-tagged at the Red Center. Then we see her chained near a bed. Aunt Lydia returns with the red dress and hangs it within June's reach. When she calls her Offred, June says, "It's June. You know my f*cking name."

Aunt Lydia lets her know that the Waterfords will let Offred return for a trial run, but they don't want June. Wow, such great options. Stay chained up in the Red Center or return to her rapist's house.

Cut to: She puts on the red dress and returns to the Waterford house.

Fred strolls in all smug and trite with his nasty little smile, "Welcome home, Offred." He starts talking about how it was so hard to rescue her from her "kidnappers." Which is a lie he's telling himself and everyone else. No one wants to openly admit June ran away in an effort to escape to Canada.

Offred is wearing the dress and the wings but we all know she is NOT Offred anymore. She's not playing. She has what they want and they all know it. She has the baby, yes, but she also has some of her dignity back.

Offred goes to her room. In a few minutes, Serena Joy marches in and wraps her hands around Offred's throat, choking her. The look Offred gives her is everything.

Offred reminds her, "As long as my baby is safe, so is yours."

Later, Offred is taking a bath when Aunt Lydia interrupts. She tells her to wash "everywhere." So June stares right into her eyes, spreads her legs as far as she can in the tub, and washes herself "down there" all while having a staring contest with Aunt L. Aunt Lydia pretends this is no big thing, she tells her to go to bed, "Baby needs rest."

Offred feels the baby kick for the first time.

Rita brings her a fresh dress and gives her back the Handmaid letters she was supposed to smuggle out of the house. She's too scared to help.

Downstairs, the house is being prepped for a soirée. Nick finds Offred in the kitchen and is surprised and, of course, super disappointed. He didn't know she'd been caught.

A bunch of Commanders' wives and their Handmaids show up for Serena Joy's baby shower. They sip champagne and offer gifts. Offred sits in the corner digging a hole into the arm of the chair with her fingers.

Everyone's so glad the kidnapped baby has been returned. Cheers! Offred pipes up, "I felt the baby kick for the first time last night." The women turn and stare at her so hard, especially Serena, who is not happy.

And then something strange happened: Aunt Lydia put her hand on Offred's shoulder, but not like "Quiet!" More like, "please be careful or they're going to tear you apart." Is she protecting her?

The Commanders are skeet shooting, as Commanders do in their free time. They're discussing the sanctions Canada has imposed. Because obviously, Canada's like "mmmm, no we're not doing business with you until you stop this whole Handmaid thing."

Back home, Serena Joy's smoking one of those lady cigarettes. Aunt L joins her outside. They have a heart-to-heart about how everything from now on is about the child. Aunt L snatches the cigarette out of her hand and stomps on it, "Bad for the baby."

Offred catches Alma in the hallway and they talk about how things are worse, new Oflgen had her tongue cut out for standing up for Janine at the stoning.

Back at the party, some weird sting holding ritual/ceremony is underway. The Commanders' Wives and the Handmaids are all holding the string and standing in a circle, Serena Joy's in the center. Offred joins her and kneels on a pillow in front of Serena Joy.

I just want Offred to punch Serena in the crotch right now. Full force, closed fist punch. Punch the sense back into her via her v.

Serena Joy puts her hand over Offred's and Aunt L ties the string around their hands while Serena recites bible verses. So... I guess they're officially string-married now?

In a flashback, June is confronted by Annie (Kelly Jenrette), Luke's wife. She asks her to give them space to work on their marriage. She loves Luke, "We made vows, before God. That means something."

It digresses into Annie calling her a whore, as you'd expect.

At home, Luke is in the process of leaving a screaming voicemail on Annie's phone about how they're done. June feels guilty. Luke tries to convince her not to. But she still does.

Offred is thinking of this moment at the end of the baby shower, after the guests have left. She mentions mostly to herself, but audibly, "After my shower, we ended up giving away half our gifts." Serena Joy is so incensed at this, that she slaps Rita! Rita who did nothing but who just happened to be nearby. This b*tch is crazy! Slapping anyone who's around because she's so mad!

Aunt L leads Offred out of the room.

Serena Joy goes to Fred's office, "I want her out of my house." Fred reminds her she shouldn't miss the pregnancy. She shouldn't let Offred "take any part of it away from you." Then he says, "She's nothing." This is what he thinks about Offred, and you better believe this is what he thinks about all women, Serena.

Aunt L and Offred walk by the river and the wall where they hang people. Aunt L reminds her that she's trying to give Offred the best chance possible. She then points out that the man hanging up there on the hanging wall isn't a stranger to her. She knew him.

It's Homer! They killed him!

Now his wife, Heather, has been made a Handmaid. Alex has been placed with new parents. I paused it here for 30 minutes and drank a cup of "Calm The F Down" tea while I stared 1000 yards into the distance.

Aunt Lydia tells Offred she's selfish and asks her, "Who killed him? Whose fault was it?" while she makes Offred stare up at Homer's dead body.

Offred whispers, "My fault." Aunt Lydia says, "June did this. Not Offred. Offred is free from blame."

At the Waterford house, Offred sits on the floor in front of Fred. Serena Joy watches from the couch. She says to them, "Commander, Mrs. Waterford, I would very much like to stay in your

home, if you'll have me. Please." Serena Joy is not buying it, because she's a woman, and she's smart, "Do you have anything else to say?" Fred rolls his eyes, like "Oh MY GOD can we just let her live here again so I'll have someone to keep raping?"

Turns out Offred does have more to say, "I'm not worthy. I am so grateful for everything you've done for me."

Nick is crushed. They've broken June. She's broken.

Offred looks up at Fred, "Please, let me try to be good." Then she goes back to her cell, I mean her room.

Serena Joy smokes by the window of her bedroom in the middle of the night. Then she goes up to Offred's room, climbs on to her bed beside her and touches Offred's belly, "All will be well." Then she says, "Mama loves you." Ewwww. No thank you.

As soon as she leaves, Offred gets up, lays down in the closet, looking for the carved "Nolite Te Bastardes Carborundorum," but it's gone. The wood has been replaced during her three-month absence.

"My fault, my fault, my fault," she repeats in her head.

In a flashback to when Hannah was a baby, Luke and June are at a coffee shop and Annie comes in, makes eye contact with June, and leaves.

On the closet floor, "Please God, let Hannah forget me. Let me forget me," Offred thinks as she gets dressed.

Nick tries to talk to her as she leaves to do the shopping but all she says is, "We've been sent good weather." She's broken, guys, like, really broken.

Seeds

Season 2

Episode Number: 15

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Wednesday May 16, 2018
Writer: Kira Snyder
Director: Mike Barker
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars: Madeline Brewer (Janine), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam), Robert Curtis Brown (Andrew Pryce), Sydney Sweeney (Eden Spencer), Deb Filler (Sally), Tanya Faraday (Dee), Shahi Teruko (Gwendolyn), Soo Garay (Fiona), Novie Edwards (Kit), Nicky Guadagni (Aunt Sarah), Perrie Voss (Ofzachary), Marissa Kate Wilson (Ofzachary's Partner), Paula Boudreau (Grace), Angela Vint (Leah)
Summary: Offred spirals as a Gilead ceremony disrupts her relationship with Nick. Janine tries to adjust to life in the Colonies, jeopardizing her friendship with Emily.



The episode opens with Offred, who is up in middle of night, in the kitchen, burning the hidden letters she had from all those Handmaids begging for help.

Nick finds her in there and realizes she is out of her d*mn mind.

In the morning, Offred undergoes her weigh-in and baby bump measurements with Aunt Lydia and Serena Joy. Serena Joy is astounded, just *astounded* that Aunt Lydia has a pencil and paper.

Later, Aunt L finds Serena in the living room talk and tells her how it was hard for her to quit smoking too, trying to blame quitting smoking for Serena's sh*tty attitude.

Serena points out that Offred isn't herself. Then they have an awkward exchange about God that is very passive aggressive — mostly on Aunt Lydia's part.

At the Colonies, the ladies are singing a religious song, I assume. "Praise" is repeated a lot. That's a requirement in religious songs.

The women who have died in their beds are being carried out, to make room for new Unwomen.

Crazy Janine quotes Aunt Lydia to Emily because she's crazy. Emily reminds her that there's no noble reason for them to be there. God isn't watching over them, "We come here. We work. We die."

Back at the Waterford's, Offred, in the restroom, notices some blood in her underwear.

Serena and Offred take a walk, as if they're old friends — which they are not.

Janine's baby is at a park with her dumb "mom," Mrs. Commander Putnam, and she's crying because you would too if you were that baby and that woman was your "mom."

Serena is super peeved about Offred not wanting to gossip with her like a couple of gal pals. Back at home, Serena sends Offred to her room. Nick asks Serena if Offred is okay. He's worried about her "mental state."

Serena's about to ignore him and leave but what's this? Nick stops her. With his hands! He says, "She doesn't have anyone to look out for her."

Serena tells him firmly, "The Handmaid is not your concern." The Handmaid. Ok, SJ, we see you. "The Handmaid."

Fred is at the dining table on his laptop planning ways to keep all the raping and oppression of all women, non-whites, and non-two percenter white men going along as planned. Without looking, he clinks his spoon on the side of his coffee cup, and says, "Warm it please, Rita." Rita, how about dumping that pot of hot coffee on his bathing suit area and scalding him? She doesn't though.

Serena tries to chat with him, but he's not listening. So in order to get him to listen, she tells him how sweet it was that Nick was waiting for her and Offred when they got back from their walk, "He is very concerned about her."

It worked. He listens.

At work, Fred updates his boss, Andrew, on Gilead garbage. Then he makes a quick request: his driver. Nick.

Freddie wants to transfer Nick somewhere else, somewhere distant, like D.C. Andrew suggests that Freddy keep him around since he's so trustworthy. Instead of transferring him, he should be promoted!

At home, Offred lies in the tub. And it's bad.

Serena finds Offred in the kitchen drinking her shake. She wants Offred to come with her to the "Prayvaganza."

Offred isn't doing well at all but she goes to the Prayvaganza. Everyone's there! It's a who's who of Gilead! Commanders! Commanders' wives! Ritas! Handmaids! Econowives!

This particular Prayvaganza is to honor "their most valiant Guardians." Including Nick.

The Guardians are getting married. Right then and right there. They weren't aware of this beforehand. They're getting married to women they've never met. Ever.

Andrew reads from the bible as the brides are marched in to the room. The brides' faces are completely covered. They can't see.

Offred is not cool with this, and neither is Nick. Fred and Serena, however, couldn't be happier. They remove the face coverings from the brides and they're all like 14 years old.

Andrew reads from the bible, "Be fruitful and multiply." Just like that, they're married.

At the Colonies, Janine stares at flowers when they're supposed to be digging up mud. I mean, leave it to Janine. She finds the one flower in all that mud.

She and Emily discuss God. Janine believes in God, and Emily doesn't.

Kit, a sick Unwoman, collapses in the mud.

At the Waterford house, Nick reads from the bible.

Nick's child bride is named Eden Spencer.

Fred tells Rita to bring champagne, so they can celebrate. But only the husbands and wives. Serena sends Offred to her room.

In the hallway, Rita catches Offred and tells her she can't believe how young Eden is. Then she asks if she can make Offred some cinnamon milk.

In her room, it looks like Offred is miscarrying. There is a lot of blood.

At the Colonies, Emily pulls out one of her teeth, actually it sort of just falls out. Not a good sign.

One of the Unwomen, a rabbi, conducts a marriage ceremony for Fiona and Kit, who's in bed, dying. The wedding was Janine's idea. Emily is not happy. She reminds Janine that if the Aunts see this, they'll punish them. But Janine believes that God is watching over them. Emily doesn't. Because of everything.

Their argument is about more than just the marriage ceremony and being punished. It's much bigger than that.

At Nick's, Serena shows Eden her new apartment, the one she'll share with her husband who is old enough to be her father. She has the "birds and the bees talk" with Eden — sort of. Serena lets her know she should become closer to Nick through "the act." Make sure to refer to it this way next time you're going to engage in it. Call it "the act." See how well that goes over.

Fred and Nick share a drink, pretending to be pals. Fred toasts to "good women."

Nick pretends to be grateful to Fred for arranging the whole wedding to a child/fake promotion.

Nick heads back to his apartment but stops to smoke on the way. It's a long walk. Like 20 steps.

Something gets his attention in the bushes.

Someone, I mean.

He finds Offred in the bushes, bloodied, passed out!

He yells for help.

At the colonies, Kit dies in her bed. Emily announces, "It was a beautiful wedding."

This is her way of apologizing to Janine.

As some of the Unwomen bury Kit, we see the number of other Unwomen they've had to bury in the same field.

June wakes up in a hospital bed. Serena is there. She runs out to get the doctor.

June has on a fetal monitor. There's a heartbeat! The baby is alive!!!! Still alive!!!!

June says, "You're tough, aren't you?"

She tells the baby, "I will not let you grow up in this place. I won't do it. Do you hear me? They do not own you. And they do not own what you will become."

She promises to get them both out of there.

First Blood

Season 2

Episode Number: 16

Season Episode: 6

Originally aired:	Wednesday May 23, 2018
Writer:	Eric Tuchman
Director:	Mike Barker
Show Stars:	Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bledel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars:	Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Kristian Bruun (Doctor), Robert Curtis Brown (Andrew Pryce), Greg Bryk (Commander Cushing), Stephen Kunken (Warren Putnam), Sydney Sweeney (Eden Spencer), Tattiana Jones (Ofglen #2), Nina Kiri (Alma), Jenessa Grant (Ofsamuel), Bahia Watson (Oferic), Elise Bauman (Jenny), Adrian Falconer (College Dean), Allie Dunbar (Student Host), Karina Bradfield (Heckler #1), Luc Trotter (Heckler #2), Romii Reilly (Unwoman Prisoner — Stage 4), Chris Tarpos (Protester)
Summary:	Offred finds unexpected allies and obstacles in her search for a way to protect Hannah. The Commander prepares for the dedication of a new Red Center. Nick struggles with his new assignment.



During an ultrasound, the doctor tells Serena that Offred's bleeding was due to a subchorionic hematoma and she should be fine now, adding the baby "needs harmony within the household". Back at home, Serena has Offred move in the sitting room so she doesn't have to go up and down the stairs. In a moment alone with Offred, Nick points out he didn't have a choice to marry Eden and still thinks about "the three of us".

Commander Fred inspects the almost finished construction site of the new Red Center, along with Aunt Lydia and the Commanders Pryce, Putnam, and Cushing. Aunt Lydia is pleased about the in-

creasing number of "girls" they "can process here". Waterford assures a suspicious Pryce that the "finishing touches" on the site will be done within two days.

That night, Nick and Eden have dinner at their apartment, where she tells him that her mother taught her "about everything" that would be expected of her as a wife. Nick steps outside to smoke. Meanwhile, Serena sits by the couch while Offred gets ready to go to sleep and lets Serena put her hands on her belly.

The next day, Eden tells Offred about Nick's permanent aloofness. She fears he is a gender traitor. Offred reassures her he will be "a great father for her children".

Serena invites four handmaids (Alma, Ofglen (#2), Oferic, and Ofsamuel) for a surprise lunch with Offred. Later, Serena takes Offred up to the nursery to see how she's decorated it. When Offred asks to see Hannah, Serena angrily refuses and orders her to get her things out from downstairs to go back to her old room.

When Nick runs into Offred soon after, she insists he has to deflower his wife. That night, Nick and his new bride have sex for the first time.

Fred sneaks into Offred's room while she sleeps and shows her a Polaroid of Hannah in her pink Subservient-in-Training uniform. Offred thanks him and cries as she stares at the photo, which the commander takes as an invitation to start pawing at her belly, then her breast, telling her he missed her. She responds that sex probably wouldn't be great for the baby. He backs off quickly, leaving the photo with her.

To the opening of the new Rachel and Leah Center, Commanders from all of the districts are there. When Nick sees Commander Pryce, he begs for reassignment and says there's a lot he hasn't divulged about Fred. He then asks Pryce to promise to "protect the handmaid", to which Pryce replies he has his word.

As Fred addresses the men who've gathered, a whole bunch of handmaids stand along the auditorium's back wall. Ofglen#2 steps out of line and turns to face her fellow maids, raising one hand so everyone can see that she's holding a detonator. The women start to run. Ofglen then runs into the assembly, holds up her hand once more and presses the button. As the red-clad women run for safety, a huge explosion rocks the center.

Flashback — Serena nervously prepares to speak in front of a crowd on a college campus to promote her book "A Woman's Place", where the audience is already booing loudly before she even gets to the podium. When someone throws a water bottle at the stage, the organizers hustle her out, with Fred loudly protesting that his woman has a right to speak, because "This is America". When heading back to the car, Serena is shot in the stomach by a sniper. In the hospital, Fred promises Serena to find the "terrorist" who shot her.

Fred later gets to catch the sniper and his wife and holds them at gunpoint. He kills the wife first.

After

Season 2

Episode Number: 17

Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Wednesday May 30, 2018
Writer: Lynn Renee Maxcy
Director: Kari Skogland
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars: Madeline Brewer (Janine), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Samira Wiley (Moira), Greg Bryk (Ray Cushing), Stephen Kunken (Warren Putnam), Rebecca Rittenhouse (Odette), Sydney Sweeney (Eden Spencer), Nina Kiri (Alma), Jenessa Grant (Dolores), Bahia Watson (Brianna), Helen King (Aunt Pauline), Krista Morin (Rachel Tapping), Nina Iordanova (Refugee), Sehar Bhojani (Elise Watson), Roger Bainbridge (Paul Watson), Danielle Height (Handmaid A), Jamila Fleming (Handmaid C), Natalie Dale (Claire), Brianne Tucker (Molly), Tasha Attey (Amber)
Summary: An attack sends shockwaves through both Gilead and Little America; Serena makes a dangerous choice; Moira searches for someone from her past.



In the aftermath of the Red Center attack, the handmaids, all in black coats, gather in a funeral garb. Aunts are lining the path to the red caskets waiting for them to mourn. Aunt Lydia reads the (patronymic) names of the 31 deceased handmaids. In the vehicle on the way home, the handmaids talk about those they lost. Homes all over town are marked with bodies hanging in front of homes.

Commander Fred is lying half-conscious in his hospital bed. Nick offers to take Serena home for sleep and a change of clothes. She denies it. Commander Put-

nam enters the room with a visibly injured Commander Cushing and announces Commander Pryce "has gone home to God" and Cushing will be taking on Pryce's "security duties". Cushing promises he will find everyone responsible for the gruesome attack.

In the Colonies, some vans stop by a working line of prisoners. A list of names is presented to the guards, who pull several women out of the line and put them into the vans, among them Emily and Janine.

At the U.S. embassy in Canada, Luke and Moira get word from Ms Tapping about the bombing. Luke leaves, he knows June's OK. Moira doesn't want to leave until she can be sure.

Ms Tapping gives Moira the opportunity to look for her fiancée Odette to be dead or alive. The binders are filled with unidentified images of the dead.

Offred puts her mourning outfit into a little suitcase. Shortly afterward, Rita is upstairs. Commander Cushing is at the house for Offred, who orders Rita to leave him alone with the handmaid. Instead of asking about her walking partner Ofglen, Cushing wants to know who helped her try to leave Gilead. He doesn't believe her story was of a kidnapping but Commander Waterford took her. Offred sticks to her story, which makes him highly unpleasant. Outside the front door, a Martha is shot in the street in a show of his power to Offred.

Offred gets to the hospital. Serena Joy is happy to see her and to show Fred his baby is safe. Offred leaves the room and sees Nick. She cries on his shoulder saying the Martha was just reaching for her pass and was shot, and that Cushing wants to know who helped her when she ran. Nick promises he won't "let anything happen" to her.

At home, Serena Joy talks about Ray Cushing with Offred. He's always been a blowhard even when they vacationed in Antigua with his wife Sonia together. She wants her to be very careful about what she says to Cushing. Offred reminds "Serena" that Commander Deed's entire house was slaughtered, and if Cushing came to believe she has a connection to the underground, he won't hesitate, nor would he ever leave a baby to grow up in a house.

When Nick returns home to his apartment in the evening, he finds Serena inside waiting alone. She learns from him that submitting warrants to the "Consular of Divine Law" needs the Commander's signature. Nevertheless, Nick agrees to help Serena "walk through the process".

In Canada, Moira is still looking for her fiancée. Just as Moira recalls their first meeting in the wild as women and not within the doctor/patient relationship, she finds the page for which she'd been searching and which confirms Odette's death.

Nick exchanges glances with the guards in front of the Waterfords' house and heads to the front door. As Cushing comes up to the house, a van of the Eyes stops by and guardians surround him. Commander Putnam explains he's being arrested for treason on the word of Commander Waterford, due to the "overwhelming" evidence submitted by the Eyes.

In the grocery store, Janine jumps upon Offred from behind. She says God has a plan for both of them, pointing in the direction of Emily, to whom Offred then relays that her name is June. All handmaids in the grocery store start exchanging their real names to each other.

In Canada, Ms Tapping announces the women who were deceased as a result of the bombing, showing their photos as they were. At this point, the real name of the assassin, Ofglen #2, is revealed to be Lillie Fuller. Moira puts a photo of herself with Odette at the memorial.

Serena Joy asks June to accompany her to the office where she already put together new security policies, explaining she'd like things to start getting back to normal. Reminding her of her former profession as editor, she asks June to read over the policy drafts. June grabs a pen.

Flashback — Moira is going to get \$250,000 for being a surrogate mother.

Moira gives birth to a boy named Gavin and gives him to the new parents who subsequently move back to England with him. She runs into Odette later, the doctor who helped with the pregnancy.

Women's Work

Season 2

Episode Number: 18

Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Wednesday June 6, 2018
Writer: Nina Fiore, John Herrera
Director: Kari Skogland
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars: Madeline Brewer (Janine), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam), Stephen Kunken (Warren Putnam), Sydney Sweeney (Eden Spencer), Nina Kiri (Alma), Bahia Watson (Brianna), Jenessa Grant (Dolores), Troy Blundell (Offred's Guardian), Ian Ronningen (Offred's Guardian 2), Karen Glave (Dr. Hodgson), Andy McQueen (Dr. Epstein)
Summary: A sick baby tests Offred and Serena; Janine finally faces Naomi.



Offred and Serena work together to do Commander Fred's work while he's in the hospital. The Commander returns to the house after being hospitalized and is welcomed back by Serena and the staff. Serena goes over the work she did for him while he was away. He's grateful but ushers her out of the office so that he can look over it. Upstairs, Offred finds a music box and a rose on her bed, supposedly a gift from Serena. Eden asks Nick if she can spruce up their home and he tells her to do whatever she wants. Serena tells Offred that baby Angela isn't well. She leaves to go offer Naomi support.

Offred walks to the store where she runs into Janine and Emily. Janine calls her new posting a "blessing from God" since it is "only the Ceremony", to which Emily replies being raped is not a blessing and anyone helping Gilead deserves to be blown apart. An ambulance drives by causing everyone to kneel and pray for the baby. Brianna tells Janine she heard it's Angela. As Janine panics, June promises her she'll find out more about what's going on.

Later, Serena tells Offred that the baby isn't doing well and that they don't know what's wrong with her. Offred asks if there is something they can do and Serena says that they could ask one of the top female doctors but that would mean bending the law. Offred says that if it was her baby that she'd do whatever she could. Serena asks Fred if he can allow the female doctor, who is now a Martha, check on the baby. Fred says no because they can't question the will of God. Serena tells Offred that Fred said no. Offred tells Serena about Janine and how she knows about the baby. Offred asks if Janine could see the baby but Serena tells her to not be stupid.

In the hospital, Serena asks Naomi if Janine, who is brought by Aunt Lydia, could see the baby. Her husband is okay with it but Naomi isn't. Offred takes Janine to see the baby in the ICU. Dr. Hodgson arrives in her Martha dress, changes clothes and is briefed by Dr. Epstein. She runs some tests on the baby. The doctors give Angela's parents bad news. Serena goes after the doctor but the doctor says is that all they can do is pray for the baby's recovery. Janine is able to hold the baby in order to say goodbye.

Serena and Offred arrive home and are told by Nick that they are wanted in the Commander's office. Fred tells them that he knows that Serena forged his signature so that the Martha could see the baby. He asks Offred if that's her handwriting on one of the papers and she says yes. As punishment, Fred whips Serena with his belt and forces Offred to watch as he does.

Nick goes home to Eden and finds that she's organized the house. He sees the stack of letters Offred was burning on the nightstand and asks her if she read them. She says no and he forbids her from ever touching his things again.

Serena is in her room crying as she looks at the scars on her buttocks. Offred asks her if there is anything she can do but Serena only sends her back to her room. Instead, Offred goes downstairs and apologizes to Fred for what she did. She asks if he'll forgive her and he says to go to bed.

Aunt Lydia wakes up in the ICU and finds Janine in her underclothes holding a very much alive baby.

Smart Power

Season 2

Episode Number: 19

Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Wednesday June 13, 2018
Writer: Dorothy Fortenberry
Director: Jeremy Podeswa
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bledel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars: Madeline Brewer (Janine), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Samira Wiley (Moira), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Erin Way (Erin), Sydney Sweeney (Eden Spencer), Rohan Mead (Isaac), Krista Morin (Rachel Tapping), James Gilbert (Stuart), Carinne Leduc (Claudine), Jose Arias (Kevin McConnell), Clark Backo (Genevieve), Taylor Belle Puterman (Ashlyn), Nola Martin (Ashlyn's Mother), Jeff Ho (Bartender), Cornelia Walters (Protestor #1), James Smith (Protestor #2)
Summary: On a diplomatic trip abroad, Serena faces the temptation of life outside Gilead; Luke and Moira grapple with survivor's guilt; Offred seeks support from allies.



The episode begins with Offred examining her room as if it's an Airbnb where the owners "are polite but creepy as f*ck." Rita comes in and tells her they've been summoned. They head to the sitting room where Fred and Nick are waiting.

Fred lets her know he's taking a trip and that Isaac will be watching over them in the meantime.

Where is he going on this trip, you ask? Canada.

Fred finds Serena in the greenhouse tending to her babies, I mean her plants. She does not want to go to Canada with him, because it's the third trimester of Of-

fred's pregnancy and because who will breastfeed all these plants while she's gone?

He explains she needs to go to show that women aren't oppressed in Gilead. Ha ha ha and ha. Also, he for sure isn't leaving her home while he's gone after she did a better job at his job than he can do while he was laid up in the hospital.

She gives us expressions and emotions in this scene that Offred has been sporting from the jump: trapped, afraid, angry, terrified, sad.

Child-bride follows Nick to the van as he prepares to leave, "I made these for your international travels." He audibly grunts in irritation.

She says she's going to miss him and he sighs, annoyed, as he gets in the van.

Upstairs in her room, Offred gets a visit from Serena. Serena tells the baby (Offred's belly) "God will watch over you, my love."

Serena tells Offred she'll be leaving the house "as soon as the baby is born." Offred reminds her that the Handmaids don't leave until the baby is weaned.

Serena says, "I think we've all had more than enough of one another. Don't you?"

In Canada, Luke, Moira, and the newly verbal rescued Handmaid watch on TV as Fred, Serena, and Nick get off the plane for their official visit.

Luke is not super happy to see Fred being rolled out the red carpet as if he's some kind of GD diplomat.

At the Little America Refugee Headquarters, Luke and Moira demand that Fred be arrested. It's not possible right now, they're told. But they're free to protest, as there is a protest planned. Canada, it's time to up the ante here. Protest shmotest.

Fred's caravan makes its way through Toronto while Serena looks out the window of their limo like a newly freed hostage.

At their destination, they're greeted by three Canadian diplomats, one of whom astutely mentions to Fred that he was very fond of visiting the States before — with his husband.

Fred goes with the diplomats to talk politics and business while Serena is given a pictogram of her scheduled cultural activities. A pictogram. Because she's Not allowed to read.

It involves tea, eating, and gardening tours. Serena's companion for the day says, "I'm told you enjoy knitting as well." Serena responds with a bold-faced lie, "Yes, yes very much so."

Speaking of Gilead, Offred and Janine walk to the store. Isaac, who walks with them, keeps telling them to be quiet, he barks at Janine, "Shut your mouth, Unwoman," Janine loses it and yells at him, "Suck my dick!"

He hits her with the butt of his gun and then drags Offred home. He's a real charmer.

Serena isn't enjoying her day of cultural activities at all. While waiting for an elevator, a child asks her if she's a princess. The child's mom is not finding this cute. She doesn't even want to look at Serena, much less ride on an elevator with her.

At a bar, Serena orders a glass of Riesling. A guy strolls up to the bar and eyes Serena. As guys at bars eye women. Then he asks to join her.

He introduces himself. He's a representative of the American government.

He "helps people." He can help her, he says: "Mrs. Waterford, we could have you on a plane to Honolulu in an hour."

She doesn't really say no. And she doesn't leave. So, clearly — she's listening.

He goes on to tell her that the fertility crisis in Gilead isn't actually because of women, it's because of men. Now she is extra listening.

He tells her she could have a baby of her own and freedom. Wow. They did their research. They know what she really wants. She reminds him she has a child on the way.

"That's not your child," he replies. See? They did do research!

Then she sends him away, but she is rattled. He leaves, "Maybe we'll run into each other again." He leaves her his cigarettes and lighter.

Back in Gilead, Isaac returns with Offred. Rita wants to know where the chicken is. They never made it to the store for the chicken, Rita, because Isaac has a temper. As Rita takes a glass jar of beans from the cabinet, Offred eyes the glass jar. Wheels in her brain are a-spinnin'! the things she could break that glass jar with! The head of Fred, for instance.

As Offred leaves the kitchen, she asks Rita to bring her some milk when she has a chance. Which she does.

Offred tells her she has to leave as soon as the baby is born. She wants Rita to be the baby's "godmother" so that she'll know kindness. She is touched and also realistic, "I'll do what I can."

In Canada, the Waterford visit protest is underway. Luke is there, holding up a poster picture of him, June and Hannah.

Then he breaks through the barricade and calls Fred a "f*cking piece of sh*t!" Fred asks who he is, Luke tells him, then adds, "You rape my wife!"

This little information nugget immediately gets the attention of Serena and Nick. They see the giant photo he's holding.

Luke reminds Fred this is all going to be over someday, and he's gonna remember his face.

Serena and Nick are very shook. Very.

In their hotel room, Serena is deep in thought. She's scheming. Meanwhile, Nick wanders into a bar and who is there? Luke! Nick tells him he knows June. Nick informs him June's pregnant. Why do I feel like puking when Luke hears this news?

Luke breaks down, horrified at this news. Luke asks if Hannah's okay but Nick doesn't know. Nick gives him the Handmaid's letters June had been hiding.

Luke wants Nick to tell June that Moira made it out and that he loves her and that he's not going to stop.

At the Waterford home, Aunt Lydia measures Offred's belly. Offred tells her that Serena wants her to leave as soon as the baby is born. Aunt Lydia is stunned but doesn't say that she's stunned. Then Offred asks her if she's ever been a godmother. Offred tells her that because Fred has been violent with women, he might hurt the baby. Aunt L is stunned. She'll never let anything happen to the baby.

She tells Offred she was the godmother to her nephew, who died when he was four days old. Then she leaves.

In Little America, Luke, Moira, and Erin read all the Handmaid's letters that Nick gave him.

The next morning, the Canadian diplomats tell Fred that he can just go on to the airport and head home, they're not going to meet with him anymore. Turns out, last night someone uploaded the Handmaid's letters to the internet and Canadians are infuriated.

Fred's incredulous.

The diplomat says, "We believe the women."

Fred responds without missing a beat, "Yesterday, you believed me." As they leave, the female diplomat tells Serena, "I don't know how you live with yourself."

As they get to the airport, there are so many protestors, their limo can't move. Moira rushes up to the window and holds up her sign, banging on the window.

Fred sees her: "Her name is Moira, dipsh*t".

Later, at a bar, the protestors celebrate the Waterfords leaving Canada. Then they quietly and spontaneously start singing the National Anthem.

Back home, Serena unpacks all her green dresses and green accessories. She has the lighter the American guy gave her. She throws it in the fire, like a dumba*s.

There's a knock on Offred's door, it's Nick. He tells her the letters got out. She's beyond happy. He also tells her — "I met your husband."

She asks if he's okay. "He loves you," Nick tells her. "He told me he'll never stop."

He tells her Moira got out and that she's staying with Luke. Before he leaves, Nick tells her, "I love you."

So many complicated feelings!

Offred says in voiceover that Moira is Hannah's godmother and she got out, even though it was impossible.

She tells the baby: "I know I should accept the reality of you being born here. Make my peace. But f*ck that."

The Last Ceremony

Season 2

Episode Number: 20

Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Wednesday June 20, 2018
Writer: Yahlin Chang
Director: Jeremy Podeswa
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars: Madeline Brewer (Janine), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Jordana Blake (Hannah Bankole), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam), Nina Kiri (Alma), Stephen Kunken (Warren Putnam), Rohan Mead (Isaac), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Sydney Sweeney (Eden Spencer), Bahia Watson (Brianna)
Summary: A frustrated Serena becomes desperate; The Commander tries to make amends with Offred; Nick pushes Eden farther away; Offred is faced with an unexpected reunion.



Emily is forced to have sex with Commander Roy in the Ceremony with his wife. He collapses afterwards. While his wife goes to get help, Emily kicks him in the balls. At the grocery the next day, Alma and Brianna talk about the incident. June runs into Eden who is being escorted by Isaac. June tells Emily that Moira made it to Canada and assures her she's going to see her son again when she suddenly starts to get contractions. She is taken home by ambulance where Nick helps her into the house. While he is es-

serting her up the stairs, Eden watches. Serena comes out and greets June before she is taken to Serena and the Commander's room.

Aunt Lydia and other handmaids arrive. They begin to set up the room for the birth of the child. Downstairs, the Marthas are setting up the kitchen with snacks and delicacies. Also, Commander Fred is handing out cigars. Serena is in another room surrounded by wives as she pretends to have a baby. Aunt Lydia interrupts the ceremony and tells her that June was only having false contractions. They call a doctor to come inspect her and learn that she isn't even close to giving birth. This upsets Serena who tells June that after the birth she is to be transferred to another district. June approaches Commander Fred about what Serena wants and asks for his help. She asks to be moved to her daughter's district. This upsets the Commander who asks her to get out. Before she leaves, June tells him that he'll never know what it's like to have a child of his own.

Commander Fred and Serena talk about the baby. Serena says that the best way for the baby to come is the most natural way. Rita tells June that Serena wants to see her. As she leaves, Rita tells June that she'll tell the baby about her. Serena forces June onto the bed as Fred forces himself into her. He sexually assaults her in order to get the baby to come early. After, Serena and Fred both leave the room leaving June alone as she cries. Eden takes out the trash and runs into Isaac. They share a kiss as Nick watches from the balcony. Eden realizes this and runs up to the house to apologize. He says not to worry about it and Eden asks why he doesn't care that he

just caught her cheating on him. He doesn't say anything and Eden realizes that he likes June. Nick tells her that he'd never get involved with a handmaid. She realizes that he just doesn't love her and starts to cry.

June is laying in bed when Fred comes into her room. He tells her that he's planned a surprise for her. He puts her in a car and instructs Nick to bring her back in 3 hours. On the drive to where they're going, Nick asks her what happened but she doesn't respond. They arrive at a house where inside Hannah is waiting. She rushes towards her but Hannah gets scared and hides behind a Martha. June asks if she remembers her and Hannah nods, the Martha telling June that Hannah's name has been changed to Agnes. Hannah asks if it hurt when they hit her on the head and if she tried to find her. June says yes but Hannah asks why she didn't try harder. Hannah tells her that it's okay because she has new parents now. Hannah notices that June's pregnant and tells her that she doesn't get to keep it. The guard says that it's time to go so June tells Hannah that she'll always love her and that she should enjoy her life. The guard separates them but Hannah runs back to June. June tells her that she has to go and that she loves her. Hannah leaves leaving June kneeling in the snow as she cries.

Suddenly, Nick hears other cars approaching so he puts June into the house. He tells her to go inside and hide while he waits outside to see who it is. Two men appear and attack Nick, taking him hostage and leaving June alone. She's left alone in the middle of nowhere.

Holly

Season 2

Episode Number: 21

Season Episode: 11

Originally aired: Wednesday June 27, 2018
Writer: Bruce Miller, Kira Snyder
Director: Daina Reid
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars: Madeline Brewer (Janine), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Samira Wiley (Moirra), Cherry Jones (Holly Maddox), Nina Kiri (Alma), Bahia Watson (Brianna), Ayomi Jonas (Hannah (4 Years Old)), Vanessa Matsui (Mrs. Tanaka), Patrice Goodman (Doctor #3), Danielle Height (Meredith), Jamila Fleming (Handmaid C), Oprah Winfrey (Newsreader (voice))
Summary: Offred faces a grueling challenge alone as she recalls her life as a mother; Serena and the Commander deal with the fallout of their actions towards Offred.



Offred has been left behind at the abandoned mansion. She is standing outside in the cold, staring at the drive to the road. As she turns around, she sees a detached garage. She tries to open the side door, but can't. She looks in the garage door windows, and sees a car. She tries to open the garage door, but can't. She looks up, and sees a wolf watching her.

As she returns to the house, she apologizes in her narration for the broken structure of this story, "like a body caught in crossfire or pulled apart by force." Inside, she begins looking through drawers. She discovers an office. There

are hunting trophies (taxidermy) on the walls. Behind the desk, where there is a photo of Hannah and her placement mother with a caught fish, and on the desk there is a picture drawn by a child, presumably Hannah. It is of the house, a dark child, in the middle, a woman in green on the right (her placement mother?), and a smaller women in red on the left (June?). She remembers a day she left Hannah at school and how Hannah didn't want to let her go after "last hugs."

In the office, she finds keys to the garage. She goes to the garage and finds a preserved 1980's Camaro. She starts the car, tunes the radio and hears Radio Free America that news that US Capital in Anchorage has received aid from two countries; that more sanctions have been received from the UK, and that the UK is planning to raise the limit on American refugees relocating from Canada. The announcer then says, "the next tune is to remind everyone who is listening, American patriot or Gilead traitor, we are still here. Stars and Stripes forever, baby." This makes June smile, and gives her hope. Bruce Springsteen's Hungry Heart begins to play. "I have a wife and kids in Baltimore, Jack....I went out for a ride, and never went back. Like a river that doesn't know where it's flowing, I took a wrong turn, and just kept going." June strokes her belly and talks to her baby as she considers her next decisions. Bruce continues "Everybody's got a hungry heart."

June gets out of the car and goes back into the house. She gathers up an escape bag of food, first aid, and blankets. She puts that in the car and goes back upstairs and grabs the

Commander's heavy coat. In front of his armoire, she looks at her pregnant profile in the full length mirror. She remembers when she was very pregnant with Hannah, and was getting ready for a book release party with Luke, with many sweet interactions between the expectant parents. Her memory ends as she hears a vehicle approaching.

Serena Joy and the Commander Fred arrive looking for Offred. When they enter, Fred calls out to the Commander McKensie and his wife. Serena runs upstairs, and notices the clothing armoirs have been uncovered. She sees Offred's cloak and head cover, and runs downstairs show it to Fred.

Serena and Fred argue over Offred. Serena blames him for them running off together. He says Nick would not be that disloyal, and that he let Offred see her daughter, which he believes would have made her grateful. Serena tells him he is stupid and that they hate him, which is why Offred keeps running away from him.

Fred blames Serena constant cruelty to Offred for her escape attempts. She tells him he raped Offred last night, he points out that was her idea, and says this was "to fix her mess." Serena in her anger says that Nick is the father of Offred's baby, and he should have expected them to run after seeing Hannah/Angela. She asks Fred if he expected to Offred to return after this visit and thank him. She calls him an idiot and he calls her a bitch. Serena says they can't explain it away or even report it. Especially to have a handmaid run away twice, and how they will think that they are part of the Resistance. She says they will hang them on the wall, and he comments it would be his bad luck to be next to her. She chastises him for making jokes.

In an upper level of the home, Offred spies a open box of ammunition on a storage chest. Inside, she finds a shotgun and loads it.

Downstairs, Serena quietly confesses she gave up everything for "the cause," and all she wanted in return was a baby. Fred pins her against the wall telling her she demanded a baby. She cries that he has left her with nothing.

At the same time, Offred has quietly opened a window in the breezeway, and has aimed the gun at them.

Serena cries that she will never hold her baby, and Fred consoles her. Offred hears the entire conversation.

Serena pushes Fred away, and Offred gasps as her target moves out of her sight.

Fred continues to console her, telling her they can't have gotten far and he will call local security. He urges her to leave, and they move outside. Offred relaxes as they drive away.

Offred continues to decompress from event, and has an intense contraction. She flashes back to when she went to visit the birthing center that her mom worked at. June wants to have her baby in a hospital with "doctors, nurses, and lots of drugs." Her mother insists she'll be there for the birth, although June has her doubts that mother will be there.

She returns to the garage where she tries to open the garage door with the electronic controls (which have no power) and then manually, but can't. She climbs into the car and tries to drive through the door but it doesn't budge. She goes outside and tries to dig out but slips and falls. As she lays there she realizes that her water has just broke, and weeps. She looks up to see a black wolf watching her, which focuses her attention. She gets up, goes back inside the house, and prepares a birthing area in front of a lit fire. She lays in front of it and thinks of when she gave birth to Hannah. June is progressing through labor with Luke and Moira. She asks Moira if her mom has called and Moira says she'll text her again. When Offred wakes up, she sees a puddle of blood has formed beneath her. She sits up, and reassures her baby (and herself), that it is going to be okay.

Offred goes back outside with the shotgun and has another intense labor pain, falling to her knees. She hears a sound, and the wolf again watches her. She fires two shots into the air hoping to catch anyone's attention. She looks the direction of the animal, and it is gone. She reloads and shoots again. She goes back inside, removes her clothes, and starts the delivery process on her knees in front of the fire. She remembers her birthing process with Luke and Moira, and then Lydia's coaching when Janine gave birth to baby Angela, She finally gives birth to her baby. As she talks to her new baby, she remembers holding newborn Hannah, when her mother arrives. She introduces Hannah to her grandmother, Holly. In the present time, she whispers to the new baby that her name is Holly. She tells her about that she has a big sister that she will one day meet. In Offred's narration, she tells Holly that that she wants her to hear this (her) story, and

that she will hear Holly's if she ever gets the chance, whether meet or she escapes, be it in the future or in heaven. She tells Holly she believes in her and her future.

As they're laying there, a car drives up outside. June whispers, "We did it, Holly."
Outside, someone exists the vehicle.

Postpartum

Season 2

Episode Number: 22

Season Episode: 12

Originally aired: Wednesday July 4, 2018
Writer: Eric Tuchman
Director: Daina Reid
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars: Madeline Brewer (Janine), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Samira Wiley (Moira), Lilly Bartlam (Eden's Sister), Alexandria Benoit (New Handmaid), Rohan Mead (Isaac), Sydney Sweeney (Eden Spencer), David Tompa (Mr. Spencer), Bradley Whitford (Commander Lawrence)
Summary: Offred is sent to a familiar place; Nick is rocked by Gilead's brutal response to a crime; Emily is assigned to a mysterious new house.



As the episode opens, Serena is all blissed out as she bathes baby Holly in the nursery. Meanwhile, June sits, hooked up to a double pump at the Red Center. She's holding the apparatus to both breasts.

It's been a few weeks since Holly's birth, Aunt Lydia exoposits as she enters, and wasn't it a blessing that the neighbors found June and the baby in time? Apparently, June is now in demand as a handmaid; one Commander and his wife even sent over a basket of baked goods to woo whoever will assign her. "Take one,

dear. I think you've earned it," Lydia coos. "I think I've earned a whole cake," June deadpans. Still, she takes one of the treats.

The most pressing problem: June isn't producing much milk, which is troubling and all but I'm having a hard time focusing on that right now because Nick is alive. We learn this as he helps Fred decorate his new office. Waterford is running point on "media expansion" now — whatever that means — and he clucks about how his favorite Guardian had a "misunderstanding" with "overzealous guards." It's hard to tell what Fred does and doesn't actually believe: One moment he's praising Nick for handling the botched Hannah meet-up with discretion and noting now "we always look out for each other, don't we?" and the next, he's forcing Nick to admire the new family Waterford portrait — with Nick's offspring front and center — that's hung right behind the desk.

Back to poor June's underperforming udders. Fred and Nick collude with Aunt Lydia to have June see the baby, but when the men arrive at the Red Center with the infant in tow, June can't bear to be near her daughter. "Seeing her might prime the pump, so to speak," Lydia tells her, and June hasn't had a say in anything that's happened to her or her body so far, so why start now?

Being in proximity to Holly causes June's milk to let down painfully; it wets the front of her dress, and before June can even react, Fred is like, "Great! Put that in a to-go cup and we'll take it!". June tremulously asks to nurse the baby, and for once, Aunt Lydia is on board. "Consider what's best for your daughter," she advises the Commander. Next thing we know, June is back at the Waterfords' house. "She has no contact with the baby, and she pumps in her room," Serena decrees, furious at the decision her husband has made.

So that's what happens, leaving June to lie on the floor and caress the hardwood when she hears her daughter crying in the nursery below. One evening, as she deposits full bottles in the refrigerator, she runs into Eden. Nick's young wife asks a few questions about how breastfeeding feels, then gets deep: "What if you had that chance, for love and a baby?" she wonders. June tells her gently, "I think, in this place, you grab love wherever you can find it."

And while that advice will prove very problematic in a few scenes, for now let's just focus on the way Nick gushes over Holly when he and June steal a few moments in the foyer. "Our baby's so beautiful," he says. "I wish I could hold her," he adds, then they start talking about how they should run away and start a new life in Maui.

Because Fred is the worst in all ways, he interrupts, all agitated because Eden and Isaac the guardian are missing. Then he starts ranting to Serena about lust and such, but she tells him to get away from the baby if he's going to be such a negative nelly. And then Serena tries to get Holly to latch onto her breast, but that kid survived a near bleed-out on a living room floor in her first moments of life, so yeah, she's going to hold out for the real thing. Upset, Serena yanks her robe closed and apologizes to the squalling infant.

Eden and Isaac don't get far before they're caught. Nick begs Eden to say that the guardian coerced her, but she refuses to lie. "All I wanted was to make a family," she says, apologizing to her husband for not loving him or wanting to have his baby. He says he's sorry for not being kinder to her. "Let's forgive each other, then," she says.

Then Eden and Isaac are shackled and led up onto a diving board at what looks like a high school pool while the Waterfords, Nick, June, Rita and a bunch of others (including Eden's mother and sister) watch. The pair is accused of infidelity, but they won't renounce their sins. Eden is so much of a baller that she even starts reciting 1 Corinthians 13:4 ("Love is patient, love is kind") as she and her man are weighted down and pushed into the deep end to drown. Later that night, Nick brushes off June's attempt to comfort him. Then June heads upstairs, where a distraught Serena quotes a Bible verse about god protecting children, then allows June to nurse Holly while she watches.

In another part of town, Emily is reassigned to Commander Joseph Lawrence, the man who is considered the architect of Gilead's economy. "I'm wondering why such an important, brilliant man will take in such a shitty handmaid," she says — but that answer soon becomes a little clearer. His martha is missing an eye, swears and calls him "Old Man" to his face. There's art on the walls and books splayed out on every flat surface. And when he comes out to meet Emily, he's played by Bradley Whitford.

The new commander quickly dismisses Aunt Lydia, saying his wife isn't feeling well and won't be coming out to meet them. And then things get really weird. He catches Emily reading and, as she tries not to freak out in fear, muses about how women lose fingers for reading now instead of hands like in the old days.

Later, Mrs. Lawrence approaches Emily in her room and divulges that her husband is a terrible man. "The Colonies. He planned everything. He figured it all out. And I said real people are digging up that dirt and it's poison," she says, more than a little unhinged. Joseph enters, carries her bodily away and throws her in her bedroom, locking the door. Then he beckons Emily downstairs and pours them both a beer.

"We value privacy in this house, you understand?" he says, kicking off a conversation that indicates he knows all about Emily, inside and out — literally. "Have you healed properly?" he asks, and Whitford is doing this weird breathing thing that exponentially ups Lawrence's creep factor.

The Word

Season 2

Episode Number: 23

Season Episode: 13

Originally aired:	Wednesday July 11, 2018
Writer:	Bruce Miller
Director:	Mike Barker
Show Stars:	Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars:	Madeline Brewer (Janine), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Bradley Whitford (Joseph Lawrence), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam), Stephen Kunken (Warren Putnam), Julie Dretzin (Eleanor Lawrence), David Tompa (Mr. Spencer), Birgitte Solem (Putnam Martha), Angela Vint (Leah), Genevieve Adam (Wife #2), Chris Gillett (Commander Grinnell), Adrian Walters (Commander Horace), Victoria Fodor (Martha Cora), Beatriz Yuste (Neighbouring Martha #1), Katherine Cullen (Neighbouring Martha #5), Lesleh Donaldson (Neighbouring Martha #2), Vicki Kim (Neighbouring Martha #3), Sacha Stewart (Neighbouring Martha #4), Raven Riley Duporte (Hannah (3 Years Old))
Summary:	Serena and the other Wives strive to make change; Emily learns more about her new Commander; Offred faces a difficult decision.



Offred and Rita are doing the laundry. Rita confesses that she treated Eden badly. Offred reveals that she slept with Nick. Rita says that she should've tried harder. Offred continues to go through Eden's things. She finds a Holy Bible. Offred goes to see Serena and shows her the bible and how Eden wrote notes all over it. Serena says that Eden has been hiding a multitude of sins. This upsets Offred who asks Serena how she's gonna raise Nicole. Serena Joy says that she'll be raised properly and understand the

Word of God. Offred says that she won't be able to read it, and leaves, upset.

Nick gets visited by Eden's father who apologize for Eden. Commander Fred asks if he has another daughter and he says yes. Commander Fred tells him to make sure that their other daughter is raised better. Eden's father tells them how he was the one who turned in Eden to the authorities. This shocks Offred who asks Commander Fred what he'll do when they come for his daughter. He closes the door and slaps her. She slaps him back. He grabs her by the face and shoves her down. Later, Rita helps Offred by giving her an ice pack. Nick arrives so Rita leaves to give them some alone time.

Offred tells him that it's okay. They hear the baby downstairs so both of them go to check on her. Rita is holding her but gives her to Offred. Offred in turn gives her to Nick. She tells him to look at what they made and that she loves him. The next day, the handmaid's go for a walk and come to the place where Eden and Isaac are hanging from. She tells the handmaids about the Bible she found among Eden's things.

Emily tells them about how tonight is her first night doing the ceremony with her new family. Emily also mentions that next week is her son's birthday. Offred says that they should celebrate. Emily says that she's glad she got to see June again.

Serena is over at Naomi's house with the baby. She asks Naomi if she ever worries about her daughter's future. Naomi says that she puts her faith in Gilead. Serena asks if other wives have opinions about this and Naomi says yes. Serena says she'd be interested in hearing them. Naomi agrees.

Emily goes downstairs but doesn't find anyone. She goes into the kitchen and grabs a knife which she hides in her clothes. She then goes and kneels in the sitting room and grips the knife while she waits. Commander Lawrence tells her to get up that he isn't going to do the ceremony with her. This leaves her confused but she gets up and leaves.

Serena approaches the Council about an amendment. Other wives walk in after her in support. She tells them about how they want to teach the sons and daughters of Gilead to read. Commander Fred thanks them and that the Council will discuss the issue. Serena pulls out Eden's bible and begins to read. As she does, wives begin to leave. Naomi tells her that she shouldn't have done that. Commander Fred thanks them for coming but essentially dismisses them. The other wives leave but Serena stays behind to talk to her husband. She tells him that she did this to set an example for their daughter. Fred agrees that she has done this just as two other men come and drag Serena away. She screams at him for help but he just walks away.

Aunt Lydia arrives to visit Emily and tells her that Commander Lawrence lied and told her that the ceremony went splendidly. Emily doesn't say anything so Aunt Lydia leaves but as she does Emily stabs her in the back and pushes her over the banister. Emily goes after her and begins to kick her down the rest of the way. The Martha of the house comes and grabs Emily before calling Commander Lawrence to come and see what she did. Meanwhile, she takes Emily back to her room and tells her to stay there. Emily proceeds to have a meltdown.

Offred opens the front door and lets Serena and Fred inside the house. Serena can barely walk so Fred guides her to their room. He tells Offred that they had a difficult day but that from now on everything will be better. Offred waits until he leaves before she asks Serena what happened. Serena begins to unwrap her hand and shows her that they took one of her fingers. She says that she tried and Offred sits on the bed and holds her hand.

Offred goes downstairs into the kitchen where Fred is calling for Rita. She tells him that she can't believe he let them do that to Serena. He says that they all have roles to play and that Serena needed to be reminded of hers. Fred tells her that maybe Offred could stay in the house with her baby and that they could try again but for a boy this time. She tells him to go fuck himself. He then brings up Hannah and how if she agreed she'd be able to see her more. He tells her to think about it as he goes back upstairs.

Commander Lawrence walks into Emily's room and asks what they're going to do with her. He grabs her and puts her into the car. They drive off with the music playing but Emily asks him to turn it off.

Offred is feeding Nicole when she hears a commotion outside. Rita comes in and tells her that they can get her out but that she needs to leave now. Rita tells her where to go so Offred hugs her and then leaves. Inside, Fred watches what's going on from his office. He goes and asks Rita what's going on but she says she doesn't know. Realizing something is up, he runs upstairs to check on Nicole. Nick follows him up and when Fred tells him to put together a search party Nick tells him to stay inside.

Serena spots Offred with Nicole and tries to stop them. Offred tries to convince Serena to let them go. Serena asks to hold the baby one last time, and Offred lets her. Serena hands the baby back and watches as they leave. Offred goes from Martha to Martha as they guide her out of Gilead. They lead her to the train tracks where she waits. She remembers when she sang to Hannah. She shows the picture of Hannah to Holly and tells her that maybe she'll meet her one day. That she is going to meet her one day. A car pulls up and Emily gets out. They embrace but Emily asks what is happening. June tells her that she's getting out. She leads Emily to the car but doesn't get in. Instead she gives her the baby and stays behind.

Season Three

Night

Season 3

Episode Number: 24

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Wednesday June 05, 2019
Writer: Bruce Miller
Director: Mike Barker
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars: Samira Wiley (Moirra), Bradley Whitford (Joseph Lawrence), Amy Landecker (Mrs. Mackenzie), Jordana Blake (Hannah Bankole), Ordena Stephens (Martha Frances), Scott Baker (Jonathan), Alex Spencer (DCBS Officer), Danielle Ayow (Dr. Chung), Caleb Ellsworth-Clark (Guardian #1), Sarah Gale (Aunt Louise), Edie Inksetter (Aunt Elizabeth), Heather Dicke (Staffer), Sarah Slywchuk (Handmaid)
Summary: June embarks on a bold mission with unexpected consequences; Emily and Nichole make a harrowing journey; The Waterfords reckon with Serena Joy's choice to send Nichole away.



We pick up where the finale left off. June is running in the dark and praying for Nichole's safety when a car pulls up next to her, Commander Lawrence behind the wheel. "Are you insane?!" he asks, urging her to get in so they can catch up to the van driving Emily and the baby. But June's got a different plan: Grab Hannah from Commander McKenzie's house, then make tracks for Our Neighbor to the North. He's hesitant to help, but she points out that he helped Emily. Then they discuss how his role in whatever happens could land him on The Wall. Strangely., that seems to tickle him: He

agrees to ferry her to Hannah's new home.

June actually gets into the McKenzie's home and upstairs to where Hannah is sleeping in her bedroom. But before she can take any action, the guardians arrive and the mission is thwarted. "Baby, I'm here. I'm not ever gonna leave you. I love you so much, and I'm always here," June whispers to her child, crying as she takes a thread from her skirt and ties it around Hannah's wrist. Then she kisses her a bunch of times and quietly exits to await her punishment in the hall.

Mrs. McKenzie halts the authorities as they haul June out, asking for a moment alone with the handmaid. They talk, mother to mother, in an almost friendly fashion about the things Hannah likes and dislikes, what she wants, how she's doing. "I appreciate the home you've made for her," June says through tears. Mrs. McKenzie is trying to be kind, but her parting words are like a kick in the abdomen: "Please stop. You know all of this ends with you dying on the ground in front of her. If you love her, you have to stop."

At home, Nick is still keeping Fred under armed guard, but Commander Waterford wants Serena to call 911. "We should give her more time to get away," she says, shocking him by copping to her involvement in the "kidnapping." He demands to know what she did. "I did what

was best for my child," she replies, leaving him alone to ponder the message June carved into the wall before she left.

When June is brought home, everyone gathers in the parlor, where Fred immediately starts screaming at her and demanding to know where the baby is. I really love that June doesn't even look at him and instead speaks directly to June. "She's safe, Serena," she says. "I promise you, she is safe."

But Mrs. Waterford, who's seeming to regret her decision to let them go, is not even remotely grateful. "You gave her to a murderer!" she cries, asking how June could've done such a thing. And damn, but it's been a long day, and June is fresh outta effs to give. "Because I have another daughter. And you chased us in the woods and you hunted us down with dogs and when you pulled her away, she screamed," she says, furious. "My baby screamed for her mother. And I hope this feels like that." DAMN. Then, because this whole night has been a huge ball of conflicting feelings, they both cry, and June holds Serena's head to her shoulder and whispers that it will be OK.

Later, as June goes to her room, Nick angrily points out that lots of people risked their lives for her to have a chance at freedom, and he calls her selfish for squandering the opportunity. Oh, also? He's sure now she's going to die in Gilead. She lets him know she's well aware, but thanks.

Somewhere in the very cold outdoors, drones are searching for Emily as she picks her way through the forest, trying to evade them. I know no one was super planning this trip, but I ask again: Did no one think about how babies have to eat roughly every five minutes? Or have their diapers changed every 10?

Anyway, at one point, she wades into a large river, I suppose with the purpose of crossing it? — but winds up getting pulled into the current with Nichole clasped to her chest. Somehow they both survive and wind up on the other side. A man shows up in a car and she freaks, but he's friendly. He wraps her and the baby in a mylar blanket and asks if she needs asylum. It takes Emily a minute to realize it, but they've made it to Canada, and they're safe. All Em can do is hold Nichole to her chest and sob.

The next morning, Fred's got a cover story ready for anyone who asks: Emily lost her mind, attacked Aunt Lydia, grabbed the baby and ran. June and Serena tried to stop her, "as any mother would," of course. Serena is looking rough and doesn't want to be part of any of his BS. "I sent her away, Fred. It was my choice," she protests, but he counters that he "drove you to distraction." He keeps mentioning how he'll fix things, and then their lives will return to normal. Good luck with that one, bud! After he leaves the bedroom, Serena seems to come to an agreement with herself, then dumps a bottle of something (peroxide?) over the bed.

In her room, June soon realizes there's smoke coming up the stairwell. So she follows it... to where Serena has lit her bed ON FIRE. The handmaid very calmly leads her mistress out of the room — the flames have spread to the curtains, by the way — then gets everyone to safety. "Burn, motherf—ker, burn," she voiceovers, smiling. The house is consumed while Boomtown Rats' "I Don't Like Mondays" plays in the background.

Later, June sits on the curb outside the now-destroyed house, when Nick approaches. "Take care," he tells her. She responds in kind.

Emily is walked into a Canadian hospital, Nichole in her arms. Everyone stares, and she looks around wildly; somewhere along the way, she lost her shoes. A kind doctor introduces herself and explains that they want to make sure she and the baby are healthy. Then everyone who's staring starts applauding, making Emily only look more bewildered. Give the woman a moment, people!

Later, at Little America, Luke and Moira meet at the refugee center, where they receive a photo: It's a Polaroid of Hannah in her pink outfit. "She's so big," he keeps repeating, starting to cry. The bittersweet moment is broken when they head a baby behind them: It's Nichole, who's in Emily's arms. Em introduces herself, then announces, "Your wife saved my life."

Meanwhile, June is brought to The Red Center, where she's told that the McKenzie's forgive her, "but God requires penance." She's brought to a room with some scary looking equipment in it, and thankfully we only hear — but don't see — the corporal punishment the aunts dish out. Whatever happens to her severely messes up her feet; the next time we see her, she's barefoot and bloody, scrubbing the floors on her hands and knees. But that's also where she gets some

good news, whispered in passing by another 'maid: Emily and the baby are safe and made it to Canada. June tears up and smiles.

Not long after, she's brought to her new assignment: What do you know, it's Commander Lawrence! They size each other up, curious. "You're not gonna be any trouble, are ya?" he wonders. She looks right at him. "No, sir," she replies.

Mary and Martha

Season 3

Episode Number: 25

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Wednesday June 05, 2019
Writer: Kira Snyder
Director: Mike Barker
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars: Madeline Brewer (Janine), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Samira Wiley (Moirra), Bradley Whitford (Joseph Lawrence), Clea DuVall (Sylvia), Julie Dretzin (Eleanor Lawrence), Ashleigh LaThrop (Ofmatthew), Kristen Gutoskie (Beth), Erin Way (Erin), Nina Kiri (Alma), Bahia Watson (Brianna), Katerina Taxia (Aunt Rebecca), Victoria Fodor (Cora), Natalie Lisinska (Dr. Phillips), Kathryn Greenwood (Alison), William Matthews (Checkpoint Guardian), Seema Doad (Hurt Martha), Riley Gilchrist (Guardian #2), Alanis Peart (Optometrist)
Summary: June helps the Marthas with a dangerous task while navigating a relationship with her pious new walking partner; Emily and Luke struggle with their altered circumstances.



While June waits for her new walking partner, she muses about how she has to be patient. "I pretend I'm a tree, and I wait." When Ofmatthew arrives, she seems to have drunk the Gilead Kool-Aid when she happily reports that "We're about to take back Chicago, my mistress tells me." The women go to the market, where June sneaks off to talk to Alma by standing on opposite sides of a canned food aisle and whispering between the dry goods. "The marthas don't trust us," Alma says. "Who does?" is June's retort.

When she returns home, June finds Aunt Lydia sitting in the parlor with the

Lawrences. "You've certainly bounced back, haven't you?" he notes, but the older woman is definitely not 100 percent. Lydia asks about the Ceremony. "Yep, aces. Praise be," the commander reports, and Bradley Whitford's delivery of that line cracks me up. Poor Mrs. Lawrence is very twitchy and on the verge of tears; he escorts her out, leaving Lydia and June by themselves.

Aunt Lydia is very suspicious of Commander Lawrence, and tells June that she can confide in her if anything "unseemly" is going on... which is rich, coming from someone who actively helps Gilead's effort keep chugging along. June plays along, and when Lydia stumbles as they start to go upstairs, June offers to help her... which earns her a cattle prod blast to the midsection. "I wonder what the voltage is on those things," Lawrence wonders, idly, as Lydia is wheeled off in her chair and June gasps in pain in the stairwell.

Later, June walks in on two marthas plotting in Lawrence's kitchen. They're planning to help another escape, but when the commander sees a stranger in his house, he gets really angry — and June's attempts to intervene don't help. But he also doesn't shut it all down, so June demands that the marthas let her in on their operation. They say no but eventually relent, and

pretty soon, June is dressed as a martha and going along when they drop a woman named Allison at a relay point. After the successful drop, June assumes the woman is heading to Canada, but Cora, one of Lawrence's marthas, corrects her: Allison, a former chemistry teacher, is going west: "She makes bombs."

Later that night, though, things go pear-shaped. An injured martha shows up at the Lawrence home and is hidden in the basement, but the guardians that shot her are close behind. The commander is incensed that all of this is going on and orders June to fix things. As he makes to let the guardians in, June freaks when she realizes that the woman's blood is on the wall. But then Mrs. Lawrence, seemingly recovered from whatever was ailing her earlier, calmly takes over the job of cleaning up the mess so that June can attend to the horror show downstairs.

The injured woman is making a lot of noise, so much so that June resorts to whisper-yelling "Shut up!" (and then immediately apologizing) just to stop her from drawing the guardians' notice. The guardians eventually leave, but it's too late: The woman dies. June tells the martha that was with her to take her place in the mission, because otherwise, all of the effort was for nothing.

Lawrence hasn't gotten any more cool with the situation, in case you were wondering. "Women like you are like children, asking for too much, taking whatever you want, damn the consequences," he spits. She apologizes and tries to change tack by asking about Mrs. Lawrence, but he screams at her, "Do not presume to speak to me about my wife!" Then he demands that she dispose of the martha's body all by herself. It takes her a while, but she digs a grave and puts the woman in it, then says a prayer over her final resting place. Later on in the episode, Mrs. Lawrence will plant flowers in the newly turned mound of dirt.

As she soaks in the tub later, Lawrence's other martha, Beth, comes in with some salve for June's ripped-up hands. "When they've healed, I'll give you some butter. That's what we use to keep them soft," she says, uttering the line from the book that has stuck with me the most after all these years, for whatever reason. Beth reports that Lawrence has sent Cora, the other martha, away: "He doesn't like liars."

When June meets up with Ofmatthew the next day, the pious jerk can't resist talking about another handmaid that recently died in a traffic accident. "Her walking partner snapped," June quips. "Pushed her in front of a bus." Just then, a giant bus speeds by. "God rest her soul," June adds.

Nichole is living with Luke, Moira and Erin. When Emily comes over for dinner, Luke can't stop himself from pushing her to talk about why she hasn't yet contacted her wife or son. It gets awkward, and he storms out. "He looks at you, he sees June," Moira explains to Emily, saying he'd want Hannah and Nichole's mom to call if she made it to safety. Em says June would call, because "she's a lot stronger than me." A very comforting Moira says she understands Emily's fear, because a lot of the reunions aren't the storybook endings that people imagine.

Still, later in the episode, Emily gets glasses and then decides that it's time to call her wife. "Hi, it's me," she says, tremulous, when Sylvia (who's driving) picks up the phone. "Em?" Sylvia responds, and they both start to cry while a shellshocked Sylvia, completely forgetting about the car she's driving, causes a traffic jam on some Canadian side street.

Watch Out

Season 3

Episode Number: 26

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired:	Wednesday June 05, 2019
Writer:	Yahlin Chang
Director:	Amma Asante
Show Stars:	Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars:	Madeline Brewer (Janine), Cyndy Day (Commander's Wife), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Kristen Gutoskie (Beth), Carson Manning (Commander Lawrence Driver), Jason Martorino (Prayer Circle Member), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Daniel James Pike (Economian), Kathleen Pollard (Prayer Circle Member), Dylan Trowbridge (Daniel), Jonathan Watton (Mathew Calhoun), Bradley Whitford (Joseph Lawrence), Samira Wiley (Moirra)
Summary:	June navigates a meeting where she must face both Commander Waterford and Nick; Serena Joy attempts to recuperate at her mother's home; Lawrence teaches June a hard lesson about the difficult decisions he makes as a Commander.



June stands on a street corner, peering up at the corpses hanging from the street lights above her. "I don't think Cora's up there. I don't think Lawrence would do that," she voiceovers. Still, "If I'm going to survive this, I'll need allies. Allies with power."

Back at the house, Beth and the new martha, Sienna, are prepping for a big meeting: Apparently, all of the commanders come to Lawrence, because he won't attend meetings. Beth and June whisper about how the flow of information seems to have slowed, likely because most of the marthas who knew anything about the

resistance movement were rounded up and killed.

When the commanders start to arrive, it's not long before Fred Waterford and June are alone in the dining room together. She wonders how Serena is doing, and he's flip: "She's tough," he says. "She'll be OK." Then she asks what he knows about Lawrence. He calls him "an interesting man" and a "visionary" who helped bring Gilead into being, but admits he's always been hard to read. "Well, if you can't read him, I don't know who can," she replies, slipping right back into the flattering mode that served her best around him. When she presses him for more about her new commander, Fred says, "He does not like to be bored."

When June enters the study, which is now full of commanders, she is surprised to see Nick sitting among them — and you'd better believe that Lawrence clocks the moment they glance at each other. The men are discussing a process called "salvaging," which is not fully defined but which seems like a punishment worse than being sent to the Colonies. Lovely.

When a discussion about the difference in gender abilities comes up, Lawrence decides to humiliate June by mocking her former profession (book editor) and then commanding her to

fetch Charles Darwin's *The Descent of Man* from his bookshelf. While she's there, we see some of the works Lawrence wrote. They have titles like, *Problematic Populism: Upheaval During the Fertility Crisis and the Long-term Effects on American Prosperity* and *The Religious Genealogy of Western Economics*. She retrieves the book in question and kneels to give it to him, then he dismisses her. "See? Women can be useful," he quips as she leaves, making all those awful men laugh at her expense, so she sits in the dining room and tries to immolate him via extreme stinkface.

But later that night, June tries a different avenue. "I'm not proud of myself for this, or for any of it," she tells us via voiceover as she approaches his office, where he's sitting alone and poring over some files in his lap. "Binders, full of women," he says, and starts quizzing her on whether she's good at making friends, influencing people, "intimacy," he says, drawing closer and seeming to be into the come-hither vibe she's giving off. He gets very close to her face, then flatly asks, "Did this really work on Fred?" He wonders how the Waterfords "could not notice how transactional you are" and then refutes her theory that if she can get him to like her, he might help her out at some point the way he did Emily."

"I helped Emily because she was unnaturally smart and could be useful to the world someday," he notes. "What did you ever do to help anyone?" He brings up some details from her past — sleeping with Luke while he was still married, how she didn't pick Hannah up from school when she was sick — and then calls her "useless." But our girl can't leave without giving it back to him, and good: If he hadn't created the system that made Gilead possible, none of them would be in the situation they're in now, she points out. "It must be hell being a man like that. Far worse than 'useless,'" she spits.

"How tempting it is to invent a humanity for anyone at all," he muses, then announces they're going to take a drive.

Lawrence brings June to a wire holding pen full of women. They're bound for the Colonies the next day, but he hands her the binder and tells her she can save five, who will be made into marthas. She won't choose, so he tells her she's condemning all of them to death. "I am not responsible for their deaths," she protests. "You are. Gilead is." But he calls that a "technical distinction" that won't matter to the women in question. June, still refusing, returns to the car and cries.

The next day, Nick reappears at Commander Lawrence's home. He's a commander now, too ("It was my due," he explains) but he won't use his position to help her liberate Hannah and make for the border. "What are you good for?!" June cries. It's a fair question. Nick non sequiturs that he's getting deployed to the front at Chicago, and he wanted to say goodbye. She gives him a very curt one and he walks out of the room, but he's waiting outside the door when she has a quick change of heart and comes after him. They do their finger-clasping thing, then she draws him back into the room and closes the door.

Let's check in on Serena, who's staying at her mother's house. Rita is there, too, and she seems to have softened a bit toward the sad, nine-fingered blonde. Rita makes a leather cover for her mistress' hand that makes it look like she's got all of her digits; if you listen carefully, you can hear the show's CGI staff heaving a collective sigh of relief the minute Serena straps it on. "You will get through this, ma'am, by His hand," Rita tells her. "What's left of it," Serena deadpans.

Serena joins her mother's prayer circle and cries as they beseech God to bring Nichole home. Elsewhere, Fred delivers an impassioned speech about how he used to revel in little glimpses of Serena when they were first married, and how if he loses her, he loses everything. "That sounds good. Would you like to run through it again?" a woman asks... and that's when we realize he's practicing the monologue on an escort at Jezebels. FRED!

Later, Serena wants to tell her mother about her marriage to Fred, "what it was like between us and the things we did," but the older woman won't hear it, calling her a "spoiled little girl" for wanting things always to go her way. As Serena weeps and apologizes, Mama turns the screws: "You know there's no place in this world for you without Fred." And when Serena continues to cry, her mom deems it "self-pity." After all, "You gave that baby away, and it wasn't even yours." Ouch. Also: True.

The next morning, June comes down to find Serena in the Lawrences' parlor. "Serena, only a mother could do what you did," June reassures her, and they're both teary as June urges her former mistress to think about all the women who've had their children ripped away from them.

She adds that they have to help each other. "We cannot count on them. They hate us, Serena," she says. "They are not on our side."

Serena sadly points out that she tried to change things, and it didn't go well. "I'm not that person anymore," she sniffs, but June isn't hearing it. "You're scared. Use it," she pushes. "Maybe we're stronger than we think we are."

Later, Lawrence comes upon June sitting with the files from the night before in her hand. "I made my choices," she announces, handing him her five selections. Then she walks into the kitchen and announces to Beth that they'll have five new, hand-picked marthas for the resistance: an engineer, an IT tech, a journalist, a lawyer and a thief.

In her head, June talks to her dead mother, Holly. "You wanted a women's culture. It wasn't what you meant, but it exists," she says, more buoyant than we've seen her for a while. And then she mentally addresses the men holding Gilead's women down: "We're coming for you. Just wait."

God Bless the Child

Season 3

Episode Number: 27

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Wednesday June 12, 2019
Writer: Eric Tuchman
Director: Amma Asante
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars: Madeline Brewer (Janine), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Samira Wiley (Moirra), Cherry Jones (Holly Maddox), Bradley Whitford (Joseph Lawrence), Clea DuVall (Sylvia), Ashleigh LaThrop (Ofmatthew), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam), Stephen Kunken (Warren Putnam), Nina Kiri (Alma), Bahia Watson (Brianna), Jonathan Watton (Mathew Calhoun), Tom Barnett (Commander Logan), William Poulin (Cambridge Priest), Angela Vint (Leah), Paula Boudreau (Grace Williams), Charlie Zeltzer (Oliver), Samy Osman (Eye #1), Julia Chantrey (Videographer), Kevin Whalen (Toronto Priest), Helene Robbie (Mother / Wife #1), Catherine Huculak (Gilead Extra), Sachi Lovatt (Mother / Wife #3), Deidre Cross (Mother / Wife 4), Jenny Itwaru (Econowife #1), Anna Popowicz (Gilead Extra), Gita Galadauskaite (Econowife #3), Ariel Lukane (Gilead Extra), Alisha Phillips (Gilead Extra), Kirsten Wendlandt (Econowife #6), Matthew Mease (Commander Father 1), Julian Osen (Gilead Extra), Nick Gough (Gilead Extra), Colin McClean (Gilead Extra), James Russell (Gilead Extra), Chris O'Bray (Gilead Extra), Greg Zajac (Gilead Extra), Charlie Hamilton (Gilead Extra), Yohance Thomas (Gilead Extra), Malakai Fox (Gilead Extra), Cyndy Day (Commander's Wife)
Summary: June negotiates a truce in the Waterfords' fractured relationship; Janine oversteps with the Putnam family; A still-healing Aunt Lydia offers a brutal public punishment.



Bells toll as everyone gathers to celebrate all the babies recently born in the district. "It takes a village," June voiceovers as she and her fellow handmaids file by armed guardians, "and machine guns." As they approach the church, she surreptitiously eyes everyone, wondering who might be turned into an ally to help her "burn this s—t place to the ground." Aunt Lydia rides by on an invalid scooter, reminding her girls to be on their best behavior. "Hell on wheels," Alma jokes under her breath.

Inside, the handmaids who have given birth get prime seating. June's new walking partner, the seemingly pious Ofmatthew, is positioned next to her. We learn she's had three babies, one of whom is brought up to the altar when the district's new parents (aka commanders and their wives) show off their kids. June softens a bit upon noticing that Ofmatthew is staring at a little one with dark skin.

She tells Ofmatthew that her son is cute, but she gets a bland platitude in return, so she stops trying. Also of note: The Putnams are up there with baby Angela.

Commander Waterford is in the audience, but Serena is not. June has a flashback to Hannah's christening, which was a private, genial affair attended by Luke, godmother Moira and Grandma Holly. Then she considers Waterford, telling us that she should feel hatred for him, but her emotions are more complicated. But she's certain of this: "It isn't love." At the front of the congregation, the commander who's leading the proceedings brings up Nichole, whom he says was taken "by an unrepentant sinner." He asks those assembled to pray for her safety. "Amen," June says aloud.

Afterward, the Putnams invite Aunt Lydia and the handmaids to their house for a reception. Janine is so excited to see the baby, and though Naomi Putnam doesn't return the handmaid's level of joy, she does thank June for what she did on the bridge back in Season 1 and even tosses an icy "bless you" Janine's way. Then Lydia and the ladies in red are shuttled off to a back room, where they'll hang out at their separate-and-unequal affair until it's time to go home.

When Serena arrives, she and June have a quick chat in the hallway. Serena says she didn't want to be a "distraction" at the dedication. June uses their few moments together to give her former mistress a pep talk, reminding her that half of the women who'd backed her plan to teach Gilead's girls to read hadn't abandoned her when things went sideways, and the patriarchy isn't going to smash itself. Then Serena wonders if June regrets not escaping when she had the chance. "Not without Hannah," June replies, adding that from the inside, there's still hope she'll get to see her daughter again. When Fred approaches, June takes off, and Serena makes it clear that she's there to support Naomi — not to be with him.

Down the hall, it's clear the day's exertions have taken a toll on Aunt Lydia. She wearily sits down, and Janine brings her something warm to drink. Janine exudes nothing but love for the older woman, saying she prayed for her to get better after Emily's attack. "I know what the girls think of me," Lydia says, noting that she's getting hate from all sides: The commanders blame her for Emily's escape. "I should have never saved her from The Colonies," Lydia grouses. But Janine pipes up that she's glad she saved her. "Me, too," Aunt Lydia says, all maternal and loving. I know I've said it before, but between this scene and what happens later, Ann Dowd is a freaking national treasure.

Meanwhile, in the kitchen, Fred gets a moment alone with June to tell her he's concerned about Serena. It's time "to get on with things together," he says, but June wonders, "Is that what your wife wants?" He admits that it's hard to know, but he's pretty sure Serena isn't satisfied "planting flowers and knitting sweaters." So June plants the seed of his giving Mrs. Waterford "a real voice, behind the scenes of course." To my surprise, he's open to it, if it will "fix things" between them.

Naturally, June beelines it to the Putnams' indoor pool room, where Serena is smoking on a chaise lounge. "The commander wants to reconcile," she announces, adding that she made a suggestion for Serena to have more freedom in her marriage. "Wear the dress, pull the strings," June advises her. Serena wordlessly hands her the cigarette case and lighter, and the handmaid avails herself of it. Then they sit there, smoking in companionable silence.

When little Angela wakes up, Naomi brings her down to the parlor so the guests can ooh and aah. Janine breaks protocol in a huge way when she approaches the Putnams and asks to hold her daughter. Aunt Lydia even breaks out her billy club, but Naomi allows it. The little girl cries the whole time, but it seems to be going OK when Janine voluntarily hands the baby back to her former mistress. But then that one remaining eye gets even crazier than normal, and soon Janine is insistently suggesting that she could move back into the house and give Angela a brother or sister. "I just want to be with my daughter!" Janine cries, which Aunt Lydia apparently views as a bridge too far. So the older woman strikes the handmaid down and continues to beat her, so out of control in her anger that she bats June away when she tries to intervene. Then June yells for someone else to stop her, but none of the commanders or their wives lifts a holier-than-thou finger to make that happen, so June puts her whole body between Janine and Lydia's wrath and shouts, "STOP IT NO" like she's disciplining a dog who chewed up a loafer until Lydia comes to her senses and stops.

Janine is carried off by guardians. Lydia looks around, bewildered. "My deepest apologies," she mutters before hobbling to an empty room and sobbing.

Up in Canada, Emily and her wife Sylvia see each other for the first time in years outside a

subway station. They hug, and Emily looks like she's in pain. I mean, she probably is. Back at Sylvia's house, the pair is awkward around each other, which they acknowledge, but it doesn't make the situation any less weird. Their son, Oliver, isn't home yet from school. Emily asks if he remembers her, and it's such a terrible thought that he might not, she can barely get the question out.

But when Sylvia shows Em his room, it's covered in photos of her and them as a family. One framed drawing of his depicts her as a superhero "fighting to get home," Sylvia quietly explains. Before Emily can have a relieved breakdown over the whole thing, Oliver comes home and runs upstairs. Emily is so happy to see him, and it lightens everything up considerably. "He's so big!" she marvels to Sylvia.

At bedtime, Oliver asks Emily to read him a bedtime story. While she does, both she and Sylvia start crying so hard that the impatient kiddo eventually decides to take over reading the book himself. After he falls asleep, Emily joins Sylvia for a beer and some stilted conversation on the porch.

Elsewhere in the Great White North, Luke and Moira make arrangements to have Nichole baptized — even though the flashback earlier showed us that June was the main driver behind Hannah's ceremony. "This little one should be absolved of their sins," Luke says.

While June is waiting to leave the Putnams' house, Serena creeps close to give her some intel on how she can see Hannah playing outside after lunch at her school. And that seems like a huge win, no? Too bad a few minutes later, a guardian comes in and wants to see Commander Waterford immediately: He's got a video of a Canadian protest showing solidarity with Chicago, which you'll recall is rebelling against Gilead. Luke is at the protest, and he's wearing Nichole in a carrier. The Waterfords force June to confirm Luke's identity, which she does reluctantly. And while Serena gets all gooey over how big Nichole has gotten — why do I get the feeling that Mrs. Waterford's allyship suddenly has gone from hesitant to nonexistent? — June walks out of the room, sits on the floor and has a whole bunch of emotions (joy at seeing her daughter safe, fear over what it means for Luke) all at once.

Unknown Caller

Season 3

Episode Number: 28

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired:	Wednesday June 19, 2019
Writer:	Marissa Jo Cerar
Director:	Colin Watkinson
Show Stars:	Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bledel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars:	Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Samira Wiley (Moirra), Bradley Whitford (Joseph Lawrence), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Julie Dretzin (Eleanor Lawrence), Stephen Kunken (Warren Putnam), Ashleigh LaThrop (Ofmatthew), Bahia Watson (Brianna), Jonathan Watton (Mathew Calhoun), Marissa Kate Wilson (Ofzachary's Partner), Bobby Daniels (Guardian Technician), Prince Amponsah (Cashier), Scott Farley (Guardian Jeremiah), Andrew McGillivray (Eye), Jim Pagiantzis (Commander)
Summary:	June and Serena grapple with a new revelation about Nichole, leading to an incident that will have far-reaching ramifications.



June starts the episode happier than we've seen her in a while: She's gotten confirmation that Nichole is with Luke, and they're both safe... at least, for now. "I did this," she voiceovers. "My baby is free." At the supermarket, the other handmaids subtly convey their joy at her success. "Instead of resentment, they offer grace," she notes. "A victory for one is a victory for all."

Ofmatthew isn't exactly doing cartwheels for her walking partner, though. She makes a point of telling June that she's praying for Luke to return Nichole to her

perfect retort to Ofmatthew's "Under His eye": "Bite me."

At home, Lawrence refuses to help June find out whether Luke is in imminent danger. "We're all in danger," he says.

It must be Opposite Day in Gilead, because Fred makes a point of inviting Serena into the meeting where he and the other white guys are discussing how to get Nichole back. "You have a say in this," he assures her, which, again, is true. But she also has a say in her wardrobe, her life's work, the way she orders her days and whether or not she wants to drive, but her opinion doesn't seem to count for much in those matters. Hmm.

Gilead has no extradition treaty with Canada, so their options for recovering the infant are limited. They tell her what they know about Luke, and show her some of Nichole's medical records that they've somehow been able to access. Serena cries when she sees the little inky footprints; the men promise to bring Nichole home, then leave her and Fred alone.

Fred whispers that he thought their current situation was what Serena wanted. "I want to be with her, but that's impossible," she says through her tears. "I just want this to be over."

Apparently, Serena thinks seeing the baby one last time will help her achieve the closure she desires. So she and Fred ambush June at the Lawrences' home and tell her to call Luke and ask

him to agree to a visit. "No," she flatly replies, not super wooed by their word that it'll all go OK. Serena asks for a moment alone with the handmaid. "You don't think I want to see her?" June asks, incredulous, but eventually agrees to make the call — mostly because "I want you to owe me," she tells Serena.

Luke almost doesn't pick up when his phone rings; he's at a convenience store, it's raining, there's a lot going on. But he eventually does take the call. With the Waterfords and Commander Lawrence looking on, June reassures her husband that she and Hannah are both OK. June holds it together far better than I would in that situation, but Luke cries as he apologizes for what's happened to her. "I should've tried harder to find you and Hannah," he says. She gently shuts down that argument and tells him to bring Nichole to meet the Waterfords at the Toronto airport the next day. He's dumbfounded, but recovers enough to say "not him, just her." The call cuts off as June is telling him she loves him.

As June leaves the room, Serena breathily says, "God bless you." June looks like she wants God to do something quite different to her mistress, but says nothing and goes to her room. Later, Mrs. Lawrence sympathizes with June about how tough the call must've been, then says that what was important was that "the love came through" — like it did when the commander wooed her via mixtape in college. She also mentions that she's still got all of them in the basement, which will become important later.

"How'd she sound?" Moira later asks Luke, back at their apartment. "Like June," he answers.

At her parents' house, Serena gathers some mementos — photos of her as a child, a necklace bearing the 1 Samuel verse "For this child, I prayed" — and just has enough time to slip a covert package from Rita into her bag before Fred shows up to say it's time to catch the flight. I am shocked when he brings her to the cargo plane and allows her to travel abroad with only a guardian to accompany her, but my surprise at Fred's sudden leniency is trumped by my joy when Mark Tuello (aka the man who offered Serena a way out of Gilead the last time she was up north) meets her when she lands in Toronto. Mrs. Waterford quickly dismisses her Fred-approved chaperone, then prepares to see Nichole.

Tuello informs her that the meeting is going to take place in public, and that he's brought some clothes for her to change into because "We want you to blend in." And may I say, the man has chosen quite a chic traveling outfit, what with the cowl neck sweater and a coat I covet.

Luke is understandably very wary as she approaches him and extends her hand; he won't shake it. "God bless you," she says. "F—k you," he replies, cradling a sleeping Nichole to his chest. Serena remains calm, thanking him for agreeing to the meeting, but he makes it clear that he's only there because June asked. Their brief encounter is all over the place. He scoffs at her promise that June is safe. She gives him the name of June's new commander. He refuses to promise that he will tell Nichole about her, harshly informing her that the girl "is going to know exactly where she came from and how brave her mother was for getting her here. That's her story. You're never going to be anything to her."

Serena cries, saying that Nichole "was my miracle, and I let her go. Because I wanted a better life for her, and so did your wife." And when that doesn't completely sway him, her tone sharpens. "You need to understand that I protected your wife," she says sharply, and whatever Luke hears in her voice causes him to pocket the necklace after all.

Before they part, Luke asks her if she wants to hold the baby, who's woken up. Of course she does, and it's about as tearful as you might imagine. (Side note: I want to eat this delicious little muffin of a child actor.) Afterward, Tuello reminds her that his offer still stands: "Treason and coconuts." But she turns him down again, barely making it into the changing area before she has a sobbing breakdown.

Back on the plane, we see that there's a satellite phone in Serena's purse, along with a note that reads "if you need me." And it's still there when she deplanes in Gilead, reporting to Fred that at least "now it's over." But Fred's been doing some thinking. "It doesn't have to be," he whispers.

But wait: What about the package Rita gave Serena? Apparently Mrs. Waterford did indeed get the parcel — which was marked "For Luke" — to its intended recipient. And when Luke pops a tape into a Walkman, he's at first met with the bouncy opening bars of "You Make Me Feel Like Dancing." But after a moment, June's voice cuts in. In a flashback to earlier in the episode, we see her in the Lawrences' basement, recording a message to her husband on one of the commander's old mixtapes.

Prefacing her message by saying she's ashamed, June tells Luke exactly what she's been up to in the recent past. "I need you to know that Nichole, she was born out of love. Her real name is Holly, and her father's a driver named Nick. You met him," she says, crying. "He helped me to survive. I need to believe that you can forgive me. I'm not the woman you remember. She's part of me. And I'm doing what I need to to survive. You should, too." Then she promises him that she's trying to get to Hannah, and that she loves him, and Luke is completely undone by the end of the recording.

At the supermarket, Ofmatthew has just informed June that she's pregnant again — and neither of them is excited about it — when some Eyes show up and load June into the back of a van without telling her where they're going. Aunt Lydia is there when she arrives at her destination, and the chipper older woman gets the handmaid dressed in a new red gown, then deposits her on a soundstage. Fred and Serena are there, too; the set is dressed to look like they're in their living room. "Serena, what did you do?" June whisper-shouts to her mistress, who won't answer her. And after Lydia reminds her charge not to try any funny business, some TV cameras turn on and start rolling.

In Canada, Moira runs home to tell Luke he's got to turn on the TV. When he does, he sees the Waterfords telling the world that they are a "family in mourning" who just wants the Canadian government to return their daughter to Gilead. Back on the set, we zero in on June's face as Fred's voice distorts and eventually fades into nothing. June shoots daggers into the camera, her expression pure rage, as U2's "Sunday Bloody Sunday" cues up on the soundtrack inside her head.

Household

Season 3

Episode Number: 29

Season Episode: 6

Originally aired:	Sunday May 26, 2019
Writer:	Dorothy Fortenberry
Director:	Dearbhla Walsh
Show Stars:	Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars:	Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Bradley Whitford (Joseph Lawrence), Christopher Meloni (Commander Winslow), Elizabeth Reaser (Olivia Winslow), Ashleigh LaThrop (Ofmatthew), Kirrilee Berger (Ofgeorge), Sarah McVie (Lena), Gord Rand (Mattias), Tara Rosling (Sofia), Melody Shang (Praying Martha #1), Sarah Mitchell (Praying Martha #2), Krystle Ferdinand (Praying Econowife #1), Emma Gibbs (Praying Econowife #2), Rebecca Singh (DC Station Aunt Guard), Imali Perera (Martha Tamara), Maria Nash (Polly), Ronin Harris (Micah), Thandie Quiambao (Sadie), Chris D'Silva (Tom), Charlie Luborsky (Jonas), Brittney Aleah (Handmaid), Lucky Harmon (Guardian), Cristina Sanchez (Handmaid), Edonis Washington (Guardian)
Summary:	June makes an important connection as she attempts to protect Nichole while accompanying the Waterfords to Washington D.C., where a powerful family offers a glimpse of the future of Gilead.



June walks by a bunch of marthas, kneeling in the snow and praying for Nichole's return, on her way home from whatever mind-numbing task she's been doing. The site comforts June. "If they're praying, then she's still safe," she voiceovers. "I pray that their prayers go unanswered." She also prays that Serena will find her way back and will get Fred to stop trying to reclaim the baby, "or may they both get hit by a f—king truck. I'm honestly down for either."

At home, Lawrence instructs June to pack, because the Waterfords want to borrow her for a week of public prayer in D.C. Fred has orchestrated a big media shebang to exert pressure on Canada to give Nichole back, and having his whole household there is important for optics. June perks up slightly upon learning that Serena will be in attendance, as well, and goes upstairs to get her things together.

June, of course, doesn't ride with her former commander and mistress during the trip. She and Aunt Lydia are relegated to a separate car; while the older woman is sleeping, June pulls back the red curtains covering her window and is shocked to see that Gilead's holier-than-thou Powers That Be have transformed the Washington Monument from an obelisk into a cross. Similarly, the new train station is dark and looks like something straight out of Soviet Russia. June muses that the old one, Union Station, was so beautiful. "It was designed by a heretic," Lydia chirps, adding that the building was destroyed for the greater good.

A giddy Aunt Lydia prattles on that she's "pumped," and asks June if she feels the same way. June, who's busy noticing that the local handmaids wear red scarves around their mouths in addition to the regular uniform, absently replies, "Oh yeah. I'm pumped, Aunt Lydia."

The Waterfords retrieve June from what amounts to a human baggage claim, and Rita and June quietly say they miss each other. But Rita is a little more #TeamSerena than she used to be, and June picks up on it when Rita mentions that having a baby is "the only thing she ever wanted" and seems a little irked that June is so against a reunion.

They're driven to a grand home belonging to High Commander Winslow and his wife, Olivia. Fred has heard the family is "very down to earth" and sees the visit as "an opportunity." Serena gives him the eyebrow. "For whom?" she wonders. "Us. All of us. Nichole," Fred sputters, trying to land on an answer that will de-incense his wife. When they finally meet George Winslow, things are a little awkward — when the high commander reminds Fred that Gilead has to be "judicious about the images we release to the world, it almost sounds like Fred has already messed up even though nothing has happened yet — but the weirdness is broken when Winslow's children race in to say goodnight.

There are roughly 300 of them, and Fred and Serena are taken aback by the sheer number of little ones that flood into the study. Olivia Winslow follows, holding the youngest, whom she passes to Serena. Serena, of course, immediately starts salivating over the infant. While all of this is happening, June and Rita slip out, unnoticed. June's surprise over seeing so many kids in one family — remember, most commanders are lucky to have one child — is quickly eclipsed by her horror at finding out what's underneath the D.C. handmaids' mouth coverings. When she wonders why the Winslows' handmaid is so quiet, the woman removes her scarf and reveals that three metal rings are holding her mouth closed.

The next morning, Fred, Serena, June and a few local handmaids are practicing for the giant media moment that'll take place later on. Nick surprises everyone by stopping by; he's still heading out to the front in Chicago soon, but hasn't gotten his orders yet. "Would you mind standing in for me? Just for this shot?" Fred asks. C'mon, Commander, we know that you know that Nick doesn't mind stepping in for you — in pretty much any situation. Nick takes his place next to June and whispers, "Nice girl like you in a place like this?" She lights up, smiling as they surreptitiously touch hands.

Back at the Winslow home, Serena and June watch the children play. "Serena, I know you don't want this," June says, seizing the opportunity to try to change her mind about getting Nichole back. Mrs. Waterford replies that seeing the baby "changed everything for me," and they're both crying a little as June points out that "seeing her changed you. It didn't change this place. She deserves better. Our girl deserves better. And I know you know that." Before anything else can be said, Fred arrives to announce that the Swiss have agreed to act as a neutral party in Gilead's bid to get Nichole back... and they want to talk to everyone in the household.

That's how June winds up talking to some Swiss officials, without the Waterfords or any other observers in the room. "I am the child's mother, and I want Nichole to stay in Canada," she says, adding that Fred isn't the baby's father — which they know already, having somehow gotten wind of the tape she made for Luke. So if the Waterfords have no biological tie to the kid, easy peasy, right? Well, no: Gilead has a lot of military strength and weapons, and Canada has no desire to tick off its nutty neighbor to the south. So the Swiss float the idea that the more info they/Canada can glean about Gilead, the more they might be able to do. June offers up Nick as a source: As a commander and former Eye, he'd be an information goldmine. The Swiss are wary that he'll cooperate. "I'll persuade him," June says confidently. So she shakes hands on a deal to help protect Nichole and leaves feeling rather good (relatively) about the future.

Back at the house that evening, Fred and George Winslow play pool, drink liquor and generally celebrate being male and in charge. Is it me, or does Winslow seem to be putting his tush in Fred's personal space as much as possible? "Here's to your bright future, perhaps in D.C.," George says, which makes Fred blush like a shy teenager whose crush just asked him to prom. But then George places his hand on Fred's shoulder, rubs it a bit and then keeps it there: Oh, he WAS putting his tush in Fred's personal space as much as possible. Gives new meaning to "two ball in the corner pocket," no? Fred freezes, but then one of Winslow's daughters runs into ask them to a tea party, and they go.

In the playroom, Olivia tells Serena, "I know this is a bit taboo, but I really loved your book." We learn that she and George both were corporate lawyers in their pre-Gilead life, then Fred

comes over with a stuffed lion and does this playful little bit about asking to borrow some sugar. Serena laughs. When one of the children reclaims the toy, Fred faux mopes, "I lost my lion." Serena can relate, because she lost her personhood.

Later, June is in bed when a martha creeps in to tell her she has a visitor outside. June smiles, like, "Yep, still got it." Of course it's Nick, and she runs to him in her nightgown with her hair unbound. They kiss, then she tells him about the deal she made to keep Nichole in Canada. He's... not psyched. "They're politicians. They have their own agenda," he reminds her, but she's undeterred. "This is your one chance. This is it," she says. "This is your chance to be a father to our daughter. How many of those do you think you're going to get?" He relents and agrees to go to the meeting.

Of course, this is Gilead, so everything's gotta go terribly wrong at some point. And that point arrives when a member of the Swiss delegation shows up at the Winslows' to tell Fred that they're recommending the continuation of discussions about getting Nichole back. In a moment alone, June asks the Swiss woman what the heck happened, and she says that they can't do business with Nick. "I don't think you know who Mr. Blaine is, or who he was. He is not to be trusted," the woman says ominously, mentioning that Nick has shipped out to Chicago.

June gets Serena alone for a moment to ask what Nick did before he was a driver. "He was a soldier in the crusade. We wouldn't be here without him," the blonde says. And then, because she will not NOT be a raging jerk, she twists the knife by adding, "All this time you spent together, and he never mentioned anything?" Indeed, we cut to Nick on a military transport, and all of the men snap to attention and salute as he walks down the line.

As a wrung-out Aunt Lydia helps an even more wrung-out June get ready for Fred's big media moment. "Do you want us all to be silenced?" June asks, referring to the D.C. handmaids' rings. "No, no I don't," Lydia replies, also crying. They hug, and Aunt Lydia tells her how she tries to focus on "the good I can still try to do in God's world," but then she's gotta get June strapped into her brand-new mouth scarf and ready for the event.

Then we see June at the Lincoln Memorial, except the statue's been severely damaged. It's missing a head and an arm, and is generally a sad visual representation of the state of the ruined union. Serena approaches, and they get into an argument when Serena says she can't wait until she and Fred are settled in D.C. and can be "free" of Serena. "You will never be free of me until both my children are safe," June growls at her. There's some back and forth — Serena is mad that June didn't accompany Nichole to Canada, June is mad that she can't trust Serena — and then June launches into a verbal evisceration of her former mistress.

"You can't love! You don't know how!" she yells. "You built this whole world just so you could have someone. But it didn't work. You're small. You're cruel. And you're empty. You will always be empty." Serena quietly cries. "I should've put a ring in your mouth the day that we met," she responds. But nope, Mrs. W: June's gonna get the last word this time. "I should've let you burn when I had the chance."

Afterward, it's time for Fred's moment. As June walks out to where the Waterfords are standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, we see a zillion handmaids amassed on the plaza and on both sides of the reflecting pool stretching toward the former Washington Monument. When the pageantry begins, all the 'maids kneel when June does, and Fred begins to pray in front of the largest audience to ever witness a public appeal, period, both in person and around the globe

Under His Eye

Season 3

Episode Number: 30

Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Wednesday July 03, 2019
Writer: Nina Fiore, John Herrera
Director: Mike Barker
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars: Madeline Brewer (Janine), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Samira Wiley (Moirra), Bradley Whitford (Joseph Lawrence), Christopher Meloni (Commander Winslow), Elizabeth Reaser (Olivia Winslow), Ashleigh LaThrop (Ofmatthew), Clea DuVall (Sylvia), Julie Dretzin (Eleanor Lawrence), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam), Kristen Gutoskie (Beth), Sarah McVie (Lena), Nina Kiri (Alma), Jenessa Grant (Dolores), Bahia Watson (Brianna), Naima Sundiata (Non-Veiled Handmaid), Ordena Stephens (Martha Frances), Laurie Murdoch (Canadian Minister), Keisha T. Fraser (Protestor #1), Daniela Pagliarello (Protestor #2), Spencer Robson (Brookline Guardian), Lily Gao (Evelyn Chu), Silvia Platsis (Gabrielle), Dominique Brownes (Ticona), Alexander Nunez (Guardian), Nykeem Provo (Protective Service Agent)
Summary: June escalates her risky efforts to find Hannah; Emily must face her past crimes; Serena and Fred contemplate their future in Washington.



Three lines of handmaids get in formation alongside some red rope and, on Aunt Lydia's command, pull until the floor of a gallows is reset. Lydia harangues her charges about being strong and faithful, then blows a whistle and they pull again so the floor drops out from underneath two men and a woman. The hanged parties die. The handmaids quickly disperse.

Ofmatthew is back to being her holier-than-thou self, though she's brought up short by a bout of morning sickness. June rolls her eyes but helps the woman

breathe through it. However, when she tries to sympathize, she's met with Ofmatthew's strident statement that "My child is a blessing!," and their moment of kinship is over.

At Loaves and Fishes, June and a few of her fellow 'maids notice that another handmaid is wearing the face veil like the D.C. handmaids do, and Alma says she's seen others in their area do the same. "We should salute their devotion," Ofmatthew sniffs. "Right. You do that," June says. When Alma gets June alone, she directs her to Hannah's martha, who also happens to be in the store. The martha reports that "Agnes" is doing well and that June should leave her and her family alone. June counters that there's no such thing as doing really well in Gilead while female, and notes that the hangings are on the rise.

June says that Commander Lawrence could get them all out, and though the martha seems timid, she relents: There's a resistance-friendly Guardian working the entrance to Hannah's school that day, she says, and he'll allow June to see her daughter. A short distance away, unbeknownst to June or the Martha, Ofmatthew clocks the entire exchange.

In Canada, the Swiss intermediary woman who met with the Waterfords and June in Washington, D.C., is sitting down with Emily. Sylvia also is there. As the sympathetic Swiss woman gingerly asks about the acts that led to Gilead considering Emily a "criminal" — stealing the vehicle and running over the guard, stabbing Lydia in the back on the night of her escape — Sylvia is incensed that her wife is having to answer for actions she felt were necessary for her survival. Later, she tells Emily, "You know I don't care what you did there, right? You don't have to deal with this on your own." But Emily, who's just as shell-shocked as she has been since arriving in Toronto, claims she's fine.

At a café later on, Moira tries to tease Emily into talking about their old haunts, name-checking some of Boston's gay bars like Club Café and Machine, but Emily quietly tells her that she studied a lot and didn't have much of a social life. Undeterred, Moira unsuccessfully strives to find some common friends. "How do we not have any gay in common?" she marvels. "I'm pretty sure this is the first time this has happened in all lesbian history." Then, when Moira gets a message that there's going to be an in-your-face protest of some Canadian minister involved in Nichole's case, Emily meekly asks, "Can I come?"

And that's how both women wind up behind bars after getting physical with the ministers' security staff. That's where Em confesses about feeling no remorse about killing a commander's wife in The Colonies. Moira understands. "I killed a commander," she says. "I didn't have to. He was asleep, but I did it anyway." But then Moira points out how they haven't killed anyone since they escaped, "So I think we're good," she says, smiling.

In the nation's capital, Olivia Winslow shows Serena around a gorgeous "unrestored" house that she hopes the Waterfords will consider for their potential relocation. "Unrestored" here, by the way, means "not yet cleared of the detritus left behind by a family ripped from its home by a totalitarian regime." There are shoes in the entryway, a Washington Post on the table and broken glass everywhere — signs of struggle, or an unrelenting search, or both. A photo of the previous owners show they were a family with three young children; the baby's name was Phoebe, we learn from the wall of the nursery upstairs. As Olivia is prattling on about the structure's high points, Serena is subdued. I'd liked to think she's feeling bad about the poor people who used to live here and the obvious signs of their turmoil and possible deaths, but let's be honest: She's probably just mooning over how she may never see Nichole again. God, she's really the worst.

Elsewhere, George Winslow catches up to Fred at the Parliament of Men With Lots of Important Walking-Around To Do and suggests that Fred not try so hard to get Nichole back. "So much leverage comes from the child," he says. "With her back home... " Fred picks up exactly what his superior is putting down, and how could he not? Winslow gets all close and breathy as he whispers how "in the end, Gilead will know whom to credit."

Later that evening, when he meets Serena at some high mucky-muck dinner and dance, Fred promises his wife that he's going to bring their daughter home. She's relieved, because — and I can't remind us all of this enough — she's far smarter than he is and had already arrived at the conclusion that having Nichole trapped in Canada is more "politically expedient" than reuniting her with them. He says he doesn't have a timeline yet, "so please don't push me for one," and she is genuinely grateful. How grateful, you ask? She looks like she's enjoying it when they twirl around the ballroom in a tango. Everyone applauds at the end.

Back to June: Now that she knows where Hannah will be, and that she can probably get access to her, she just needs a way to get there by 3 pm. So she sweetly and efficiently bullies Eleanor Lawrence into going for a walk. All is going well until they run into Naomi Putnam and Angela — "Hi, button. We thought you were gonna die, but you didn't!" Mrs. Lawrence coos to the child not once but twice, and June hustles her mistress out of there before she can derail the whole plan.

As they continue, Mrs. Lawrence talks about how she always wanted kids but her husband didn't, and how maybe it was best given that she has bipolar disorder. June starts to feel bad, so she comes clean: "My daughter's school is in Brookline. Today may be my only chance to see her." She apologizes and offers to take Eleanor home, but Mrs. Lawrence has a new vivaciousness about her. "I think I'm keen on an adventure," she says, and they keep going.

Eleanor improvises nicely when they arrive at Hannah's school and realize that the friendly Guardian isn't there that day. She talks her way into a tour of the facility, but June is made to wait outside. She runs around the building — which has armed Guardians everywhere, by the way — until she's on the other side of the wall separating the outside play area from the rest of

the grounds. June thinks she can hear Hannah cavorting with her friends but it's all for naught when a Guardian pulls her back to deal with her distraught mistress.

Apparently, Mrs. Lawrence got agitated when she wasn't shown the children, and she won't calm down or stop crying. June promises to get her confused mistress home, and they leave. Back at the house, the commander gets his wife settled but says nothing to June. She apologizes, but then changes her tone to something harsher: "You should have seen her out there. She came alive," she tells him. "You should have seen her."

At the next hanging, Alma whispers to June that Hannah and her family are gone, and no one knows why. Just then, Lydia announces that one of the people facing lethal punishment that day was a martha who endangered "the child she was trusted to protect!" The woman in question is Hannah's martha, who's sobbing as she's brought up on the gallows. June looks like she got punched in the stomach, and she refuses to pick up the rope when commanded. Of course, Lydia makes her, calling it her "sacred duty." When the older woman blows her terrible whistle, June whispers "By His Hand" and helps to yank the floor out from under the martha and her fellow "criminals," who are killed. June lingers a moment after the other handmaids leave, but then she does, too.

When June catches up to the group, Ofmatthew just can't keep her stupid mouth shut. "You should be thankful. Your temptation's been lifted," she tells her walking partner, who demands to know what the expectant mother did. Apparently, she was spying on June for Aunt Lydia. "I saved you!" she cries, which prompts June to take off her wings — and that's how you know it's gonna go down. "Do you have any idea what you did?!" June screams, grabbing Ofmatthew by the neck and pushing her up against a wall while the rest of the 'maids form a red wall of secrecy around them. Eventually, some of the women pull June off Ofmatthew, who's gasping and gaping. Then June walks off, raging.

Unfit

Season 3

Episode Number: 31

Season Episode: 8

Originally aired:	Wednesday July 10, 2019
Writer:	Kira Snyder
Director:	Mike Barker
Show Stars:	Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars:	Madeline Brewer (Janine), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Bradley Whitford (Joseph Lawrence), John Ortiz (Jim Thorne), Ashleigh LaThrop (Ofmatthew), Emily Althaus (Noelle), Nina Kiri (Alma), Bahia Watson (Brianna), Ian Ho (Ryan), Edie Inksetter (Aunt Elizabeth), Sugenja Sri (Sienna), Kelsey Falconer (Ofandy), Marissa Kate Wilson (Ofzachary's Partner), Sarah Slywchuk (Red Center Handmaid), Lara Mrkoci (School Security Guard), Catherine De Seve (Mrs. Allston), Angela Vint (Leah), Paula Boudreau (Grace), Claudia Jurt (Red Center Aunt), Stefanie Nakamura (Coat Check Woman), Karen Jewels (Karaoke Singer), Daveed Louza (CPS Agent), Samantha Marchand (Handmaid), Raevv'n Leedham (Handmaid), Michelle Mohammed (Handmaid), Maythaila Jerome Antoine (Handmaid), Tasha Attey (Amber), Samantha Parkinson (Birthing Handmaid #2), Michelle Chiu (Birthing Handmaid #3), Sophia Smith (Handmaid)
Summary:	June and the rest of the Handmaids shun Ofmatthew, and both are pushed to their limit at the hands of Aunt Lydia, who reflects on her life and relationships before the rise of Gilead.



June's sisters in red think it's rather uncool that, as June points out, Hannah's martha Frances "loved my daughter. Frances is dead. And Hannah is gone. Because of her." The woman in question, of course, is Ofmatthew, for whom June has zero pity when Janine comments on how mean everyone is being to the 'maid. "She got someone executed. She doesn't feel sorry about it. She should have kept her f—king mouth shut," June says matter-of-factly while they all attend the birth of a handmaid named Ofandy.

When Ofandy's labor stalls, though, Aunt Lydia finds a way to fill the time. After taking an unrepentant June to task, the older woman puts June in the center of one of those shame-circles at the Red Center. You know — where the ladies all point at the person in the middle and chant "Her fault, her fault, her fault" or "sinner, sinner, sinner." June is pretty impervious... until Lydia says that June's role in Frances' death deprived Hannah of yet another steady presence. "Think of that little girl without that warmth in her life. Whose fault is that?" Lydia needles June, who tries not to cry as she answers, "My fault."

But our girl rallies. "I have something else to testify," she pipes up, putting on a very pious face. "Ofmatthew doesn't want her baby." Gilead gasp! The best lies contain a kernel of truth, and

you remember how Ofmatthew was talking about how this time around was tough a while back? She freaks, denying what June is saying but copping to having that feeling for "just a second" — and that's enough for Aunt Lydia to put her in the center of the circle. In the hotseat, Ofmatthew admits that she suspects the baby she's carrying is female, and she got scared about "what her life would be." She's clearly not doing well mentally, but that doesn't stop Lydia from having the women call her "sinner" and "crybaby" while she quietly deconstructs before their eyes.

While Ofmatthew is losing what's left of her emotional equilibrium, why don't we go back in time to pre-Gilead Lydia? Her last name is Clements and she was a fourth-grade teacher with long hair and dangly earrings. We see her waiting with a student, Ryan, whose mom is late to pick him up. Lydia is prone to quoting Scripture, but not in the weaponized way she does in the present-day. And when Ryan's young mom Noelle shows up late, frazzled and with no plans for dinner outside of the closest drive-thru, Lydia surely judges her... but she also invites Ryan and his mom over for chili.

After the meal, we learn that Noelle works at a bar and is sweet but unrefined in a way that slightly irks Lydia. For instance, when she mentions that Ryan "deserves more, better. But all he has is me," Lydia says, "You could be better."

Noelle and Ryan grow closer to Lydia; as they spend Christmas together, Ryan calls her "Aunt Lydia" and Noelle gives her makeup from the (apparently more respectable than a bar) shop where she now works. Lydia blushes and says they shouldn't have, but you can tell she's secretly pleased. As Noelle applies Lydia's gift, she tells the older woman — whom we know was married to "a mistake" in the past — that she's got to try harder to put herself out there on the dating scene.

So she does. She puts on a sparkly top and goes out on a New Year's Eve date with her principal, a widower who's also apt to quote the Bible in casual conversation. He seems like a nice guy, and their evening grows more affectionate as it goes on. They even sing "Islands in the Stream" at karaoke before midnight and enjoy a slow dance as the ball drops; at the pivotal moment, however, he kisses her on the cheek.

When they return to her place for a nightcap, however, Lydia and the principal start making out on her couch. And it's all going well until he pulls away, saying it's too soon after his wife's death for him to feel comfortable with someone new. He wants to see her again, but she replies, "Yes, I'll see you at school," and that's it. After he leaves, she cries in the bathroom and then bangs on the vanity mirror until it breaks into jagged shards.

The next time we see Lydia, she's at school with her hair tightly bound up and a severe look on her face. She's asked for an emergency removal of Ryan, claiming that his mother is unfit. "The child is vulnerable to a corrupting influence," she says, sounding a lot more like the Lydia we know as she cites their law-bound duty to report moral weakness.

Ryan gets placed in a foster home, which leads a furious Noelle to confront his teacher. "You're a f—king coldhearted bitch," she screams at Lydia, who merely replies, "I forgive you."

Back in present-day Gilead, Lawrence gruffly tells June he doesn't know anything about where the Mackenzies or Hannah are now, and "Don't ask me again." That night, Ofand's labor begins again, but the child is stillborn. Ofand's mistress cries and freaks out, sobbing. Meanwhile, I damn near start crying at the visual of all of Ofand's fellow handmaids circling her birthing chair with purpose and sympathy to embrace her in the wake of her daughter's death. June later realizes that she was relieved to see that the little girl died.

At home, Commander Lawrence seems to have had a change of mind overnight. He asks her to spend time with his wife, because "you're good for her." June has zero time for his soft words. "You do realize that this world that you built here is destroying her. And with one phone call, you could have her out," she reminds him. "But you're keeping her hostage. You're not protecting her. You're killing her." He merely looks at her levelly and says, "I bet that felt good."

The next day at Loaves and Fishes, Aunt Lydia asks June for a private word: She wants to get June out of the Lawrence household. June, meanwhile, notices that Ofmatthew is watching them with terror and realizes that the handmaid thinks they're talking about her. So June plays into it, dropping her voice and looking as conspiratorial as possible... and that's when Ofmatthew snaps. She starts beating on poor Janine, who was just trying to calm her down, then busts a jar into the face of the Guardian who tries to subdue her. Glass goes into the man's neck, which is NOT good, but things get even worse when she grabs his gun and points it at June.

June doesn't even flinch — she even nods slightly — and that's when a crazed Ofmatthew

turns the weapon on Aunt Lydia. Another Guardian takes the handmaid down before she can fire, then the Guardians drag Ofmatthew out unceremoniously, her blood streaking on the white linoleum. June just watches.

Heroic

Season 3

Episode Number: 32

Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Wednesday July 17, 2019
Writer: Lynn Renee Maxcy
Director: Daina Reid
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars: Madeline Brewer (Janine), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia), Gil Bellows (Doctor), Ashleigh LaThrop (Ofmatthew / Natalie), Nina Kiri (Alma), Bahia Watson (Brianna), Jonathan Watton (Mathew Calhoun), Sadie Munroe (Rose), Vanessa Burns (Mrs. Calhoun), Jake Mossop (Nurse), Ian MacPherson (Med Student), Catherine Tait (Rose's Mother), Brianne Tucker (Handmaid #1), Samantha Parkinson (Hospital Handmaid #2), Michelle Chiu (Hospital Handmaid #3), Laura Hendrickson (Handmaid #4), Natasha Araya Jimenez (Handmaid #5), Tasha Attey (Handmaid #5)
Summary: Confined in a hospital, June's sanity begins to fray, but an encounter with Serena Joy forces June to reassess her recent actions.



The episode opens with a bit of a surprise: Despite getting gunned down in Loaves and Fishes at the end of last week's hour, Ofmatthew isn't gone... at least, not technically. She's brain dead and hooked up to life support at the hospital, where she'll stay until the baby comes to term. June kneels on the floor at the foot of her bed. The punishment is Aunt Lydia-imposed penance for her disobedience, and June will be there until her fellow 'maid goes into labor. It's been 32 days so far — more

than enough time to realize that the beeps and dings from the various machines keeping Ofmatthew alive kinda sound like the chorus of that blasted Belinda Carlisle song.

The wives, including Ofmatthew's mistress Mrs. Calhoun, come to pray. They place their hands on her belly and bow their heads. Sometimes, Lydia marches other handmaids to kneel with June; during one of these visits, we see that Janine's eye socket was damaged when Ofmatthew brained her, and she's self-conscious about how gross it looks now. Apart from the visits and the medical staff doing its rounds, though, June is there alone. And the isolation is starting to mess with her.

One night, she teeters to a standing position — all of that kneeling apparently isn't great on the knees — and approaches the bed. June curls her hand around the tube helping Ofmatthew breathe, cutting off her air supply, but quickly lets go and hobbles back to her cushion before the nurses run in to see what's causing the alarm. In voiceover, June wonders if she's gone crazy and she's undergoing some kind of therapy; at least then, she reasons, she could get better "and this would all end."

During another visit from Lydia and her girls, Ofmatthew begins to have seizures. The handmaids (save June) are ushered from the room while Lydia loudly prays for the baby's and Ofmatthew's survival. In her head, June prays for their deaths.

As the doctors are stabilizing Ofmatthew, a really unhinged-looking June begs Aunt Lydia to go home. "I don't feel well," she whimpers. "God never gives us more than we can handle," Lydia replies. "Are you sure?" June asks, her eyes red and shift. And don't think she doesn't notice when one of the doctors drops a scalpel into the sharps box on the wall after a procedure, then leaves the room after Ofmatthew's vitals are back to normal.

Later on, June reaches into the sharps box and gets a needle in her fingertip for her troubles. She removes it and goes back in, eventually finding the surgical implement she's looking for. June is standing near Ofmatthew's bed with the weapon in her hand when Janine comes in — she's now a patient, as well, because her open eye wound got infected.

Pure, sweet Janine confesses that she hasn't been praying for Ofmatthew (whose real name is Natalie) on account of her part in Hannah's disappearance. She thinks her lack of prayerful attention caused the seizure, and she feels bad about it. So she forgives Natalie at her bedside and says she wants her to find peace. And that's where June sees an opportunity.

"I know how we can help her," June says, smiling in a way that even oblivious Janine registers as Creepy and Not OK. Those feelings are validated when June tries to hand her the scalpel and urges her to put Natalie out of her misery. "Don't do that. She's one of us," Janine argues, laying her palms on the unconscious woman's bulging abdomen. June backs down and smiles, but she won't surrender the scalpel. "When did you get to be so selfish? Everything is always about you now, your problems," Janine says, narrowing her eyes as June angrily tells her to leave. "You're different," the one-eyed handmaid says in parting. "I don't like it."

The next day, June is looking even more peaked when the Calhouns visit their handmaid. As some preteen girls in pink walk by, the doctor mentions that the girls aren't sick: They're there for their menarche exams. "They've flowered. How lovely," Mrs. Calhoun says. "That will be Hannah soon," June voiceovers. "Too soon." Then she goes back to wondering who'd be best to kill... until Serena walks in and makes the decision for her.

Everyone else has left the room when June asks if she can speak to Mrs. Waterford. "Come closer. It's a secret," June says in a crazed way that might as well be a neon sign saying "I am delusional." She stumbles to her feet, and Serena goes to help her. "You're not well," Mrs. Waterford says, and June confirms that before slashing at her arm. I'm pretty sure she only manages to cut the sleeve of her dress? A shocked Serena gets the knife away from June but cuts June's hand in the process; I'm not entirely sure June even notices her injury as she chants, "This has to end. This has to end." Serena looks disgusted. "You were supposed to be one of the strong ones," she hisses before running to get the doctor.

June skitters back against the wall, leaving bloody handprints all over the floor and probably sure she's just booked herself a one-way ticket to The Colonies. When they return, though, Serena lies and says that June cut herself. The doctor seems completely cool with this, and he puts the scalpel back in its receptacle, then stitches her hand. She's surprised he doesn't want to get her in trouble for wanting to harm his patient, but he tells her that his patient is the baby — which she thinks is a load of BS. As it turns out, he knew her mother, Holly — who also delivered babies, you'll recall — and laughs in a friendly way as he remembers that she was "scary." June still isn't in her right mind. "You should know I was going to kill Serena. And her. And you, too," she says, but he sees it all as suicidal thinking brought on by too much alone time filled with despair. She starts to cry as she says she feels hopeless, and the feeling came on around the time "I realized I probably won't see my daughters again."

She points out that Natalie is someone's kid, too, but the doc won't take the bait. "I honor the handmaid's life by saving her child," he says. "How will you honor your daughters?" Which is nice and all, but keeping someone alive as a human incubator when she didn't even want to be pregnant in the first place and was raped to become so? Sorry, doctor: You seem kinder than most guys in Gilead, but there's no honor in that.

One night while June is in her cot in the corner of Natalie's room, a bunch of the patient's alarms start going off: Natalie is hemorrhaging. She's wheeled into the surgical suite for an emergency caesarian section. As June watches from the other side of the window, Natalie's son is born. He's really tiny, but he's alive.

The next morning, June prepares to leave the hospital. She runs into a teen girl there for her menarche exam, and the girl parrots Gilead's teachings about how all she wants to do is have some stupid guy's babies. It seems to stir something in the handmaid, who meets Aunt Lydia outside and tells her she'd like to stay with Natalie, who's been taken off of life support. "That

would be very kind of you," Lydia says approvingly.

So June sits by Natalie's bedside and apologizes "for being such a s—t to you. I got lost, I think. Not that that's a good excuse, but I don't really have another reason. They just take everything from you, you know?" She notes that the baby boy is a fighter, and "he doesn't deserve to grow up in this place. He deserves to be free... So Natalie, I'm gonna get them out. I'm gonna get out as many children as I can." She admits she doesn't have a plan yet, but she wants to make Gilead know how it feels to have its kids ripped away. "It's their turn to hurt," June says defiantly, seeming more like her old self again.

Then June sings "Heaven Is a Place on Earth" to Natalie and cries a little bit. As the hour ends, the monitors beeping in time with Nat's heartbeat and breathing start to slow.

Bear Witness

Season 3

Episode Number: 33

Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Wednesday July 24, 2019
Writer: Jacey Heldrich
Director: Daina Reid
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars: Madeline Brewer (Janine), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), Bradley Whitford (Joseph Lawrence), Christopher Meloni (Commander Winslow), Julie Dretzin (Eleanor Lawrence), Kristen Gutoskie (Beth), Nina Kiri (Alma), Bahia Watson (Brianna), Sugenda Sri (Sienna), Yahsmin Daviault (June's Aunt), Stephanie Ng Wan (Fearful Handmaid), Eric Craig (Post Ceremony Doctor)
Summary: June must deal with a devious ploy on the part of Commander Waterford.



We catch up with June as she returns to the Lawrence home after all that time kneeling at Natalie's bedside. She's hobbling, and Aunt Lydia tells her to take a nap. "But I don't want rest. I don't want to rest ever again," the newly energized handmaid voiceovers, thrumming with purpose.

She notices that the house looks different: The books and art are gone from most of the rooms, an answer to some new regulations Commander Waterford has put forth since returning from Washington, D.C. But before she can delve too deeply into that, Lydia chirps that they're

home just in time for this month's ceremony. Whee!

In the kitchen, Beth the martha is surrounded by baskets of scones. "Scones mean no," she curtly tells June, adding that it's code signifying they won't be able to get any more black market mood-stabilizing medicine for Eleanor. And that's a problem, because Mrs. Lawrence is getting worse. June's all, "That's cool. Do you know anyone who could help me move children out of this deadly hellscape in which we find ourselves?" The martha can't believe what she's hearing. "You're gonna get yourself killed," she warns. June nibbles on a scone and doesn't seem to mind.

Upstairs, Eleanor certainly seems more combative than usual as she and Joseph argue loudly. She kicks him out of her room and he retreats to his study; when June finds him there, she realizes that most of the books have been stuffed into his inner sanctum. She momentarily ignores this to propose that he become part of her exit strategy: "Get a truck. Get her out. And get her the help that she needs," she urges. He's dismissive, as usual, but she realizes that he's scared. This is good news, she voiceovers, because "Fear can be a great motivator."

Fear also can cause normally brave people to retreat into the relative safety of doing nothing, which we see when Alma denies June's request for help during their next visit to Loaves and Fishes. Before they can discuss it too much, however, some chimes sound. "Inspection?" June asks. "Another one," Alma confirms.

All the handmaids are marched out into the cold while Aunt Lydia prepares them for "our very special visitors"... who turn out to be Fred (eh, he's not so special), Serena and High Commander Winslow. Fred makes a beeline to June the moment he sees her, and they have some weird small talk about her being a Boston girl. He floats the idea of arranging a transfer for her to D.C., an idea June shuts down by noting, "Your wife is here." Meanwhile, Winslow is irked that Janine is wearing a non-regulation eyepatch and that none of the women are wearing the mouthrings and veils that the D.C. handmaids do. Fred notes that they're rolling it out slowly.

At home, Lawrence is out — "He goes to meetings now," Beth says — so June sneaks into his office and starts poking around in his files. She's caught by Eleanor, who knows that the handmaid is "up to something again" but doesn't seem to care. And eventually, June confesses that "I'm looking for other people's children. My friend's children." Eleanor intuits that she means handmaids' children, and cheerily leads June to the Red Center dossiers, which Joseph just happens to keep in the basement.

Downstairs, June sits on the ground and starts sifting through several boxes of the handmaids' files. She eventually finds her own. Eleanor keeps her company, flitting about and acting like the whole thing is a girls' shopping trip or something. June uses the time alone with her mistress to float the idea of Eleanor leaving Gilead, but the older woman isn't stupid: "Joseph is a war criminal. He can't cross the border. He would be jailed for the rest of his life, or killed. And he would deserve it," she says. But then she gets distracted by some other dusty box, and with a happy observation — "Things are always so much more exciting when you're here!" — she leaves June alone with the files.

As June leafs through the papers, she learns that Janine's son, Caleb, died four years earlier in a car accident. And she remarks that it's been five years since she and the other handmaids were forced into servitude.

In an effort to squeeze out Lawrence, Fred convinces Winslow that Gilead needs to "set an example" with June's commander. After all, he's had four handmaids and no children, which might indicate a lack of discipline. And "if he's unfit to lead his household, he's unfit to lead Gilead," Fredder notes, shocking even Serena with his suggestion that they attend The Ceremony at the Lawrence house that evening.

So June is surprised when Beth beckons her to the sitting room and the Waterfords are there with Winslow. "They used to do this, in the first months of Gilead, to the households that resisted the ceremony," June voiceovers. "Bearing witness ensures that every member is performing their role," announces Aunt Lydia. And after some Bible verses are read, Joseph, Eleanor and June go upstairs to the bedroom.

Joseph thinks they can just wait 20 minutes, then go back downstairs. But June knows that won't fly. "The doctor is going to check me afterwards for proof that there was a ceremony," she says. Eleanor starts to rage. Lawrence maintains that they don't have to do anything. "Sir," June says quietly, "yes, we do."

There are a lot of tears and yelling from Eleanor; eventually, she's put in an adjacent room so she won't have to witness her husband and the handmaid's forced copulation. June cries a little as Joseph prepares for what he's got to do — he's having a lot of trouble with the notion — which then puts her in the ridiculous position of having to coach him through it.

"Just treat it like a job. Try to detach yourself, see it from the outside," she says. "You're not you. I'm not me. This is a transaction." Afterward, Joseph goes down to his study without a word to their guests. The doctor checks June out and declares her well and truly boned, and Aunt Lydia announces that it's been "a successful ceremony."

"Are you alright?" Fred later whispers to June when they're alone for a moment. "I mean, at least it wasn't you," she shoots back. When the Lawrences are alone in their sleek... apartment? hotel room? Serena accuses her husband of getting distracted, pointing out that it's been months since they've made any progress on bringing Nichole home. "You're prioritizing yourself, and that's enough now," she says, pulling out the satellite phone Mark Tuello slipped her in Toronto. They can get their daughter back, she says. The catch? "You just have to offer your cooperation."

Later that evening, after everyone's left, Lawrence passes June something in the kitchen: It's a packet of birth-control pills. During her conversation with him, we learn another fun fact about Gilead: The punishment for contraception is being torn apart by dogs. Lovely. "That's not gonna be the last time that happens. You know what, right?" June points out. Yeah, he knows June: That's probably why he's currently scarf-deep in a glass of Scotch.

"I'll get you a truck. You get my wife out safely," he says abruptly, surprising June. She excitedly says that he can escape, as well, as long as he brings something valuable with him: "Kids. The stolen children of Gilead." He thinks about that for a minute. "I'd be a hero," he says, then walks out, leaving June to sip his drink.

The next day at Loaves and Fishes, Alma still wants nothing to do with June, but she changes her mind when June brings news of Alma's son, who is 5 and lives in Amherst with a commander and his family. The update takes Alma aback; it also hits me hard, when I realize that her son must've been an infant when he was taken from her, meaning he probably has no memory of her at all. June adds that her truck will fit 10 people, but she's not going to be one of them: As we saw at the end of last season, she won't leave without Hannah.

Janine also volunteers to help, saying that she's brave. Then she asks about Caleb. "His family was transferred to California," she lies. "His mom seems super nice." Janine is comforted by the idea of her son playing on the beach, and her smile makes me ache.

When she returns home, June enters the kitchen to find every flat surface covered with muffin baskets. "Muffins mean yes," Beth says, interpreting the martha network's reply for a stunned June: They'll help June get kids out of Gilead. "We're gonna need a bigger boat," June quips.

Liars

Season 3

Episode Number: 34

Season Episode: 11

Originally aired: Wednesday July 31, 2019
Writer: Yahlin Chang
Director: Deniz Gamze Ergüven
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bledel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars: Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Joseph Lawrence), Christopher Meloni (Commander Winslow), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Julie Dretzin (Eleanor Lawrence), Kristen Gutoskie (Beth), Sugenja Sri (Sienna), Diane Johnstone (Helen), Débora Demestre (Martha Reese), Paniz Zade (Wanda), Lindsey Connell (B&B Econo Mom), Evan Sabba (B&B Econo Dad), Teagan Wright (B&B Econo Daughter), Matthew Rowsell (B&B Econo Son), Andrew Perun (Econo Husband Guest), Emma Laishram (Econo Wife Guest), Daniel Jun (Billy), Elizabeth Whitmere (Martha Maureen), Jessica Allen (Bar Jezebel), Michael Koras (Rough Commander #2), Jennifer Krukowski (Dancer Jezebel #2)
Summary: A return to Jezebels puts everything in jeopardy; Serena Joy and Commander Waterford take a clandestine trip.



The good news: The marthas are willing to help June get 52 children out. The bad news: The vehicle Lawrence has procured for the purpose only seats 10. "Fifty-two kids and 10 seats," June voiceovers. "How does that math work?" She's downstairs in the house when she hears a commotion in the study: Eleanor has a gun pointed at Joseph, and she's rambling about guilt and Gilead and the usual. June keeps her cool, slowly approaching her mistress. "You were raped because of him. You were brutalized, poor girl, because of him!" Mrs. Lawrence yells. "I know you want to kill him. I would like to

kill him, too. But we can't always just do what we want. We have to control ourselves," she says soothingly. They get into a discussion of how Gilead's rise is the fault of everyone — including those who didn't do enough to stop it — and eventually June entreats the older woman to help make her experiences and her plan "mean something." She drops the weapon, then, and cries on June's shoulder.

Later, a shaken Joseph offers June a drink, calling her "ice queen." But he does thank her for her help earlier, and they get to discussing the kindertransport. He blanches at the number, but she presses on. "You owe me," she says as he muses about how Gilead's founders underestimated the fallibility of mental health and the power of maternal love; eventually, he agrees to try and get more trucks. "Wouldn't it be funny if you actually turned out to be a hero?" she wonders. "Wouldn't it?" he agrees.

First snag in the plan: The marthas who have signed on to help June are kinda going rogue and do not have the blessing of The Marthas Who Make Decisions. Several angry members of this

latter group show up at the Lawrences' home and, through Beth, demand to speak with June. And by "speak with," I mean "shut down."

The problem is that TMWMD have plans of their own, black-market- and Jezebels-related plans, and June's liberation efforts could put them in serious jeopardy. "Why would you ever prevent these kids from having a better life?" she wonders aloud, frustrated. But they won't be swayed... until Beth vouches for her housemate. And after June promises that her mission won't interfere with theirs, TMWMD finally agree not to get in June's way — but they won't help her, either. And the marthas who do want to help do so on their own. "If this goes sideways, their blood is on you," one warns June. Noted!

Second snag in the plan: The next morning, both Commander and Mrs. Lawrence are gone, as is their car. His files have been shredded. A scratch pad in the study contains his unsatisfactory explanation: "Sorry." June looks like someone made her eat a bowling ball sandwich, but she regroups as quickly as possible and decides to piggyback on TMWMD's plan: There's a plane that's scheduled to deliver contraband destined for Jezebels, and she wants to get the kids on the aircraft after it makes its delivery but before it leaves town.

She's still working out the details when Lawrence returns, claiming he had an "attack of conscience." But June surmises the truth: He couldn't get out. He admits that new authorization codes are needed to cross the border, and he doesn't have them — even more evidence he's being squeezed out by Fred Waterford & Co. "They've got me. It's just a matter of time," he says, seeming really scared as he remarks that he'll try to keep her out of The Colonies if at all possible. June wants to try a different tack: "You're taking me to the city."

That's how she winds up at Jezebels, hair down, lipstick on, heels clacking on the floor as she struts in and sits at the bar, hoping to blend in with the brothel's denizens. She succeeds in making contact with Billy, the bartender in charge of all things contraband, who says he "maybe" will give her access to the cargo plane in exchange for all of the priceless art in Lawrence's home. But then June fails in getting out of there before Commander Winslow can recognize her and call her by name.

Winslow brings her back to his room, where she lies and says that Lawrence likes her to go to Jezebels, do things with other men, and then tell him what happens. "Really?" Wallace wonders. "You all seem to have your kinks," June shoots back. "Why don't we give you something to tell him," he says, ordering her onto the bed, and even though we all knew this wasn't going to end well, I get a sick feeling in my stomach nevertheless.

"I've done this before. I can do it again. Just like all the other times," June says placidly via voiceover while Winslow orders her to remove her "panties" but keep on her heels. He demands that she lie face down; internally, June is sing-singing, "Not me. Not my flesh. I'm not here." But something in her won't let her submit this time, and she suddenly rolls over and kicks him off her.

He decks her. She gives it back as best as she can. Their fight goes to the ground, where he's on top of her, slamming her head into the carpet while his other hand wraps around her throat. But she's able to grab hold of a ballpoint pen that's on the floor, so she just starts stabbing at him like she's a fro-yo employee with your frequent customer card in hand and zero effs left to give.

She's indiscriminate in her attack, but she must luck out and hit something vital, because all of a sudden he's bleeding heavily and breathing like a bull at the end of a fight. "My children," he pleads as she lifts a heavy statuette off the desk and holds it high. Wrong thing to say, dude. She brings it down on his head, killing him.

June's starting to go into shock when housekeeping knocks. The martha who opens the door sees June, sizes up the situation, and immediately closes the room's door behind her. She directs her to the service elevator down the hall. "I saw you at the cages. You saved me," the martha says, identifying herself as one of the women Lawrence made June choose from the detainees earlier this season. With the martha's access card in her hand, June makes her way, barefoot, to the elevator; a commander and his companion pass, but they don't even notice her.

June starts to come back to herself and gets back to Lawrence's car. "Drive," she tells him. Meanwhile, the martha who helped June — aided by some other members of the housekeeping staff — tidy up the crime scene and haul Winslow body down to the incinerator, where they burn all the evidence.

June wakes up at home and gets dressed. Lawrence enters her room and hands her a gun. "They'll be coming for us," he says. June looks serene.

Serena and Fred are going on a Nichole-related trip. She tells Rita that they're taking a more "personal approach" to getting the baby back, then draws her martha near. "Thank you for loving Nichole so much. May the Lord bless you and keep you," the blonde says. Then Fred pulls up in a sportscar and shades like every d-bag in every '80s movie, and they're off.

As you might have guessed, they're driving to Canada. On a lonely, rural road somewhere north of Boston, Fred marvels at how Mark Tuello underestimated her. The way she's looking at him makes me hope that he, too, has not paid enough to how insanely sly his wife can be and that maybe she is up to something. But then Radio Free American comes on the radio — aw, Oprah is still kicking, guys! — and Fred turns the broadcast off.

He offers Serena a chance to drive, and although she initially says no, pretty soon she's in the driver's seat with the top down and the pedal to the floor. She smiles as the wind loosens one strand from her tight chignon.

They wind up at the house of a large family who puts them up for the evening. Serena steps away from the post-dinner hootenanny, and when Fred follows her to see what's wrong, they wind up talking about their lives before Gilead. He remarks that she's a good writer, and she replies, "How could you take that away from me?" He says he had no idea how much she'd wind up losing, and they talk about who would've left whom by now if Gilead hadn't happened. For instance, Fred says, she'd probably have ditched him "for a man more capable of giving you a child."

But when Fred starts yapping about their raising Nichole in a home like the one where they're saying, she calls BS: He loves the "pomp and circumstance" too much to ever leave his post. "I don't want to miss watching our daughter grow up," he tells her softly. That night, he reaches for her across the gulf between their twin beds. "Come," she beckons, and they have freshman-year-style sex. Like God intended.

The next morning, they meet Tuello at an abandoned gas station. He says he has a place they can talk, but they'll have to follow him a short bit up the road. "Do you trust him?" Fred asks Serena once they're back in the car and tailing Tuello. She says yes.

Tuello comes to a stop along a wooded stretch of road. When Fred and Serena exit their vehicle, he announces that they've crossed into Canada and Fred is under arrest "for war crimes and crimes of aggression in international human rights treaties and international law." Further, they may be transferred to the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court. Fred sputters. Serena cries. Soldiers roll up and lead them off in different directions; you'd best believe that American officials are there, as well.

Sacrifice

Season 3

Episode Number: 35

Season Episode: 12

Originally aired: Wednesday August 07, 2019
Writer: Eric Tuchman
Director: Deniz Gamze Ergüven
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bleidel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars: Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), Samira Wiley (Moirra Strand), Bradley Whitford (Joseph Lawrence), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam), Stephen Kunken (Warren Putnam), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Elizabeth Reaser (Olivia Winslow), Julie Dretzin (Eleanor Lawrence), Kristen Gutoskie (Beth), Nina Kiri (Alma), Jonathan Watton (Mathew Calhoun), Suganja Sri (Sienna), Joel Lacoursiere (Staircase Guardian), Sava Drayton (Detention Security Guard), Elva Mai Hoover (Social Worker), Vanessa Burns (Mrs. Calhoun)
Summary: Gilead leadership is rocked by losses of their own; Luke and Moira adjust to new arrivals in Canada; A tragedy strikes the Lawrence household.



We pick up with June still in her bedroom, fondling the gun Lawrence handed her at the end of the previous episode. She's sure that the tires in the driveway and the boots on the stairs are Guardians coming to get her for killing Commander Winslow, so she points the weapon at the door and waits. But it's just Eleanor, who tells her there are men downstairs with Joseph, and Beth needs help preparing food for them.

June descends to find Commanders Putnam (one hand) and Calhoun (the father of Natalie's son) talking with Joseph. Before she can go in to deliver the food,

Beth praises June for being such a badass — it's funny that at first June thinks she's being sarcastic — and reports some good news: Billy at Jezebels is in, and "Flight's a week from today." Woo!

The atmosphere is less jubilant in the parlor, where the commanders want Lawrence to help them solve the problem of what Canada has done to the Waterfords. "Now that those two are out of the picture, you come to me?" he asks, pointing out that his security clearance has been stripped. They hint that they might be able to change that, but he kicks them out, saying he needs time to mull the situation. Once the men are gone, Lawrence debriefs with June.

Gilead's higher-ups think Winslow is just missing and that maybe he got taken by American forces the way Fred and Serena did — and that's how June learns what's happened to the man who used to rape her and the woman who held her down when he did. He adds that they're facing trial as war criminals. "I guess they didn't bring 52 kids with them," he quips. And when June takes a minute to process what she's heard, he adds, "Cheer up. Fred and Serena are toast, and you just got away with murder. All in all, not a bad morning." She sits, covers her face with her hands, and starts to laugh.

So, back to June's plan, which she spreads in whispers at Loaves and Fishes: The marthas will get the kids to the house after dark, then Lawrence will get them to the plane. Rita is shopping there, too, and she makes sure June knows that Serena was kind to her when she left. "She's only nice when she's up to something," June grumbles. It's true! Anyway, Rita says she'll do whatever's needed to bring the plane plan to fruition, and she's impressed with June's moxie. "This is your idea?" she asks. "Such a boss now." They briefly hold hands in the potato bin, and Rita tells June, "I'm proud of you."

June's boss buzz is killed, however, when she gets home and sees Mrs. Winslow and Mrs. Putnam praying with the Lawrences. Eleanor is super agitated; when Olivia laments that she can't raise six children by herself, Mrs. Lawrence pipes up to say, "We can take the children with us!" Joseph plays it off like she's offering to put the Winslow kids up at their house, but Naomi knows something weird is going on.

But there are bigger problems: Gilead wants to close the border, so he orders June to move up the departure date. They're interrupted by Eleanor, who is planning to go door-to-door to grab kids for the transport. June has to get physical with her mistress in order to get her to stop, and though Joseph balks at his handmaid's violence, Eleanor ultimately agrees it's what was necessary to subdue her.

Much later, June brings Eleanor some food and finds her unresponsive after taking an over-dose of sleeping pills. June briefly tries to revive her, but then thinks better of it, kisses her on the forehead and then leaves the room as though she'd never been there. One of the marthas finds Eleanor's body later.

Joseph is a broken man in the aftermath of his wife's death, but at least he got Gilead to keep the borders open. "It's hard to argue with a man who's in mourning, even for them," he notes wryly, trying to keep it together. They have a teary exchange about how kind Eleanor was, then they attend her funeral. After everyone else leaves, June stands with her commander at the grave.

Up north, Serena is allowed to visit with Fred in his cell for five minutes. He ardently embraces and kisses her, asks if their captors have hurt her. She says she's fine, then begs him not to say anything they'll be able to use against him in the trial. He brushes that off, certain that Gilead will extract them from their current situation. "You have to stop worrying about me now. You have to save yourself. I'll be fine," she says, crying a little. Fred's entire demeanor changes on a dime. "What have you done?" he whispers. "I want to be with my daughter," she answers.

Fred is so angry, he's got her by the neck. "I pity the child that has you as her mother," he growls. But Serena's all thank u, next. "I'll pray for you, Fred," she says on her way out of his cell.

Moira and Luke bring Nichole to the detention center for a supervised visit with Serena, but they're not happy about it. If you're looking for a good example of a mic drop, may I direct your attention to what Moira says to Mrs. Waterford as she hands off the kid? "Just because you got some new clothes doesn't make you any different. You are still the same woman who held my friend down so your husband could rape her. And he raped me, too, at the whorehouse. Treated me like shit like I was worthless. I am who I am and I have sinned plenty, but you? You are the gender traitor."

Meanwhile, Luke wants to meet with Fred. That... doesn't go well, either. Suffice to say, it ends with Fred screwing with Luke's mind ("The June Osborne you knew doesn't exist anymore. Gilead's changed her. I've changed her.") and Luke punching Ol' Beardy right in his stupid face before Tuello pulls him off and hauls him out.

Mayday

Season 3

Episode Number: 36

Season Episode: 13

Originally aired: Wednesday August 14, 2019
Writer: Bruce Miller
Director: Mike Barker
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (Offred), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy), Joseph Fiennes (The Commander), Alexis Bledel (Ofglen), O.T. Fagbenle (Luke), Max Minghella (Nick), Amanda Brugel (Rita)
Guest Stars: Madeline Brewer (Janine), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), Samira Wiley (Moirra Strand), Bradley Whitford (Joseph Lawrence), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Kate Moyer (Kiki), Kristen Gutoskie (Beth), Nina Kiri (Alma), Bahia Watson (Brianna), Sugenja Sri (Sienna), Kevin Allan (Senior Guardian), J. Adam Brown (Young Guardian), Steve Coombes (June's Guardian Escort), Joanne Boland (Martha Maggie), Jennifer Baker (Sheila Murray), Jenny Brizard (Escapee Martha), Lucy DiPucchio (Bloody Martha), Elva Mai Hoover (Social Worker), Alex Armbruster (Search Guardian), Mark Waters (Kiki's Father), Raven Riley Duporte (Young Hannah), Jen Georgopoulos (Escapee Econowoman), Chris Gleason (Bus Driver), Melanie Phan (Escapee Martha)
Summary: With her plan in place, June reaches the point of no return on her bold strike against Gilead; Serena Joy and Commander Waterford attempt to find their way forward in their new lives.



The episode opens with a flashback: It's right after June was rounded up, when women are being loaded into trucks like cattle and yelled at by guardians. There's a lot of panicked screaming, and the whole thing is really terrifying. Janine is there, mouthing off to the guardians while June fruitlessly tries to get someone to tell her where Hannah is. "Ruthless, I remember thinking," she voiceovers, vowing that she's going to be just as ruthless in taking Gilead's kids away.

In present-day Gilead, June is making her way home from shopping. One by one, other 'maids surreptitiously drop bars of soap into her bag without anyone noticing. Well, anyone except for Aunt Lydia, of course. "Your next commander will not tolerate any of your subversive nonsense," the older woman warns her, but June can't be bothered to care. "I will keep the subversive nonsense to a minimum," she says, all but rolling her eyes. And when Lydia tells her to watch herself, June says, "You got it!"

At home, Beth keeps throwing up because she's so afraid of the plan going sideways. But she rallies and helps Sienna and June, the latter of whom is melting down all of that soap so she can make windows opaque and grease squeaky gates. She's in the backyard when she notices that a martha and a roughly 10-year-old girl in pink are hiding in the bushes, even though no one was supposed to show up until sundown. "Is this Mayday?" the martha asks. "Yes," June says.

The girl, Kiki, and her martha are from Lexington, and they walked all the way to the Lawrence house, so the girl has a blister. June bandages her foot and answers her questions about what

it'll be like when they land in Canada. "You'll be free. You can wear whatever you want. No one is going to hurt you for reading, or tell you what to think, or who to love, or what to believe in. And you know, you don't have to be a wife. Or a mother, if you don't want to," June says. "Then what would I be?" the girl asks. "You," June answers, reassuring the girl that yes, God will still love her then.

Kiki's martha then freaks and says they need to leave, that they're just going to go back to the house and Kiki's mom will understand, even though the martha drugged her and kidnapped her kid. June grabs her gun and points it right at the martha, then gets Kiki away from her and promises she'll shoot her if she runs. But when the martha goes, June can't bring herself to do it. She does, however, in a wind up pointing the weapon at Kiki, which brings June to her knees in horror when she realizes what she's done.

And then Commander Lawrence returns home from his meeting, which he'd arranged in order to draw security's attention away from the house, announcing that Kiki and her martha had been spotted. There'll be house searches and roadblocks, he says, so he's "pulling the plug" on their operation. June says nope, that they'll find another way to get to the plane, because "I am not sending her back so she can get raped and maimed in this insane f—king world that you helped build." He reaches for the gun, stating that he's made his decision, and that seems to crystallize something inside June. She regards him, refusing to surrender the pistol, and stands. "It's not your decision," she says. "Men. F—king pathological. You are not in charge. I am. So, go to your office and find me a f—king map. Thank you." Lawrence looks ridiculous as he tries to pull the "this is my house, young lady" thing, and June nearly giggles as she smiles patronizingly at him, asking, "You really think this is still your house?"

Pretty soon, more kids and marthas show up. Rita is among them; she's with a martha holding an infant. "She killed them," she tells June, who's momentarily taken aback. "They wouldn't just let her leave." Woah. June hugs Rita and then, thanks to a smart idea from Siena, it's time to go: June and some others mark a path through the woods, tying strips of cloth to trees.

When they return, they're alarmed because the house is quiet and the light they left in an upstairs window as a signal is turned off. But when they go inside, they find Lawrence reading *Treasure Island* by candlelight to a room full of rapt kiddies and marthas. Beth notes that there are more than 52 people down there, but June just smiles.

Then Janine arrives with the news that Kiki's martha has been arrested — turns out, she didn't give her mistress enough drugs to kill her — and Kiki has been reported missing. That means it's go time! "You said you weren't going to be any trouble," Lawrence says to her. "Yeah, I lied," she replies. "Women," he sniffs. He's staying behind ("Eleanor would've wanted me to stay and clean up my own mess") so June blesses him, and he her, and she's gone.

June and the Von Trapp Family Singers snake their way through the forest, ducking when cars with searchlights venture near their position. They make it to the airport but — crap — there's a guardian in a vehicle standing between them and the tarmac. June instructs Beth to take everyone farther down the road and get them into the airport some other way, and she'll distract the guardian while that happens. Which essentially means she's going to die.

June makes Rita promise to get Kiki and the infant on the plane. "May He in His mercy protect you," the martha says through tears. And June, herself, is crying when she walks, alone, back to near where the guardian is. But suddenly, all of the handmaids are with her. And so they pick up rocks and hurl them at the man, who doesn't know what is happening. He starts shooting his machine gun in their general direction; while the gunfire is happening and his attention is elsewhere, Rita and the other marthas usher the kids across the road and toward the plane.

Eventually, June decides to help the other handmaids get to safety by stepping out of the woods and into the light, which causes the guardian to charge toward her. But she ducks back into the trees and leads him on a chase away from everyone else. He shoots at her again and eventually hits her; she goes down. But when he gets closer and turns her over, she's got her gun ready and shoots him. With the weapon leveled at him, she orders him to use his radio to tell his comrades everything is fine. So he does, and she thanks him, then she kills him.

June lays back and we see that she's perhaps more badly hit than we realized. And as she clutches the wound in her side, the plane takes off and flies directly over where she's lying. She cries in happiness and relief.

Moira, Luke and Emily are there, volunteering with refugee efforts, when the plane arrives in Canada. Moira is taken aback when she boards the plane and sees so many scared little faces

staring back at her. "Miss, is this the place where I can wear what I want?" Kiki asks her. Barely holding it together, Moira says yes and begins ushering them into the hangar.

Another volunteer notices Kiki and says, "Rebecca?" It's Kiki/Rebecca's father, and their tearful reunion makes a real impression on Luke, who can't stop scanning the crowd of kids for Hannah's face. Meanwhile, Emily sees Rita and hugs her as they both cry. Emily introduces the martha to Luke. "She did this. June. Your June," she says, hugging him. "She did this. She did everything."

Back at the airport, the sun is up. June is still on the ground, bleeding. A bunch of handmaids that includes Janine and Alma return and carry June off, using her cloak as an improvised stretcher. In voiceover, June recites a Bible verse about being delivered into the land of milk and honey. On the stretcher, she smiles and closes her eyes.

Season Four

Pigs

Season 4
Episode Number: 37
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Wednesday April 28, 2021
Writer: Bruce Miller
Director: Colin Watkinson
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Joseph Fiennes (Commander Fred Waterford), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Alexis Bledel (Dr. Emily Malek), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirra Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence)
Guest Stars: Mckenna Grace (Mrs. Keyes), Stephen Kunken (Warren Putnam), Nina Kiri (Alma), Bahia Watson (Brianna), Jonathan Watton (Mathew Calhoun), Melissa Kelly (Handmaid Fugitive 1), Victoria Goodman (Handmaid Fugitive 2), Masa Lizdek (Handmaid Fugitive 3), Samer Salem (David), Bill MacDonald (Commander Keyes), Roderick McNeil (Farmhand 1), Tejay McDonald (Farmhand 2), Luke Aquilina (Guardian 1), Craig Burnatowski (Barber), David Thompson (Captured Guardian)
Summary: On the run, an injured June and the fugitive Handmaids find refuge at a farm. In Gilead, an imprisoned Lawrence tries to avoid a death sentence. Aunt Lydia reels from the loss of 86 children on Angels' Flight.



The action picks up right where the last episode left off, with June bleeding out from a gunshot wound as the other handmaids carry her to safety. There is a lot of blood and June is fairly out of it, but in her more lucid moments she panics and demands that they keep moving. Just before the women cauterize June's wound with what looks like a... oh God, a curling iron?, Alma assures June that the martha network is hooking them up with a guardian who can get them to a safe-house.

Then there's a harrowing truck ride and some stumbling through the woods before they approach the house. As June approaches to ascertain that everything is kosher, a guardian holding a lantern promises her, "You're safe." She cries a little, then faints as the other women run toward her. And as they hurry her inside, it's clear that June is even worse than we thought: She's vomiting and burning up with fever, sure signs of infection. A commander's young wife flits about the edges of the activity — and even at this early stage, you can tell that she's a little unhinged by the gleeful way she talks about how she dreamed about killing people with June — and then June blacks out.

When she wakes up, we get the full story. June and the other handmaids involved in Operation JetBlue These Kiddos The Hell Outta Here, including Alma, Janine and Brianna, are staying at a farm presided over by Commander and Mrs. Keyes. June's body is trying to knit itself

back together with the aid of homemade penicillin and makeshift antibiotic ointment, and she's nowhere near 100 percent healed, but she's aware that they are not out of danger: "No more time for me to stay in bed," she voiceovers.

The handmaids have gotten comfortable on the farm, posing as marthas as they help with the planting and animals. Commander Keyes is considerably older than his wife and seems to be suffering from dementia or something similar; at best, he looks through the women circulating through his household and grounds. Esther Keyes, however, is a bloodthirsty little thing who's very astute. "I wanna hurt them so badly, Gilead," she tells June, who cautions patience. "If you weren't gonna fight, why did you come here?" she says, mood shifting like the breeze. "You should've just let them catch you."

After Esther treats Janine terribly at a meal, June follows her outside and warns her to stay away from the one-eyed handmaid. "You know what they do to handmaids, don't you?" June growls. "Show some f—kin' respect." But she softens her stance a bit when she learns that Esther's commander was unable to have sex with her most of the time, so he brought in many other men who repeatedly raped her. "Wives have bad things, too," she says as both women cry and June apologizes. She hugs the girl close and repeats that none of what's happened is Esther's fault.

June's sisters-in-arms, meanwhile, don't necessarily want to go on the march to take down Gilead. "Maybe this is as free as we're gonna get," Alma says. "Maybe we should make the best of it." And indeed, when June comes across all of them dancing and enjoying themselves while Grateful Dead's "Ripple" plays on a radio, it seems like the closest thing to happiness any of them have experienced in a while. But the real world interferes when a truck pulls up to the house and a man is tossed into the driveway: His name is Guardian Pogue, and he was one of the men who violated Esther.

The good guardian says he'll take Pogue to the river and "deal with him," but June says no. She instead addresses the other women, calling the man a traitor who betrayed the United States "and raped a child, repeatedly." It's like the stoning in Season 1, only for good. "The punishment for these crimes is death," she adds. And as Pogue is strung up in the barn, June hands Esther a knife. "You were right. We're Mayday. We don't hide, we fight," she tells her. "Good girl. Make me proud." Esther replies, "I will."

And she does. Later, June is resting in bed when Esther comes in, covered in blood. She climbs in bed with her and spoons her, then says, "I love you." June puts her hand on Esther's and smiles. "I love you, too, Banana," she whispers, clearly thinking of her first daughter.

Up north in Canada, Mark Tuello informs Fred and Serena that 86 children and nine marthas just arrived on a plane from Gilead. "Their poor families," Serena coos. "They're being reunited with their families as we speak," Tuello spits back, and I have never loved him more. He then shares that June planned the whole thing but is still at large. "They're gonna find her, and they're gonna kill her," Fred murmurs. "May God show her mercy," Serena replies, looking like she thinks quite the opposite.

After being "interviewed" — read: tortured — by the Eyes for 19 days, Aunt Lydia appears before the Commanders' Council, which determines she won't need further discipline. Guys, Aunt Lydia looks beat up. And I know how we feel about her, but damn Ann Dowd for making me sympathize with this monster! Anyway, Lydia makes a bid to handle June herself, when she's located: "Pray, gentlemen, find her and bring her to me, and a frail woman will sleep better at night. I leave you to your work."

Elsewhere, Commander Lawrence is being held in a cell when he gets a visit from Nick, who thanks him for his service to Gilead. "Was there a trial?" he asks, and Nick says yes, prompting Lawrence to ask how he fared. When Nick thanks him again, Lawrence deadpans, "That good, huh?" So the next day, when men bring him into a room with a menacing-looking chair at its center, Lawrence is sure he's going to be killed. But Nick shows up again, quietly saying, "I think there still may be more that you can do for your country." The younger man has convinced the council to bring Lawrence in as a consultant, because "some men need to be led." Lawrence chuckles, observing, "The Tao of June Osborne." And that chair? It's so he can be comfortable while he gets a shave from the barber who's brought in to clean him up.

Nightshade

Season 4
Episode Number: 38
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Wednesday April 28, 2021
Writer: Kira Snyder
Director: Colin Watkinson
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Joseph Fiennes (Commander Fred Waterford), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Alexis Bledel (Dr. Emily Malek), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirra Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence)
Guest Stars: Mckenna Grace (Mrs. Keyes), Zawe Ashton (Moirra's Girlfriend), Laura Vandervoort (Daisy), Alexandra Castillo (Dawn Mathis), Nina Kiri (Alma), Bahia Watson (Brianna), Steve Boyle (MP Guardian), Bill MacDonald (Commander Keyes), Samer Salem (David), Marlon Palmer (Security Guardian), Jamillah Ross (Jezebel's Martha), Jane Hales (Doctor), Samantha Espie (Jean), Luxton Handspiker (Asher), Janelle Hutchison (Aunt Wendy)
Summary: June plots revenge at the local Jezebels, before she and the Handmaids plan to leave the farm for the next safe house. In Toronto, Moira deals with the fallout of June's choices. Serena and Fred are bound together by a miracle.



Two guardians come looking for the man Esther killed in the season premiere. They leave without finding anything, and Esther wonders what their visit means. "It means I have to leave," June says resignedly. The friendly guardian brings her to a Mayday contact at a nearby estate, which June realizes has been turned into a Jezebels. In the greenhouse, June finds a woman smoking among the plants. "I thought you'd be taller, the handmaid that killed Commander Winslow," she says. Her name is Daisy. We learn that Daisy was also at the Boston Jezebels, but after Winslow's

death, "They cleaned house. I was one of the lucky ones." That look on June's face? It's her realization that her actions have consequences she didn't plan for. And if you missed it, don't worry — it'll come around again at least once later this season.

Daisy tells June that "word's gotten out" about the children's flight, and rebel groups are engaging in small acts of defiance: slashing tires, cutting lines, blowing up a checkpoint. But June wastes no time: "Do you have a safehouse for us?" Daisy says she does, but she can't send the word until tomorrow, so they've got to sit tight. Plus, tonight there's a huge amount of military commanders at the house for "one last party before Chicago," Daisy notes, which gets June's wheels turning.

Back at the Keyes' farm, Alma really isn't on board with June's new plan: Kill the commanders, liberate the Jezebels house. "So you're just going to Rambo in there, shoot the place up, get

yourself killed or caught?" she asks, incredulous. But June doesn't seem very bothered by that scenario. Esther is distraught to learn that the rogue handmaids are leaving, and she begs them not to leave her there. June acquiesces and says she can come with them, which earns her a huge hug from the traumatized commander's wife. Something else dawns on her at the same time: She figures out that Esther's husband's addled state isn't from dementia or something like that, but because she's been poisoning him. "You learn things on a farm," Esther says simply. June lights up. "Can you teach me how to make more?" she asks.

Turns out, Mrs. Keyes really knows her way around deadly plants. "I only give him a little, to keep him from being a bother," she explains. "My martha showed me how. He's not a good man. Maybe there are no good men in Gilead." This is a bleak outlook, even for June, who says there are good men everywhere, "even here."

That evening, before returning to Jezebels, June tells Janine to get everyone ready for their imminent departure upon her return. She hooks up with Daisy when she arrives, and Daisy is scared but eventually agrees to help get as much poison as possible into the drivers and commanders cavorting inside. Then, for good measure, June dumps a bunch of poison into some liquor bottles and the tea of a mean aunt.

When she and the nice guardian arrive back at the Keyes' farm, June instantly realizes something is wrong. All the lights are on in the house, and the front door is open. She urges the guardian to go, but he says he won't leave her. As they walk, June steps on something, looks down, and realizes it's a bunch of shell casings. Nice guardian reaches for his gun but is fatally shot from out of nowhere before he can even grab it; his blood spatters all over June. She reaches for his dropped weapon but realizes she's done for when the red dots of at least four laser sites converge on her torso. Then Nick strolls out of the darkness toward her and asks where the handmaids are.

She doesn't answer. He crouches down, softly saying, "I'm trying to keep you alive," and he gives her the most surreptitious of touches on the shoulder as he stands. Then his men grab her, and I inappropriately giggle at how many men Gilead think is necessary to restrain one handmaid. It feels like there are 10 of them!

In Canada, a charity has grown up around June's big move from last season. It's called Angel's Flight, and Luke, Moira, Emily and Rita are very involved. Rita addresses a group of potential donors, but it's clear that she's still very shaken by everything she's gone through. June "got us out, and she stayed behind to keep fighting, even knowing what it could mean," she tearfully tells the crowd. "Gilead has a way of bringing out the worst in people, but in June, it brought out the best."

We later see that Moira has a new girlfriend, and that Angel's Flight does a lot of work placing the children from the plane with family and/or new parents. It's not always a happy matter, however: One boy, Asher, has only known Gilead and really misses his martha, his room and his (faux) mom and dad. Moira hooks up Rita to hang out with him, which seems to bring him some comfort. But even Moira points out how June never thought through what would happen when the plane landed. "That's what she does: takes the big swing, and f—k the consequences," she says to Emily. That also applies to Moira's current home situation; "I love Nichole, but I never wanted to be a mom," she confesses to Emily. Emily wonders why Moira feels the need to clean up June's messes, and Moira says she felt guilty about getting out when June didn't... but now she's tired of feeling guilty. Emily totally understands.

At the detention center, Serena is examined, stripped of her clothes and photographed. She tells her questioners that Fred didn't abuse her, per se, but he did sleep with other women. Her lawyer advises her to establish a pattern of abuse, which will help her regain her legal immunity. "But it wasn't abuse, exactly..." Serena quavers, which angers Mark Tuello. He wonders why she's giving Fred the benefit of the doubt. "Because I knew him before Gilead," she explains, asking to see her husband alone. She has a plan that she's going to get Fred to drop his claim against her, which is in Tuello's interests, because she is his chief witness, and it's a bad look to have an accused sex offender as your chief witness.

So Tuello arranges for the Waterfords to meet in the chapel. She tells Fred that everything she's saying is "just a legal strategy," and that they won't have to air their private lives in court if he drops his claim about her. "You've gotten rusty," he says. "You used to be so good at getting me to do what you want. But my eyes are open now." Serena presses on, saying that she just wants Nichole back. "Nichole is not your daughter, any more than she is mine," he replies. She accuses

him of never standing up for her "not once, once you got a taste of power," then he mumbles something about giving her too much freedom. When he tries to touch her, she shies away, and he leaves.

But all of that seems moot, anyway, when the results from Serena's exam come back. "You're pregnant, Serena," Tuello says harshly. "Congratulations."

The Crossing

Season 4

Episode Number: 39

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Wednesday April 28, 2021
Writer: Bruce Miller
Director: Elisabeth Moss
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Joseph Fiennes (Commander Fred Waterford), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Alexis Bledel (Dr. Emily Malek), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirra Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence)
Guest Stars: Reed Birney (Gilead Loyalist), Kristen Gutoskie (Beth), Nina Kiri (Alma), Bahia Watson (Brianna), Jordana Blake (Hannah Bankole), Krista Morin (Rachel Tapping), Sugenja Sri (Sienna), Melissa Kelly (Handmaid Fugitive 1), Victoria Goodman (Handmaid Fugitive 2), Masa Lizdek (Handmaid Fugitive 3), James Blinkey (Driver), Edie Inksetter (Aunt Elizabeth)
Summary: Captured by Gilead, June faces a vengeful Aunt Lydia and endures a torturous interrogation. Nick and Lawrence collaborate to protect June. In Toronto, Luke struggles with how to help June and Hannah.



June is shackled and taken to a facility, where Nick meets her and tells her that Esther is in custody but Alma, Brianna and the other handmaids are still at large. The guardians assume they moved on to the next safehouse. "If you don't tell them where they are, I can't help you. Please let me help you," he says softly. Then Aunt Lydia shows up to act as June's "advocate," she announces. "Think of me as her guardian angel."

They walk down a hallway where torture is taking place in nearly all the rooms. And when June reaches hers, the abuse begins. Lydia slaps her. "Did you

think about how I would feel? You have caused so much pain. I hope you're happy with yourself," the older woman says before a man referred to only as "Lieutenant" enters to genially ask questions about the handmaids' whereabouts. When June replies with "God has forsaken this place," he swiftly punches her in the sternum. Then he and some other men waterboard her while Aunt Lydia waits outside, making progress on her needlework as June chokes and sputters.

When that's done, Lydia makes sure to tell June that if she and the other handmaids had just followed the rules, they'd be OK. June's points out that handmaids are raped, beaten and humiliated over and over because "you failed them." An angry Lydia knocks her off her chair, but June's not done: She points out that Lydia's beloved Janine "turned on you in a f—king second."

June later avoids having her fingernails pulled out by lying and saying that the handmaids are hiding in a library in Burlington, Vt. That buys her a little time but ultimately lands her on an elevator to the roof. It's nighttime and pouring, and there are two other women, handcuffed and

standing on the ledge of the building. A helicopter circles. It's hellish all around. The lieutenant says if June gives up the safehouse location, she can save the lives of the women on the roof. "June, don't tell them anything!" one of the women yells, and the lieutenant casually pushes her off the building to her death. June is horrified. Then June holds hands with the other woman, and they're both crying. The remaining woman says, "June," and then the lieutenant pushes her off, as well.

Back inside, June is put in a small box with holes in it.

June sings "Heaven Is a Place on Earth" to herself — nice callback to her time at the hospital in Season 3, there, and also an indication of how much of a beating her psyche has taken by this point. Then she's hauled out, hooded, and brought to another room... where Commander Lawrence is sitting at one end of a table laid out with a lavish meal. Classical music plays in the background. There are candles. It's incredibly surreal.

"Hi," he says. "You've looked better."

He promises that no one will hurt her, then lays out what's been going on. As a result of her Jezebels plot, nine commanders are in the hospital and six are dead. He says if she doesn't cooperate, they'll hurt her older daughter, Hannah. This gives her pause, but she quickly dismisses the idea. "Gilead, they'd never hurt a child," she says. "That's all they care about." He shakes his head. "Gilead doesn't care about children. Gilead cares about power. Faithfulness, old time values, homemade bread — that's just the means to the end." She's crying as she tells him to go have The Ceremony with himself, but he looks sad. "I was hoping we could avoid this," he says, almost crying as June is taken away.

So June is put in a room where Hannah sits inside a glass case, playing with a doll. When the girl sees her mother, she doesn't recognize her and is very afraid, which kills June. "It's OK, baby," she says, crying as she slowly approaches her. The lieutenant walks in, and it's over: June tells him the handmaids' actual location. He leads her away, promising that Hannah is safe.

At the safehouse, the handmaids are sleeping when flashlights outside wake them up. They huddle on their knees as footsteps approach, but then Alma stands and the others follow her. They all hold hands as the men bust through the door.

A chipper Aunt Lydia lets June know that her friends have been "retrieved, safe and sound." June begs Lydia to kill her. But she says they'll do no such thing: A healthy womb is a healthy womb, after all. They're going to send all of them to a magdalen colony, where the commanders and wives will visit them once a month for The Ceremony. "A breeding colony," June flatly translates. Lydia reminds her that everything that happened was "your fault, your choice" and then kisses her on the head. "This is the start of a new adventure," she says.

Before that, though, Nick has June brought to him in the middle of nowhere. He tells her Hannah is back home and safe, then apologizes for what took place. "I had to do what I had to do to keep you—" he starts, but she's more torn up by the fact that Hannah was afraid of her, "she wasn't afraid of them" meaning everyone else in Gilead. She cries, and he pulls her close. "She loves you. I love you," he says, wiping her tears and putting his forehead on hers. When her ride arrives, she starts to leave but then stops, runs back and kisses Nick. He kisses her back, and she tells him she loves him.

Next we see, all of the rebel handmaids are dressed in red and in a van with Aunt Lydia. At a railroad crossing in the middle of nowhere, the sign comes down and the guardian driving the car says it'll be a while, and he's got to step away to pee. Suddenly, there are looks flying all over the van among the women; a lot of them have to do with the cattle prod lying casually in Aunt Lydia's lap. And without a word, the women fly into action. June grabs the prod and holds it down across Lydia's neck, then wields it like a bat, beating the older woman with it. Then the handmaids run.

It's tough going, because their hands are bound with leather restraints. And the commotion brings back the guardian, who starts firing into the escaping crowd. He hits two of the women, and they go down. June and Janine make it across the tracks before the train passes. But Alma and Brianna aren't so lucky — they're plowed down by the train's engine as it speeds past.

In a flashback to when the women were sleeping in the gymnasium right after they were pressed into being handmaids, we see them all mouthing words to each other in the dark. June voiceovers about their learning to lip read. Moira is there, too. And, like in Margaret Atwood's book, June goes through a mini roll-call. "Sarah. Ellie. Brianna. Alma. Janine. Moira. June."

Milk

Season 4

Episode Number: 40

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Tuesday May 04, 2021
Writer: Jacey Heldrich
Director: Christina Choe
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Joseph Fiennes (Commander Fred Waterford), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Alexis Bledel (Dr. Emily Malek), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moira Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence)
Guest Stars: Nona Parker Johnson (Darla), Omar Maskati (Steven), Sophia Walker (Abby), Allison Edwards-Crewe (Theresa), Paloma Nuñez (Dr. Thomas)
Summary: June takes a harrowing journey with Janine, trying to escape Gilead, as Janine remembers a stressful experience in her past. In Toronto, Serena tries to manipulate Rita, who seeks advice from Moira.



Immediately after the train kills Alma and Brianna, Janine is in denial, wondering if any of the handmaids got out alive. June quickly makes it clear that they're the only survivors, and they've got to keep moving west, following the railroad tracks. "And we're gonna be OK," June assures her.

At a depot, they see Gilead soldiers packing a supply train for the front. "Chicago is still Chicago," June reminds June. "They're not giving up." Though Janine is deeply hesitant, she and June climb up onto a tanker car and hop in through the open hatch... straight into a

giant quantity of milk. They hide under the surface as a soldier locks down the hatch, and then the milk starts shakin' as the train begins moving. June realizes she's got to find a drain soon, so she does; eventually, almost all of the white stuff has bled out of the tank's underside, leaving June and Janine sopped and shivering but no longer in danger of drowning.

Throughout, June has a vague plan that they're going to get to the front and find Mayday, who will help them. And if that sounds fuzzy to you, you're not alone: Janine presses June until she admits that she has no idea how to actually make any of that happen. Janine gets angrier, and she's cold and tired, so she goes for the big blow: At the farm, she makes sure June knows, Alma was the one who told everyone they were going to wait for June — and it wound up getting them caught. "They all loved you. Like, a real, real love," Janine says of the dead handmaids. "Did you tell the Eyes where to find us?" And then June has to admit that she did, but it was because her torturers had Hannah, and "you would've done the same thing."

Janine isn't buying this. "Maybe I would've done something better, something smarter," she retorts. June shoots back that Janine would've done something stupid and dangerous. Then Janine points out, in perhaps the most perfect line reading of the episode, that what they're currently doing is stupid and dangerous: "We're going to the front of a war in a refrigerator!"

The argument — which is a gorgeous piece of work by both Moss and Brewer — ends with Janine proclaiming that June is responsible for the deaths of the other runaway handmaids. "I should have left you a long time ago," June spits back.

In a flashback to Janine's pre-Gilead life, we watch as she attempts to get an abortion but is shut down by a clinic volunteer who tries — in graphic detail, with false information and with a mounting sense of urgency — to talk her out of the procedure. "All women regret doing this, Janine," the volunteer lies, then bucks her up by saying she's smart and would be a great mom. "You have no idea how much you would love this baby," she says, adding, oh, by the way, they don't even perform abortions at this particular facility. Upset and confused, Janine leaves, still pregnant.

I think we're supposed to believe that Janine was trying to end the pregnancy that eventually became her son, Caleb, whom we've heard about before. But in a scene in her apartment that evening, we see that Caleb has been born and is a toddler at this point — and Janine is a really good mom to him. She's holding things down, working at Denny's, and clearly so in love with her little boy as she sings him Bob Marley's "Three Little Birds" before bed. This new pregnancy, as she told the volunteer, resulted from sex with someone she's not attached to, and would be a bad idea for everyone involved.

In the next scene, she finds an actual doctor who is an actual good person willing to tell her the truth about the procedure she's contemplating. When Janine still wants to go through with it, the doc hands her some pills for a chemical abortion, explains what will happen, and that's that.

Back in the present, June and Janine's ride ends when the train comes under attack. Though Janine is scared, June points out that it's a good thing: "If they're attacking a Gilead train, it's not Gilead." When they get out, they see a small, armed group of people ransacking the train and taking its supplies. There are dead Gilead soldiers everywhere.

A woman with a machine gun eyes the handmaids warily and calls for the group's leader, who is named Steven and who doesn't want to take Janine and June — in their scarlet robes and white caps — back to the hideout. "They're walking targets," he says, wondering if he can even believe that they're actually refugees and not some kind of Gilead spies. Meanwhile, Janine is like, um, maybe these people aren't Mayday? "They're on our side, and you're coming," June says definitively.

As it turns out, Janine is right. The group that attacked the train is composed of people fighting Gilead in the Windy City, but they have never heard of Mayday and aren't very interested in learning more. And if the handmaids want to stay with the collective, one of them has to have sex with Steven. "It's what you've got," he explains matter-of-factly. "Nothing is free here." June volunteers in order to spare Janine, but when she kneels in front of him and he unzips his pants, she's shaking and crying. "Guess you're used to this," he says — by the way, I hate him with the force of a thousand burning suns — but adds that he's not going to force her... but they can't stay otherwise.

June doesn't go through with it and announces to Janine that they're leaving, but Janine has other thoughts about that. She does what Steven asks and doesn't seem very bothered — and certainly not broken — by it. "We can stay. It wasn't so bad," she tells a surprised June, handing her a piece of bread. "He thinks my eye patch is cool."

When Moira lets Rita know that Serena has requested a visit, the former martha doesn't know what to think. In her deposition, "I told them everything. I'm sure she's furious," she says. But, because old habits traumas die hard, she goes and even calls Serena "Ma'am." Rita seems genuinely happy as Serena reveals her pregnant belly and shows off her ultrasound, attributing the procreative success to "Gilead's clean air, clean water and God's grace." She announces that the baby is a boy, and that she hasn't told Fred about the pregnancy "and I don't intend to."

Throughout, Serena assumes that Rita will help her care for the boy after he arrives, and she pours it on thick, saying that Rita was "always such a blessing" and giving her the ultrasound printout "so you can look at him whenever you want." She even refers to Rita as "a friend," and the two pray together.

The reason behind all of Serena's sweetness becomes evident when Mark Tuello drops off some interview prep materials from Mrs. Waterford's defense attorney: She wants Rita to testify that whatever Serena did to June during June's pregnancy was under extreme duress. "She wants me to blame the commander," Rita flatly surmises, remembering how she was the Waterfords'

property under Gilead's regime, "registered and everything, like my old Nissan Ultima."

When Rita later meets with Fred, she's got no time and even fewer effs to give. When he mentions that it's nice to see a friendly face, she replies, "We're not friends." And then she makes it clear that she's not going to be batted around by the Waterfords like a ball of yarn between two very nasty cats. "You deal with your family. It's not my job anymore, and I thank God for that every day," she says. And when he counters that he was "never cruel to you," she's done. "I'll pray for your son," she says in parting, leaving him with the ultrasound printout and a "HUH?" look all over his stupid face.

At the end of the hour, we see Rita sitting in the sun at her apartment, eating the most un-Gilead meal you could ever have: sushi and a diet soda.

Chicago

Season 4

Episode Number: 41

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Tuesday May 11, 2021
Writer: John Herrera, Nina Fiore
Director: Christina Choe
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Joseph Fiennes (Commander Fred Waterford), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Alexis Bledel (Dr. Emily Malek), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirra Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence)
Guest Stars: Stephen Kunken (Warren Putnam), Omar Maskati (Steven), Jeananne Goossen (Aunt Ruth), Deidrie Henry (Martha), Jonathan Watton (Mathew Calhoun), Massey Ahmar (Brad), Allison Edwards-Crewe (Theresa), Kathy Imrie (Aunt Cordelia), Fode Bangoura (Trader), Débora Demestre (Reese)
Summary: June seeks out more active rebels in the Chicago war zone, while Janine tries to help her fit in with their new group of survivors. Moira goes on her first field aid mission.



Life with the Windy City rebels isn't quite what June expected: Janine has become a giggly and willing bed buddy for camp leader Steven, while June isn't allowed to go along on a trade mission until Janine steps in and speaks on her behalf. While Steven's gang is on its outing, they run into evidence of another rebel group: the Nighthawks. "They don't care if they live or die, they just want to kill soldiers," he tells June. "You'd love them."

From the empty storefronts and demolished buildings around them — as well as from the elevated train tracks — it looks like we're in or near Chicago. When

a Gilead helicopter circles, Steven's group ducks into an abandoned storefront to hide. A soldier on foot passes very close to where June is crouched beneath a counter; she hisses at Steven to take the clean shot before the soldiers get away, and he sharply orders her to be quiet. After the threat passes, he explains that killing a small number of soldiers would only lead to more patrols: In short, it wasn't worth it. "What kind of resistance are you?" she asks, disgusted. "The kind that survives," he replies.

They eventually make it to the trade market, where — at Janine's request — June rolls her eyes but allows her fellow handmaid to trade their cloaks for a Cubs baseball cap Janine wants to gift Steven. Eventually, June makes her pitch: She wants to go join the Nighthawks, and she wants Janine to come with her. "We came here to fight," she reasons. "You came here to fight," Janine shoots back, adding that it was her choice to have sex with Steven, and "You need to stop trying to save me to make yourself feel better." When June says she doesn't want Janine to get hurt, Janine proves you don't need perfect eyesight to take aim and land a kill shot: "Maybe you should've thought about that with Alma and Brianna."

June announces she's leaving the next day. "Come with me, or stay here and be Ofstevan. It's your choice," she says.

How are things back in Gilead, you ask? Well, Aunt Lydia is doing considerably better than the last time we saw her; she's healed from her torture and excited about getting right back into being a tool of a misogynist regime! But an aunt named Ruth lets her know that Gilead is putting her out to pasture: "The girls are not your concern anymore," she says. "Now it is your time to rest." You might have guessed this, but Aunt Lydia. Is. Not. Having. That.

Over at Not Compensating In Any Way For Our Genitalia Central, or as you might call it, the Commanders' Council, Lawrence tries to get the men to agree to a temporary cease fire on the borders of Chicago, California and Texas. Allowing international aid groups to come in for a few hours will ease relationships with other countries, he argues, paving the way for Gilead getting the funds it very much needs to win the war. Nick kind of supports him, but the other men don't, and no one — not even Nick — votes for the motion.

Afterward, Lawrence tells Nick that a cease fire could help June, which gets the young commander thinking. And back at Lawrence's house, he is visited by Lydia, who blackmails him that she has sources who can prove his involvement in Commander Winslow's murder. In fact, she has "testaments" to his many abuses of power and to his collaboration for June. And she'll go to the proper authorities with it, she threatens... "unless you arrange for my immediate reinstatement."

He agrees, especially after he ascertains that she's got dirt on a bunch of the other commanders, too — her intel will help him regain his seat at the table. "Let's fix this country. Let's make things right again, together," he tells her. And she agrees, provided that a recovered June will be put in her care "to be disciplined, handled my way."

And just like that, Aunt Lydia is reinstated and back to her old business of yelling at new handmaids as they walk in the Red Center's courtyard. Meanwhile, after Nick gets word that two handmaids were in the vicinity of Chicago, he lets Lawrence know that he'll give him "whatever you need."

And just like that, the council — which once more includes Lawrence — decides to back the cease fire. Oh, and they want Nick to coordinate a bombing that will take place juuuuuuust moments before the cease fire goes into effect. At Nick's consternation, another commander notes, "You can't hunt the roaches while they're in the walls, son." Yep, Lawrence was in on this from the beginning, and yep, Nick's face lets us know that he realizes how truly screwed he is.

Back to June. Janine isn't going to come with her, which makes their goodbye super sad. Janine, in her flibbertigibbet way, says she thinks she may want to have a child with Steven. "Well, that baby is going to be very lucky to have you," June says, barely able to keep herself from crying. "And those rebels are so lucky to have you," Janine replies, sunny as ever. They hug, and Janine gives her friend the Cubs hat she planned to give Steven. "Something to remember me by," she says, smiling.

But June hasn't gotten very far before Janine finds her and says that she's changed her mind. "I feel safer when we're together," she explains simply. "Handmaids always walk in twos, remember?"

As the women continue on their way, they pass a checkpoint that's a ghost town. "Where are all the soldiers?" Janine wonders as June realizes, based on the huge pile of food that's just left out in the open, that Gilead's military presence left in a hurry. "Janine, something's not right," June says... just as bombers fly overhead, sacking the city. The women run, bombs falling around them, then everything goes black.

June wakes up, covered in debris and shaken but not seriously injured. She hears screaming, sees people helping others. She calls for Janine but can't find her, dazed and stumbling through the fire and smoke that seems to surround her. All of a sudden, an aide worker steps through the smoke — and it's Moira! June looks at her friend, not seeming to know who she is or what she's doing there.

Vows

Season 4

Episode Number: 42

Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Tuesday May 18, 2021
Writer: Dorothy Fortenberry
Director: Richard Shepard
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Joseph Fiennes (Commander Fred Waterford), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Alexis Bledel (Dr. Emily Malek), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moira Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence)
Guest Stars: Zawe Ashton (Oona), Nadeem Phillip (Pierre), Michael Ayres (Chris), Eileen Li (Elena), Sean Rey (Man), Alia Jackman (Woman), Malube Uhindu-Gingala (Mother), Kat Khan (Hysterical Woman), Kenny Wong (Lead Soldier), Jailin Daley (Teen Soldier)
Summary: After a shocking reunion with a dear friend, June contemplates the possibility of freedom, and confronts the unfulfilled promises she's made to herself and to Luke.



The episode opens to a flashback of Moira and June in the BeforeTimes, drinking mimosas in their apartment on a snowy day. But soon we're plunged into the present-day aftermath of the bombing, where Moira can't quite believe she just happened to stumble into her old friend, stumbling around the street and dazed. June ACTUALLY can't believe that Moira is there, even after Moira flat-out identifies herself. "Moira got out," June says, pushing past her and calling for Janine. But Moira manages to talk June into getting checked out by the medical team of the aid group — run by Moira's girlfriend,

Oona — with whom Moira is traveling.

As June sits in the truck, the shock recedes a little, and for the first time June seems to notice who's sitting next to her. "You shouldn't be here," she says, happy and crying and confused all at once. "I f—kin' found you!" Moira shouts, happy and crying, as well. (Guys, my heart!) And Moira assumes that bringing June to Canada will be as easy as walking her onto Oona's group's boat... but it's definitely not.

The main problem is that Oona's non-governmental organization has an agreement with Gilead that they won't harbor refugees; it's the reason the group is allowed in in the first place. "Gilead finds out we took here, no more missions, no more food, no more medicine for all of these people," Oona says, gesturing to the crowd that has gathered near the aid site. And Oona won't budge, as much as it pains her to hurt Moira.

And then things start to happen very quickly. The NGO has to leave. The crowd is pushing at the wire fence, trying to get on the boat. Moira decides to completely disregard what Oona said, so she drops any gentleness and hits June with the hard facts: Janine is probably dead, and

they've got to run for the boat if they're going to get out of there. "June, boat, now!" she yells, but June fights her, saying that she won't leave without Hannah. Moira points out that June's older daughter is safer without her ("They're going to hunt you down and kill you, and they'll kill you in front of her. You want to help her? You leave her the hell behind, and you come with me.") and promises that they will fight from Canada. "Everyone who loves you is there," Moira pleads. "Nichole is there." That seems to break through, because June says she will leave Gilead for her younger daughter. Then they run, hand-in-hand, and make it to the ship before it pulls away from the dock. Moira stashes June in her cabin, where June — who's had a DAY — shakes.

Throughout the episode, we flash back to the time right before June and Luke got married. "Do you really think this is a good idea?" Moira asks, the question taking June aback. "Because he cheats on his wives and he leaves them when they can't reproduce," Moira adds — which is true but HARSH — and June points out that her marriage with Luke will be different from his with Annie.

Moira's words make June understandably angry, but they also sink in: Later, in a conversation with Luke, the bride-to-be brings up Moira's points, albeit in a much gentler way. He says they'll be OK, but she reminds him that he really wants children, and she has no idea if she can have them. "What if I'm not who you think I am?" she asks. "Then I'll just love whoever you turn out to be," he responds reassuringly. And later on, we see his overjoyed reaction when she tells him that she's pregnant with Hannah — such a sweet moment in such a heavy episode.

In the present, Oona makes a reference to how they'll just have to pass the port inspection before leaving Gilead's waters, and Moira blanches. She didn't realize that Gilead officials would board the ship and inspect the staff and cargo, and she's realizing how really bad all of this might get in the next hour or so. So she confesses that she smuggled June aboard; when that information is shared with the crew, a couple of them want to turn her in to avoid trouble.

June is thinking along the same lines, and Oona is OK with it. But Moira is like NOPE. She begs her girlfriend to break the rules, and eventually, Oona quietly tells one of her staffers to print June an ID and give her a vest to make her look like a volunteer. Between that meager costume and June's overall disoriented state, Moira is able to talk the guard into thinking that June is just shell-shocked from being too close to a blast. (I mean, she kinda IS.) And when the Gilead officials finally leave, it looks like everything is going to be OK!

Until June tries to get in a lifeboat and go back to Gilead! "You tricked me into leaving my daughter," June spits, upset, angry and tired. Ultimately, she starts crying and tells Moira about the last time she saw Hannah. "She didn't recognize me, she didn't know who I was. She was scared of me," June says, getting hysterical. "I was supposed to save her, because I'm her mommy... It is my job to protect her, and I failed." And then, just in case your heart isn't already in shards on the ground: "How can I face him? How can I tell him that everything that happened to her is because of me?"

I have never loved Moira more than I do when she firmly counters that that type of thinking is Gilead talking. June pushes back that she knows Luke, and she knows what he can withstand. "How about you find out," Moira says lovingly, and hugs her.

Finally, Oona's boat reaches Canada. June takes a moment alone before disembarking, but that's too long for Luke, who rushes in to see her standing there. "I'm sorry I don't have her," she says as she starts crying. "I'm sorry it's just me." She repeats that, more and more brokenly, as he pulls her to him and holds her.

Eventually, they step out onto the deck, and Luke leads June off the vessel. She pauses at the end of the gangway, takes a deep breath, then steps off onto friendly soil.

Home

Season 4

Episode Number: 43

Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Tuesday May 25, 2021
Writer: Yahlin Chang
Director: Richard Shepard
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Joseph Fiennes (Commander Fred Waterford), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Alexis Bledel (Dr. Emily Malek), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirira Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence)
Guest Stars: Zawe Ashton (Oona), Krista Morin (Rachel Tapping), Charlie Zeltzer (Oliver), Zaarin Bushra (Muslim Girl 1), Alicia Di Monte (Muslim Girl 2)
Summary: June struggles with her newfound freedom, reuniting with loved ones and confronting her nemesis, Serena.



As June steps off Oona's boat, Mark Tuello is there as a representative of America to welcome her to Canada. After she officially declares that she's seeking refuge in the Great White North, June eventually winds up in a hotel with Luke. She's quiet and — as we see when she showers — so bruised. Luke orders a bunch of plates from room service but she doesn't taste any of them before she curls up in a bathrobe and sleeps for 17 hours.

When she wakes, Luke is napping on the sofa nearby. She invites him to sit near her on the bed; the formality be-

tween them and the way they gingerly approach each other is heartbreaking. He immediately launches into an apology. "June, I tried to get you out. I did. And I tried to find Hannah. I tried every day and I failed, and I'm sorry," he says, adding that he understands if she can't forgive him "because I can't forgive me." She starts to tell him about when she visited Hannah at the lake house, and when she says, "She was our Hannah," it is Luke's undoing. He kisses her, crying and reassuring her that she's a good mother. She protests that she is not, flashing back to the last time she saw their daughter at the torture center. Important to note: June does not tell Luke about that interaction.

Later, when Tuello is debriefing June, Luke interrupts and says he's going to take June home to see "our daughter." Moira and Emily are at the house with Nicole and are so happy to see their friend free. Emily hands the baby to June, and Nichole cries. Then June cries and Emily cries, and this is a very soggy episode, indeed. Later, when they're alone, June tells Nichole that "your daddy and I love you so much, your first daddy."

At first, June seems to be doing OK. She asks to accompany Moira and Luke on a food run. She invites Rita and Emily over for dinner. But at the grocery store, seeing a few women in hijab triggers a panic attack (their head coverings remind her of the one she wore) and June winds up

gasping for air in the potato-chip aisle. After dinner that night, Emily tells the ladies that she still hasn't moved back into the bedroom with Sylvia, and Moira concedes that "we all left that place totally f—ked up about sex." June wonders if any of them ever wonder if they deserve to be free of Gilead, but Moira quickly says they did what they had to do to survive, and "We're here, ladies."

When June asks about Serena, the group gets quiet quickly. Eventually, Rita drops the bomb that she's seen Mrs. Waterford and that she is pregnant. "Is it his? Is it the commmander's?" June asks, and Rita replies in the affirmative. "Well, f—k her. I don't care," June says airily. But you know she really, really does.

And that's why she calls Tuello late that night and has him bring her to her former mistress. The minute June walks into her room, Serena is back on her blessed-BS. "I prayed for this chance, and I humbly thank the Lord for your visit," she says. "You would," June snarks. "You never did give me credit for anything." Then Tuello leaves them alone, and Serena mentions how she wants to make amends, and something inside June is unleashed.

"I brought myself here so I could tell you how much I hate you," she says. "You don't deserve to make amends to anyone. The only thing that you deserve is a life full of suffering and shame. You have destroyed my life, my family, my friends, my country and my child. There is no one less worthy of redemption than you."

This last bit makes Serena cry; she gets down on her knees. But June is not done. "Do you know why God made you pregnant? So that when he kills that baby inside your womb, you will feel a fraction of the pain that you caused us when you tore our children from our arms," she snarls. "Do you understand me?" That last part is yelled, and Serena is sobbing, and wow that was satisfying in a way that is slightly disturbing.

At home, June climbs into bed and aggressively kisses Luke, straddling him in the process. He tries to touch her but she shoves his hand down, and when he asks her to wait a second, she puts her hand over his mouth and rides him until she has an orgasm... which means you can also file this scene under "satisfying (for June) but disturbing."

The next day, Luke and June play with Nichole outside in the snow. At one point, Luke watches his wife like he doesn't know who she is.

Let's backtrack for a second. Early in the episode, Tuello tells Serena that getting Fred to cooperate more could help both her plight and Tuello's investigation. But when the mom-to-be visits Fred, she rebuffs his desire to play daddy to the child growing in her belly. And he notes that June can put them both away for the maximum sentence possible, so maybe it's time to table their fight "and team up to help each other."

Though she certainly doesn't seem open to the idea then, after June's visit, Serena visits Fred's cell and tells him she needs him. He kneels down to put his face near her belly... and isn't it interesting that the audio from June's conversation with Tuello about Serena plays over the scene? She says Mrs. Waterford is driven by hatred and rage, "and underneath that, there's nothing but pure misery... and she'll do anything not to feel that way, anything to feel OK."

In short, June says: "If you feel yourself getting sucked in by her, run. Run for your life."

Testimony

Season 4
Episode Number: 44
Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Wednesday June 02, 2021
Writer: Kira Snyder
Director: Elisabeth Moss
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Joseph Fiennes (Commander Fred Waterford), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Alexis Bledel (Dr. Emily Malek), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirra Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence)
Guest Stars: Jeananne Goossen (Aunt Ruth), Krista Morin (Rachel Tapping), Alexandra Castillo (Dawn Mathis), Natasha Mumba (Danielle), Victoria Sawal (Tyler), Amanda Zhou (Vicky), Jasmin Husain (Ex-Handmaid), Jordin Hall (RCMP Officer), Edie Inksetter (Aunt Elizabeth), Tara Redmond van Rees (Kylie), Wayne Davis (Raymond Lomas), Al McFoster (Bailiff), Jane Luk (Presiding Judge)
Summary: June confronts Fred and Serena in court and challenges Emily to face a painful reminder of her Gilead past. Lawrence presents Aunt Lydia with a newly captured, familiar Handmaid.



At the start of the episode, June chops off her long, handmaid-y hair herself in the bathroom. She's angry about everything she's gone through, and she wonders aloud to Moira why more of the women in the support group aren't filled with a similar rage. "How do you know they're not?" Moira replies.

The meeting, held at a local library, is interrupted by a woman who wants to talk to Emily. Seeing Emily's shaken reaction to the woman's appearance, June and Moira yell at the stranger to leave. On her way out, the woman drops her contact information on the ground; June

picks it up. At dinner that night, we learn that the woman was known as Aunt Irene in Gilead, and she was assigned to the district where Emily was posted before she met June. June urges her friend to face Irene, who's going by the name Iris now. "You have to get everything out you've been holding in. I promise you, you will feel better," she says. Emily's not sure. "We're not all like you," she says, and it's delivered softly but feels like an indictment.

Remember how June told Luke about seeing Hannah at the lake house? He mentions it to Mark Tuello, and June is livid when she finds out — she didn't want to tell Tuello that yet. Luke is struggling mightily to understand his wife and what she's been through, but as he tearfully tells Moira (unaware that June can overhear), "She is like a stranger half the time. We talk about Hannah, and then in bed... " Moira both bucks him up and tells him to be patient, because getting over the trauma of Gilead is "a bumpy f—king road."

The next day, Luke shows up at court — even though June expressly did not want him to attend. The Waterfords show up as a seemingly unified front, with Serena decked out in

maternity teal. June is sworn in and testifies. She runs through the events of the series and I know we all know there's a lot of rape in this show but WOW listening to this litany is harrowing. June is very matter-of-fact in her delivery until she starts talking about Mrs. Lawrence and "my friends, who lost their lives and can never be heard." She asks the court to put Fred on trial and slap him with the maximum possible sentence for his crimes.

"I ask," she concludes, "for justice."

Fred's attorney is allowed to question June, and the lawyer opens by talking about how June started seeing Luke when he was still married to another woman. It gets uglier, and then Fred just can't stop himself from standing up and directly addressing his former handmaid. The situation devolves, and eventually June has had it. "I am done," she announces, turning to leave. "Anything more can wait for your trial."

At home that night, Luke apologizes for coming to court, "but at least now, I know everything, and maybe we can just move on," he says hopefully. She shuts down his attempts to get her to open up to him, and they're both teary as the weight of everything settles upon them. Eventually, they start kissing up, but when she goes for his belt, he stops her. "Talk to me!" he cries, but she won't, and she leaves. Luke covers his face and weeps.

At the next support group meeting, June finds Aunt Irene hanging around outside and brings her in. A quick show of hands reveals that a bunch of the former handmaids want her to stay, and Emily says fine, so June pushes a chair into the center of the circle and the older woman sits.

That's when we find out that Irene was the person who outed Emily's martha lover and informed the eyes, aka "You're the reason they hung that poor woman, and you're the reason that they mutilated Emily," June says flatly. Irene wants Emily to forgive her and winds up on her knees, begging, but June points out that Irene passed herself off as another refugee to find sanctuary in Canada. "Why do you think you deserve forgiveness?" she asks. Emily ultimately tells Irene that there's nothing she can do to fix what's happened, and the former aunt sobs.

Later, though, Moira talks to Emily and says that maybe Em can get Irene to testify. So she arranges to see the aunt... and finds her hanging from a tree at the spot where they were supposed to meet. Emily slows her car, then just keeps driving. The support group later discusses Irene's death, which leads Emily to tell them, "I feel amazing. I'm glad she's dead. And I hope I had something to do with it."

This loosens something in the group, and soon the other members are volunteering their fantasies about the violence they'd do to their former commanders and their wives. Moira, a little disconcerted, gently points out that they can't live in anger. "Why not?" June pipes up. "Why does healing have to be the only goal?" Then Moira tries to bring the session to a close, but June says she wants to stay — and the rest of the women do, too.

At home, June finds Luke and hugs him tight, ready to reveal more: "I have to tell you about the last time I saw Hannah."

After Aunt Lydia gets mad and uses her cattle prod on a few too many people (including a fellow aunt), she winds up in front of Commander Lawrence. "It must be killing you that June won," he dryly remarks before telling her that he needs her back in form, because they have a situation: a "fugitive handmaid captured in Chicago," and it's Janine. She lives! Lawrence points out that Lydia has a taste for causing pain, and he wants to give her an outlet for it. "So," he says, indicating Janine's photo, "do with her what you will."

Poor Janine is being held at the same torture dungeon where they took Jane. Lydia tells her that June is in Canada, and Janine only weakly asks that she not be made a handmaid again. Lydia hugs her and cries.

Progress

Season 4
Episode Number: 45
Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Wednesday June 09, 2021
Writer: Eric Tuchman, Aly Monroe
Director: Elisabeth Moss
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Joseph Fiennes (Commander Fred Waterford), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Alexis Bledel (Dr. Emily Malek), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirra Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence)
Guest Stars: Mckenna Grace (Esther Keyes), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam), Stephen Kunken (Warren Putnam), Jeananne Goossen (Aunt Ruth), Edie Inksetter (Aunt Elizabeth)
Summary: June and Luke work together to save Hannah. Serena and Fred greet unexpected visitors from Gilead. Janine tries to assist Aunt Lydia when a Handmaid-in-training goes on hunger strike.



We pick up with June and Luke taking long, fraught looks at each other after she's just finished telling him about the last time she saw Hannah. She apologizes again for not being able to extricate their daughter from Gilead, but he quickly says it's not her fault. But when she mentions that Hannah is "home" now, he objects: "Home is here. Home is with us." He says they have to find her, but June isn't hopeful... until she sees the not-insignificant amount of information he's gathered on Hannah so far. "There's not a day that went by that I shouldn't have done more," he laments.

With Tuello's help, they place a call to Commander Lawrence. "You must want something," he correctly surmises. He points out that the home in which Hannah is growing up is the only one she remembers, and they should leave her there. "Your love f—ks people up," he observes. "You're a fountain of heartache and trouble." He also tells her that Janine is alive and back at the Red Center with Aunt Lydia, which brings June to tears.

Eventually, Lawrence offers to help get Hannah back if June will negotiate... say, return 10 of the children she put on that flight? "You know we're never giving those children back," she says, realizing that he's not going to help her. But still, she presses on, telling Lawrence, "We love her. We are her family. Joseph, I know you are a good man." That affects him, we see, but he doesn't waiver: He tells her to be grateful for being free and to move on. "If you can," he adds after they hang up.

So Luke suggests a different angle: Nick. "I think he would do anything for me and Nichole, yeah," June says, clearly surprised that her husband is behind the idea of contacting her baby daddy. And then she's really taken aback when Nick says that it's safer for her to bring Nichole and meet up with Nick in person, rather than make another call to Gilead. To be clear, Luke does

NOT love the idea of this rendezvous, but he knows it's their best hope of finding Hannah. So she agrees, adding that they have to try everything "for Hannah."

With Secret Service agents in the car behind her, June drives to an empty school in the middle of nowhere to see Nick. "Freedom agrees with you," he says as June beams, then kneels down to see their daughter in her stroller. "She's a whole different person," he remarks. They go inside to talk, but before June can even make her request for information about Hannah, Nick is producing a folder of everything he's been able to find.

Hannah is living in Colorado Springs, and there are current photos of her going about her daily life. "Getting her out is impossible," Nick warns. "There are Guardians everywhere." But at least they know where she is, "and I'm here," he promises, "to do what I can." June marvels at how much he's risked to help her. "I should have run away with you when I had the chance," he says, and they kiss but then mostly just rest their foreheads against each other and cry softly. Then Nick gives Nichole a doll and they both make silly noises at the baby for the few minutes they've got left.

"Try and be happy," he tells her, holding her close outside moments before they have to part. "You, too," she says. And after she's back in her car, he takes a wedding band out of his pocket and slips it back on his finger. As she drives home, June grins and cries and is a big ball of (understandably stirred-up) emotion.

We mentioned Janine before, so let's check in there. She's shocked when she sees Esther Keyes as a handmaid in the Red Center, being punished for refusing to eat. Janine meekly steps in to prevent Aunt Lydia from torturing the girl, suggesting that she can maybe get her to comply. Esther is very interested in what June is up to, but Janine hardens her voice as she tells the girl (and herself, probably), "Forget June. She's not here. We're here. And you have to take care of yourself now." She points out that Gilead will not kill Esther but will make her wish she were dead. "You need to stay alive so you can be here when things get better," Janine adds. And eventually, her message gets through. Esther eats, Aunt Lydia is pleased and no one had to lose an eye this time.

At the detention center in Toronto, Fred and Serena open baby gifts — including an infant-sized Commander's suit, ick — from their fervent fans. When he tells her to read a card they've received, she gives him a pointed look. "Am I allowed now? Now that nobody's watching?" He says he's made mistakes but he wants to start over, it's all God's plan, yadda yadda. In fact, he thinks she should write another book, because "The world should hear your voice again."

The Waterfords are surprised when Warren and Naomi Putnam arrive for a visit. Naomi gives a little side-eye to the pad where Serena has been making notes, but says nothing about it. That's probably because she's really there to push her agenda: She wants Serena's baby son to come live with her in Gilead if/when Serena is not able to care for him herself. Meanwhile, Warren commends Fred for being a good little Christian soldier during his time in Canada. But when Fred asks what Gilead is doing to get him out, Warren's all, "What now?" Turns out, there's zero political will to stage a "Free the Waterfords" campaign, lest doing so encourage more kidnappings. In fact, all Commander Putnam can offer is a box of cigars and the assurance that "we will continue to send you our thoughts and prayers," which is said with the straightest of faces and therefore is the funniest line in the episode.

Later, in the chapel, Serena worries that their child will become a ward of the state and that she will be sent to the Colonies or forced to be a handmaid. Fred promises her that won't happen and that eh will do "everything in my power" to protect their child. "What power?" she asks. "What could you possibly do from in here?" Fred tells her to have faith — and we'll find out why in a moment.

When June comes home with Nichole, Luke and Moira cry and laugh as they look over everything Nick has gathered. Tuello is there, too, and he reluctantly says that they have a new asset in Toronto: Fred Waterford. "He has agreed to share his wealth of knowledge, inside information about Gilead" and all that good stuff in exchange for his freedom: The prosecution as dropped its charges. Moira and Luke can't believe that the United States made a deal with Fred, but June quietly lays it out: Her testimony spooked him, and Tuello used that fear to flip Fred. "Sometimes, you have to let one fish go to catch a lot of other, bigger fish," he says sheepishly.

Tuello leaves, and something in June's face makes Luke start calling for her and running after her as she follows. He's nearly at his car when she explodes. "That man is a f—king rapist!" she screams over and over, lunging at Tuello. "I will kill you!" she promises, furious — and if it

weren't for the intervention of Luke and the Secret Service agents, I think she might.

The Wilderness

Season 4

Episode Number: 46

Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Wednesday June 16, 2021
Writer: Bruce Miller
Director: Liz Garbus
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Joseph Fiennes (Commander Fred Waterford), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Alexis Bledel (Dr. Emily Malek), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirra Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence)
Guest Stars: Charlie Zeltzer (Oliver), Timothy Ng (Video Tech), Sophia Walker (Abby), Li Chen (Aide), Percy Harris (Official), Barrett Morrison (Gilead Soldier), Natasha Mumba (Danielle), Victoria Sawal (Tyler), Amanda Zhou (Vicky), Jasmin Husain (Ex-Handmaid), Roland Greber (Security Officer)
Summary: June draws on all her resources and relationships, risking everything to ensure her own kind of justice.



The episode opens with a shot of Fred and June dancing at Jezebel's. She voiceovers that a handmaid has to make her commander feel like he's her "whole world: your sun, your moon and all your stars." After all, she points out, her very existence depends on it.

Then we're back in present-day Toronto, where June is meeting up with Tuello but — given how the previous episode ended — wishing he weren't there. She's going to give her statement to the court, commenting (negatively) on

Fred's potential release. But, per the court's dictates, she's not even doing it live; her remarks will be recorded and then shown at his International Criminal Court hearing. Tuello reminds her that Waterford probably will be granted immunity for his cooperation. "So I should just get comfortable with the fact that he's going to get out, no matter what he did, no matter what I say," she translates, flatly. Then she asks whether Fred has been spilling Gilead's secrets like the intelligence piñata they hoped he'd be. Tuello confirms that he has. "Weak men, hm? They do make the world go around," she muses. Then, while waiting for the court's camera operator to get ready, she stares up at the ceiling and remembers doing the same thing at the Waterford house while Fred and Serena raped her.

Later, at the house, Luke tries to bolster his wife. "You're here. Nichole is here. That's a miracle," he points out in a way that is positive and sunny and maybe a little too unintentionally dismissive of June's fury? Rita and Moira are there, too, and the latter is apoplectic to learn that they're sending Fred to Geneva for his immunity hearing; he'll be gone by the end of the week, to set up wherever he wants "with his Viking-ass wife," she grouches. Moira wants June to travel to Geneva to testify in person and try to change the court's mind, but June is resigned. "I got up and told them everything. They know what he was, what he did and how I felt," she says. "Maybe what he's giving them is more valuable than what he took from me."

When Emily and Oliver visit, the two former handmaids engage in a little gallows humor about justice in Gilead. But then June starts to cry. "Emily, I really want to let go of him," she says of Fred, upset at how she can't just focus on her family, because "a good mother would be able to let go." Emily has no response.

At the detention center, Serena takes Tuello to task for slights she feels Fred is suffering during his questioning. She also demands a house, security and an expedited court ruling, because "We will not have our son born in this place." Mark is taken aback by the idea that the Waterfords will live as husband and wife, and he asks for an explanation as to why. "I don't believe I have to," she says haughtily.

A while later, June shows up at the door to Fred's room. "What an unexpected pleasure," he says in that smarmy soft voice he uses when he thinks he's being charming, kicking off the next few minutes of my hating him at an even higher intensity than I normally do. Their conversation is exaggeratedly cordial. She says she came because it's her last chance to see him. "To wish me well? That doesn't sound like our June," he quips, adding that he bears her no ill-will "even after those things you said in court."

June dismisses the security guard as Fred goes on about how he understands how she had to "frame things in front of the judge and your husband." This is where I start surveying the room, trying to figure out which everyday item June is going to use as a weapon when she inevitably does him bodily harm. Is she going to stuff a Bible down his throat? Stab cigars through his eyes? There aren't a ton of options, but I've got faith in our girl's ability to improvise. Anyway, he goes on to talk about the "discomforts" they both experienced in Gilead — "more for you, of course" — and says he has "deep regrets" about them. And because Fred loves to hear himself talk, he goes on to add that only his impending fatherhood has allowed him to "fully appreciate" the situation in which she found herself all those years ago.

"You must have experienced such terrible longing for your daughter, and for that, I'm sorry," he says. "Truly."

June's eyes have been filling with tears as he talks, and they spill over but she recovers slightly as she (almost to herself) says, "I didn't think you'd ever say that." She laughs a little and asks for a drink; he fixes them a nightcap. Emboldened by what he thinks is her ease with him, he recalls that their connection was "vital, a relationship we both needed very badly to survive, in our own ways. I wouldn't call it 'love,' but it was something else. Something very strong." June's voice is light as she agrees with his highly delusional recollection of the worst period of her life; they then talk about how much they both miss Offred, and it seems very apparent to me that June is engaging in the practice she talked about at the start of the episode: making him think he's her entire solar system, but to what end?

Luke drives her home, trying to draw her out with banter-y talk of Boston and the Red Sox, and she seems to be going along with it until she abruptly says, "I'm gonna put Fred on the wall." Luke, taken aback, says she's got to let Waterford go. "On the f—king wall," she repeats.

So June finds Mark Tuello and engineers another in-person meeting, this time with Commander Lawrence in an abandoned diner in Gilead. After a bit of droll posturing, Lawrence eventually offers up 22 captured women who worked for the resistance in exchange for Fred Waterford. Tuello had thought most of the women were dead; he's clearly dazed by the prospect of setting them free. "These are the lives you're trying to save," June says. "You cannot say that Fred Waterford is worth more than these 22 women." Tuello says he'll take the offer to his boss.

"Well, you haven't lost your touch," Lawrence tells June when they have a moment alone, and I adore the look she shoots him in response. But he's serious when he tells her, "Whatever happens to him, if we get him, won't be enough for you." She regards him beatifically. "God bless you, Joseph," she says.

When she returns home, June, Rita, Moira and Luke discuss Fred and what fate may befall him in Gilead. Moira just wants him out of their lives, but June wants him to be afraid. "How afraid?" Emily wonders. "Like in the woods when I was caught and they took Hannah," she says. Em is definitely picking up what June is putting down, saying "More than that."

"I want him to be scared to death," June says with a little smile. In the background, Luke looks very troubled.

Fred prepares to leave, announcing to Serena that he'll return "a free man, a husband and a father." He's aiming for warmth but getting only businesslike efficiency from her in return. "We

could try to Zoom. I'd like to see you," he offers. "Sure, Fred," Serena says with exactly the level of enthusiasm with which you'd meet the prospect of abdominal surgery. "We can Zoom."

He struts outside... where Tuello and some men handcuff him and put him in the back of an armored truck. "You're not going to Geneva," Mark says. His boss took the deal! Fred is back in custody and no longer has a lawyer; oh, and the court turned down his leniency plea. "I'm a man, and I have rights!" he yells as the door slams.

When the truck stops on a bridge and Fred is hauled out, he assumes he'll be killed at the border. But Tuello informs him that he's going back to Gilead to be tried under its justice system. "You helped write those laws, didn't you?" Mark asks, snarky. The freed women shuffle by Fred in a line as he screams at Tuello about "what you covet" and how God knows all. And then Lawrence is there, offering a sarcastic, "Fred, praise be. You're home safe. A nation's prayers have been answered."

No wait Nick is there, too. The Eyes take Waterford as Nick explains that they have tactical control at the border — and Lawrence puts up no fight as Fred is put in another van and spirited away. When that vehicle stops, Nick marches Fred into the woods. Waterford mouths off and Nick hits him right in his stupid beard hole, then tells him they're in "No Man's Land." And then June steps into view, and things get interesting.

June kisses Nick and he happily kisses her back while Fred looks on in disgust. She whispers "Thank you" to Nick, then watches as he gives her the keys to Fred's restraints and then walks away. She's holding a gun in one hand and a whistle in the other. "Choose," she instructs him. Fred says she won't shoot him. "All right," she says, smiling, and blows the whistle, which summons a group of former handmaids — including Emily — from the woods behind her. "I have a son. A son!" Fred grovels. "Run," June simply replies.

So he does, and the women chase him. Eventually he falls, and June is right on top of him. She starts punching him, then Emily and the others join. June bites Fred's lip and blood is everywhere. The women's flashlights are on the ground in a circle around the melee, bringing to mind the perfect formations in which the handmaids are often forced to stand or sit in Gilead.

By dawn, the women emerge from the forest, get in their cars and go home. June has blood on her face and looks wrung out; tears leak out of her eyes as she takes deep breaths in the cool air. She drives back to Toronto and cries as she stands in Nichole's nursery, holding her daughter close. Some of Fred's blood gets on the baby's cheek.

Luke sees her and immediately understands what has happened. "I know," June whispers. "I'm sorry." She asks for five minutes with the baby, "then I'll go." Luke slides down the wall in shock, crying, while June bounces Nichole and smiles at her. "Mommy loves you," she tells her. "Mommy loves you so much."

At the detention center, Serena waits for a Zoom call that isn't going to come. Someone in the hallway delivering her mail opens a suspicious package and finds a wedding ring and human finger inside.

Elsewhere, Fred's mangled corpse hangs from a random brick wall, "Nolite te bastardes carborundorum" written underneath it in a spray-painted scrawl.

Season Five

Morning

Season 5
Episode Number: 47
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Wednesday September 14, 2022
Writer: Bruce Miller
Director: Elisabeth Moss
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirira Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello)
Guest Stars: Clea DuVall (Sylvia), Carey Cox (Rose Blaine), Natasha Mumba (Danielle), Victoria Sawal (Tyler), Amanda Zhou (Vicky), Bernadette Couture (Unit Leader), Afton Rentz (Female Tac), Nadine Whiteman Roden (Marcia McPhadden), Jasmin Husain (Ex-Handmaid), Sharon Heldt (Waitress), Oshini Wanigasekera (Officer Margeaux), Sanjay Talwar (Desk Constable), Konima Parkinson-Jones (Prosecutor), Taylor Trowbridge (Acolyte #1), Lauren Brotman (Acolyte #2), Tom Henry (Acolyte #3), Karen Parker (Acolyte #4), Cyndy Day (Gilead Supporter)
Summary: June confronts the consequences of killing Fred. A scared Serena makes an unexpected decision.



June stares at running bathwater and reminisces on Fred's death, on the chase and the murder. She decides to let the blood stay on her, turning off the water and heading out. She runs into Luke, who begs her for answers on what happened and why she's covered in blood. Moira and Luke both bombard her with questions, but June ignores them as she grabs her stuff and storms out of the house. Finally, Luke stops June and June reveals that she killed Fred. Before they can fully register what she said,

June rushes into the car, and Luke and Moira frantically try to stop her as she drives away.

Back in Gilead, Nick returns home, and we meet his new wife. She asks about June, if what she needed to do was done, and Nick tells her that it was.

Serena is busy doing yoga in her cell when soldiers come in. They tell Serena that for her safety, they are moving her to a more secure facility. She doesn't want to go without talking to Mark, but they cuff her and take her with them. Serena meets Marcia McPhadden, a Senior Director at ICC. She tells Serena that Fred's body has been discovered. Serena gets in the elevator with the soldiers, completely in shock.

June goes to a diner to meet with some of the other women that helped kill Fred. They all stuff their faces with pancakes and start talking about Gilead. One of the women, Danielle, says she has something for June, and leads her to her trunk, where she reveals a bunch of guns. She wants Nick to get her mistress to the border, so that she can let her suffer the same fate as Fred. They tell June that they went to the woods for her, now it's their turn to slay their own demons. June reminds them of what will happen if Danielle crosses the border and gets caught, and one of the other women, Vicky, pulls a gun on June and asks if she's there for them like they were

for her. June walks right up to the gun and says she doesn't know. Vicky fires into the air, and calls June a coward before they have to disperse before they're caught.

Mark visits Serena in her new cell, and Serena asks to see Fred's body, but Mark doesn't know if she'll be able to. Serena asks him what happened, and Mark tells her about the prisoner exchange between the U.S. and Gilead government. He assures her that Fred was going to be tried in Gilead, and he doesn't know what happened after he delivered him safely. Serena yells at him that he's responsible for Fred's death. Mark lets Serena know that an envelope addressed to her arrived, and it held Fred's wedding ring and his finger. He then shows her a photo of the phrase "Nolite Te Bastardes Carborundorum" under Fred's body on the wall and asks her who she thinks it could be. Serena asks what finger it was, and he says it was his left ring finger. That's all it takes for Serena to tell him that June is responsible.

June goes to visit Emily, but instead finds Sylvia, who tells June that Emily went back to Gilead to fight, and to probably find Aunt Lydia. She tells June that Emily called and said goodbye, but didn't want to talk to Oliver. June is determined to find her and fix this, but Sylvia just tells June that she's gone and it's over. She doesn't hate June, and says she and Oliver will remember their time with Emily. June asks if Sylvia hears from Emily if she'll tell her, but she says she won't.

June goes to a bathroom to finally try and clean the blood off of her, and panics as she tries to wipe it all off. Her next stop is the ocean, where she walks into the water and splashes it all over her face, taking in the sunshine with a hint of a smile on her face. She remembers back to when her, Luke, and Hannah used to play in the ocean, and then her and Hannah's few interactions in Gilead. June cries, until a police officer shows up and asks if she's okay.

Luke meets June at the police station, and June apologizes for coming in and ruining his life, but Luke assures her that she didn't. June tells him about Emily, and says she understands to an extent, she can feel Gilead pulling her. Luke relates, saying he feels Hannah there, and urges June to come home. June doesn't want to, saying he doesn't want her around Nichole. Luke assures June that Fred got what he deserved, but June reveals that he didn't see what they did to him, but that she loved it.

When Luke tries to get her to leave again, June tells him that she has to do something, that she can't wait anymore. She then gets up and announces that she killed Fred. Luke tries to take her away, but June tells him she has to do it. A cop holds Luke back as June is taken away.

In her interrogation, June tells them that she was alone when she chased Fred in the woods. She admits to hitting, kicking, and biting him, and leaving him in the forest. She tells them that she wanted to inflict pain on him for what he did, and the prosecutor reminds her that it should've been left up to the justice system, not her. She tells June that because the events didn't occur in Canada, it's not their concern. They send her away, but June doesn't understand why she won't get any punishment. All she gets is cited for transporting the finger.

Serena goes to see Fred's body, but only stares at the sheet covering his corpse. Mark comes in and offers his condolences. Serena asks if she can make a petition to have Canada investigate the crime, but he tells her that since it happened in No Man's Land, June technically hasn't broken any laws. He advises Serena to focus on her and her child, and tells her that she can have resources and asylum to keep them safe once her charges are dropped. She takes the sheet off of Fred's body in anger to show Mark what June is capable of, so she doesn't want him saying that he can protect her.

Serena leaves the station to find a row of people holding candles, forming a path leading her to her car. They all assure her that they're praying for her. Mark says she's going back to her cell, but Serena is stern as she says she's taking her husband back to Gilead to get a proper burial. She needs the Waterford name to be respected and remembered. Mark tells her that's not possible, but Serena says any decent country would let her bury her murdered husband.

June and Luke return home, and Moira asks Luke how June's doing. Luke says she's fine, and that he's taking a win since she's there with them so they're celebrating that. Moira and June talk about Emily, and when June tells Moira she wants to give Nichole a bath, Moira reveals that she's not comfortable with June caring for Nichole, and that June scares her. June agrees with her, and says she thought she'd be in jail for what she did.

Mark shows up, and June goes to talk to him. She apologizes for playing him, and then asks about Serena's reaction to Fred's death. Mark reveals that Serena was scared of June, and that he thinks June scared Gilead as well. As Mark is leaving, he tells June that she did what needed

to be done.

June goes back inside and sees Moira and Luke giving Nichole a bath. June goes in and holds Nichole and cuddles against her. Moira leaves her alone, and Luke watches from the doorway as June cries and holds onto Nichole tightly.

Ballet

Season 5

Episode Number: 48

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Wednesday September 14, 2022
Writer: Nina Fiore, John Herrera
Director: Elisabeth Moss
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirra Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello)
Guest Stars: Mckenna Grace (Esther Keyes), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam), Stephen Kunken (Warren Putnam), Birgitte Solem (Putnam Martha), Paula Boudreau (Grace), Angela Vint (Leah), Vanessa Burns (Mrs. Calhoun), Ella Ryan (Angela Putnam), Maya Ryan (Angela Putnam), Jonathan Watton (Commander Calhoun), Edie Inksetter (Aunt Elizabeth), Jordana Blake (Hannah Bankole), Jeanette Delgado (Assistant Choreographer), Wilx Ly (Person), Katherine Oh (Female Balletgoer), Ric Garcia (Male Balletgoer), Deena Nina (Acolyte Bystander)
Summary: June struggles to move on with her life in Toronto. Serena plans an elaborate memorial. Aunt Lydia and Janine prepare Esther for her first posting as a Handmaid.



June thinks of her history with Serena as she tries to sleep, and ends up going out to her car to grab the gun that Danielle gave her. She digs a hole in the snow and buries the gun.

Serena and Mark arrive in Gilead with Fred's remains. Serena meets with Nick and Commander Lawrence, and they offer their condolences. Serena reminds Nick that Fred saw so much potential in him, and that he's on a better path now.

They take Serena to the church where they plan to hold Fred's funeral, but it's much smaller than she would've liked. Commander Lawrence says he thought it best that it was kept simple and quick, and that they figured Serena would want to get back to Canada as soon as possible to move on with her life. Serena confronts them, saying how brutal Fred's death was, and that only one woman could hold that much rage, but that she knows June needed help. Serena threatens Commander Lawrence to give Fred a proper funeral, because she wonders what would happen if the fellow Commanders learned that Lawrence assisted in the plan to have Fred killed.

Aunt Lydia speaks to a group of Handmaids as Janine helps prepare them for the wake. Esther tells Janine that she wishes she was coming with them, but Janine assures her that she'll be safe. The Handmaids leave, and Aunt Lydia praises Janine for her help with Esther. Janine has done such a good that Aunt Lydia allows her to accompany Esther to the wake. Aunt Lydia then tells Janine that the Putnams are interested in a new Handmaid, and that Esther is the perfect contender, she just needs to impress them. Janine asks if the Putnams choose Esther if Janine can visit her, but Aunt Lydia brushes her off.

Commanders and their Wives gather for Fred's wake at the Putnam's house. The Putnams greet Serena, and Naomi steals Serena away. Warren grabs Mark and leads him to a chair,

saying Mark won't go any further, and gives him food and tells him to sit back and relax. The Wives admire Serena's baby belly, until Serena pulls Lawrence aside to ask about Fred's funeral arrangements, but Lawrence says that Fred is seen by most as a traitor now, so he doesn't think there's anything they can do.

Rita, Moira, Luke, and June gather for a game night. June sees the Scrabble game, and is immediately reminded of her nights of playing Scrabble with Fred. June meets Rita in the kitchen to discuss Serena's plan in going between Canada and Gilead. Moira walks in as June is contemplating Serena being on the Wall, or them taking away her baby and making her a Handmaid. June brings up when Serena slapped Rita when she was pregnant, but Rita and Moira try to get June to stop talking about it. Rita assures June that even though she wasn't a Handmaid, she struggled, and still does.

June cares for her plants, and Luke comes in to check on her. June tells Luke that Serena knows what she did to Fred because she sent her his finger. June reveals that she wanted Serena to know that she did it, and Luke doesn't understand, because she could come after their family now. Luke calls June out for obsessing over Serena and whatever plan she has for June. He tells her that obsession won't help them get Hannah back. June is aware of that, and Luke tells her that him and Nichole need June there with them, not stuck in Gilead or the past. He warns June that if she isn't, he doesn't know what that will mean for them. Luke reminds June that Serena is gone, and terrified of June, and that June just needs to forget about her.

Aunt Lydia walks the Handmaids into Fred's wake, and gives her condolences to Serena. Janine and Esther are off talking, and Esther says she wants to do something, but Janine tells her they can't do anything or they'll end up dead. Aunt Lydia brings Naomi to meet Esther, but Naomi notes that she's young and used to be a Wife. Naomi agrees to let Esther be their new Handmaid, leaving Naomi and Janine alone. It's awkward for a moment, until Angela runs into the room, and Janine gives her a hug and talks to her, but it's not long before Angela has to go. Janine compliments Angela, and Naomi says she thanks God, and those that brought Angela to her, every day, making Janine smile.

Aunt Lydia leads Esther into a room full of Commanders, and Warren sends the others out so he's alone with Esther. Esther begins to panic, especially when he sends out Aunt Lydia, too. Warren assures Esther she doesn't need to be scared, and just wants to get to know Esther. Warren offers her some chocolate, and feeds it to her, all while tears glimmer in Esther's eyes.

Serena goes to see the Commanders, wanting to talk to them about Fred. She gives a speech about Fred's dedication to Gilead, and wants her son to be able to be proud of Fred. She suggests that they broadcast Fred's funeral internationally, showing Gilead to the the world. Warren condescends her, but Lawrence backs her up. Warren reminds Lawrence that he has nothing, so they don't need to listen to him. Commander Calhoun lets Lawrence speak, and Nick chimes in, thinking that broadcasting the funeral will make Gilead look merciful. Lawrence thinks this could be the start of acceptance from other nations. The Commanders excuse Serena so they can discuss it.

On the ride back to the compound, Esther tells Janine that she doesn't want to get posted. Janine advises her to be liked by her Commander, because then she can get pregnant faster, and therefore out of the house faster. Esther doesn't think that pregnancy will protect her at all, but Janine says that's the only protection that she can have. Esther isn't happy with this response, pulling her hand from Janine's.

Lawrence informs Serena that he convinced the Commanders to agree to the international broadcast of the funeral. Lawrence and Serena get to work on starting the guest list.

Later that night, Nick meets up with Mark in the woods, and Nick asks how June and Nichole are doing. Mark admires Nick's ability to be at his rank and to fly under the radar. Mark asks Nick if he wants to see Nichole in person, and says that America can forgive Nick if he makes amends and continues to play his part in Gilead for a while. Mark wants to help them both, and Nick promises to consider it before leaving.

Esther brings Janine some snacks that she stole from the Putnam house. Janine opens up about how wonderful it was to have a baby, and how nice they treat the pregnant Handmaids. Esther brings up how she didn't like Janine when they first met, and she was right in at assumption. Janine is shocked by her sudden change, but Esther says that Janine doesn't care about her, she just wanted to see Angela. She accuses Janine of being no better than Aunt Lydia for using her to get what she wants. Esther calls Janine a disgrace and says that she hates her.

Esther begins coughing on the chocolate that she was eating, and tells Janine they'll make June proud as she continues to cough. Janine calls for help, but then she starts coughing up blood along with Esther. Aunt Lydia comes in, but just holds Janine and cries for help as they both continue coughing until they go unconscious.

Serena cries over Fred's coffin, and Lawrence comes to fetch Serena. Men come in to take Fred's coffin, and Serena follows them.

June and Luke watch a ballet recital while simultaneously Serena follows the parade of Fred's funeral down the streets of Gilead.

Serena pauses at the end of the parade to face the Commanders, then watches as some of the children come out. Among the children is Hannah.

June and Luke grab coffee after the recital, and they share a tender moment as they kiss in the middle of downtown. But the moment is quickly gone when June looks up and sees the broadcasts of Fred's funeral all around her. Luke turns and sees the video of the children walking out, and they both watch helplessly as Hannah steps forward to deliver flowers to Serena. June turns around and Hannah's face is on every screen around her as she stands next to Serena and holds her hand. Serena gives the camera a small smile as June watches her, her face full of hatred.

Border

Season 5

Episode Number: 49

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Wednesday September 21, 2022
Writer: Aly Monroe
Director: Dana Gonzales
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirira Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello)
Guest Stars: Jason Butler Harner (Commander MacKenzie), Mckenna Grace (Esther Keyes), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam), Amy Landecker (Mrs. Mackenzie), Christine Ko (Lily), Carey Cox (Rose Blaine), Savannah Welch (Sam), Brett Houghton (Jonah), Kaitlyn Chu (Rachel), Matthew MacFadzean (Doctor), Stephanie Carpanini (Mayday Sentry), Adrian Morningstar (Hotel Messenger), Christopher Cordell (Driver), Tabitha Lupien (Acolyte #1), Kelaiah Guiel (Acolyte #2), Liam Bell (Econo Man)
Summary: June and Moira join a rebel outpost. As a pregnant widow, Serena tries to restore her status. Aunt Lydia questions her strict methods of dealing with Handmaids.



June is still in shock after seeing Hannah on the big screen with Serena. She stares at Hannah's picture on the couch until Luke comes to check in on her. June asks what Hannah was wearing, and Moira says it was a purple color, like nothing they'd seen in Gilead. It wasn't the typical pink that the young girls wear. June remembers that Nick was there, and says she can talk to him and ask him, but Luke doesn't think that's possible.

Hearing this, Moira reveals that there's a group of women at the border that has had luck getting messages to people inside Gilead. June gets upset, asking when Moira was ever going to tell her, but Moira reveals that she wasn't: she thinks the women are traumatized and suicidal, and June doesn't need to be around that. June doesn't think it's up to Moira to decide that, and Moira gives in, agreeing to ask the group to meet with her and June.

June and Moira meet up with Lily, one of the women from the group. Lily reveals that their network of sending messages has expanded from only Jezebel's, but then they Eyes caught her. She was one of the women that was exchanged for Fred. Lily is in awe of how June was able to get all of them out.

Serena tells Mark she's glad that Fred got the respect he was due, and Mark reveals that providing her protection was the least they could do for their "miscommunication" that led to Fred's death. Serena pries to see if Mark is trying to get information on Gilead to bring back to Canada, but he says he isn't. Serena tells Mark he shouldn't stay long, and when he asks Serena if she's worried about her reputation after everything that happened, she just says she doesn't want anyone getting the wrong idea.

Moira and June meet up with Lily's group in the woods, close to No Man's Land. Lily introduces them to the group, and leads them to a cabin. In there, they have Polaroids of how many

women they've been able to get out of Gilead, and next to that are pictures of all they've lost in their fight. Lily says that everyone working with Mayday knows the risks. This shocks June, she didn't know Mayday was in Canada, but Lily assures her they're everywhere. Moira wonders how they haven't gotten caught, but Lily says they don't have a flag or anything, just small outposts all over, that's how they stay safe. Lily says she used to be a Martha, and most of her people are still inside Gilead. She revealed that they got information out through that outpost, and they would send back weapons and explosives, anything to cause trouble. June reveals that they thought Mayday wasn't real and that they just made it up to give themselves some hope. Lily says that just means she's a part of Mayday, too.

Mark and Serena visit Commander Lawrence, but Lawrence tells Mark they have a "no spies allowed" policy and leaves him outside. Mark wants them to chat later, but Lawrence only laughs at him.

Serena talks to Commander MacKenzie and his wife, who offer their condolences. The Commander wishes that Fred had been able to have a fair trial at first, and is disappointed that June ruined that possibility. Serena is surprised that he knows that it was June, but he knows that June didn't act alone, and had a lot of help.

Nick and his wife Rose arrive, and Serena is stunned to see him. Serena asks how they met, and Rose reveals they met in D.C. when Nick was there for work a few months prior. Rose gifts Serena a sweater for her baby.

Aunt Lydia visits Esther in the hospital, and even though Esther is unconscious, Aunt Lydia slaps her across the face. Aunt Lydia moves on to Janine's room, and breaks down at her bedside. She calls out to God, saying that Janine doesn't deserve this. She knows that God is unhappy with her sometimes, but all she wanted to do was keep her girls safe. She asks God to not punish Janine just to teach her a lesson. She promises that she will do things differently and turn things around.

Lawrence begins to talk about the broadcast and politics over the dinner table, but Commander MacKenzie tells him he's boring the ladies. They all laugh, and MacKenzie's wife assures Lawrence that once he remarries, he'll have someone to stir up dinner conversation once again. Lawrence reveals that he doesn't plan to get remarried, but MacKenzie tells him that a single man has no place in leadership.

After an awkward few moments of silence, Serena thanks MacKenzie and his wife for letting her see Agnes (Hannah) the other day and for making the journey there. MacKenzie says it was both to pay their respects and to discuss June. He reveals that he thought after June went to Canada, things would settle down, but both him and Serena know that June won't stop. The fact that June was able to reach Fred scares MacKenzie, and he worries that next she'll come after his family.

Mrs. MacKenzie says they don't want to traumatize Agnes by telling her something bad happened to her birth mother, but she doesn't understand how their angel child came from someone like June, who she called a "devil of a woman". MacKenzie says Agnes is strong, and she'll understand when she needs to. He then calls June a cancer, saying they need to cut her out.

June and Moira sew clothes, and June asks Sam, one of the women, what else they sew into the clothes besides maps and things like that. Sam hands her little baggies, and tells June that the one she's sewing is getting powdered arsenic, because they're trying to kill a D.C. Commander in the coming week.

They hear a commotion outside, and run to check it out. A man is there with a gun, and all of the women have their guns pointed at him. He assures them he's a friend, and that he knows the code. However, when Lily gives him a phrase, he can't think of the response. A young woman suddenly runs out, yelling the answer to the code. She tells them not to shoot, that he's her friend. Rachel, the girl, hugs the man, thanking him for his help, and the other women lead Rachel away. As the man goes to leave, June asks him if he's going back in, and the man says he has a wife and kid, and can't leave them behind.

Nick meets up with Mark, and tells him that he wants to be the one to tell June about Rose. Mark asks if Nick has given any more thought to his offer, and Nick says he can't right now. Just then, Commander MacKenzie walks up, wondering what the two have to talk about. Mark leaves them alone, and MacKenzie tells Nick that he's keeping an eye on him; Rose's father is an old friend of his.

Serena sits down with Lawrence and talks about his wife. Serena says she always liked

Eleanor, but Lawrence said she didn't feel the same. Lawrence looks at Serena's missing finger, and says Fred shouldn't have done that. He calls Fred weak, saying he overcompensated for his toxic masculinity. Serena wonders if it's a blessing that Fred won't be around to raise his child; boys need a strong father, and Fred made many mistakes. Lawrence assures her that she'll have better luck next time. Serena notes that MacKenzie was right about an unmarried man not having influence in Gilead. Lawrence reads in between the lines, and assures her that marrying for power doesn't work out well. Her baby begins kicking, and Lawrence feels her stomach, assuring her that her and her baby will be protected.

Naomi arrives with Angela at the hospital. Aunt Lydia asked her to come because she remembered how it helped Angela to be near Janine when she was sick. Aunt Lydia tells her that the doctor's aren't optimistic about Janine recovering. Naomi sets Angela on Janine's bed, and grabs Janine's hand as she assures her that Angela will grow up to know where she got her beautiful smile and kind nature from. Angela touches Janine's hand as Naomi tells Janine that she won't be forgotten.

As they're leaving Lawrence's house, Serena apologizes to Mark, saying she thought they'd let him inside at least. Mark isn't surprised; men in power like showing how powerful they are. Mark tells Serena that he's spent years studying Gilead, so it's interesting finally being there. Mark says it's not different than he expected, it's beauty covering up hypocrisy. Serena thinks it's a shame that Mark didn't get to see all that Gilead has done right.

As Mark is saying goodnight, Serena invites him into her room to talk. Mark wonders if the conversation can't wait until they're home, and Serena says she is home. Mark doesn't understand why she'd want to throw away being a free woman, but Serena still has things she wants to accomplish in Gilead.

Serena thanks Mark for all he's done for her, and gives him a kiss on the cheek. Mark tells her that staying would be a mistake, and that she must know that Gilead is unsafe for women, especially those unmarried. Serena says that that may not be for much longer, but when Mark asks if she has plans to remarry, she tells him that she's still in mourning.

They're interrupted by a knock on the door, and a man comes in to tell Serena that the Council has invited her to attend the meeting the next day. With that, Mark says goodbye to Serena and tells her to stay safe.

Lily wakes June up to give her a phone, and Nick is on the other end. He assures June that Hannah is safe, and that she hasn't been with Serena since the funeral. June asks Nick what the purple color that Hannah was wearing means, and Nick says that means Hannah is ready to go to a new school: a High Commander's school where the girls train to be future Wives.

Nick doesn't have any more information, but assures June that Hannah is strong and that the MacKenzies love her. June doesn't believe that, though. She asks Nick if he can transfer to Hannah's district to watch over her, but Nick says he has obligations now, and he tells her that he's married. June asks about Rose, and Nick asks how Nichole is doing. Nick asks June to promise to keep herself and Nichole safe, and she does. June tells Nick to try to be happy, and he remembers their past before he hangs up the phone.

Aunt Lydia wakes up to find Janine gone and frantically searches for her. A doctor leads her outside, where Janine sits in a wheelchair with a nurse. Janine woke up a few hours prior and has been making improvements. Aunt Lydia breathes a sigh of relief.

Serena runs into Lawrence before the Council meeting, and Lawrence says he's not the one who called it. Serena notices Lawrence acting strange, and asks if something is the matter. He apologizes before they head in, and Serena is face-to-face with the Council.

Commander MacKenzie tells Serena they have an opportunity for her to be useful. They want her to use her expertise to be an unofficial global ambassador for Gilead. MacKenzie says having a woman speaking on their behalf would be positive. Serena believed they would give her a place in Gilead, but MacKenzie says they want her in Toronto to represent Gilead there. Lawrence calls Serena an "unusual woman" and says Gilead doesn't have a place for unusual women within its borders. There are tears in Serena's eyes, but she asks for a staff, a budget, and protection from anyone who would hurt her or her baby. Lawrence assures her she'll get that.

Serena gets on the plane with Mark, but doesn't respond when he asks her why she asked them to hold the plane.

June feels hopeless, telling Moira they're right back where they started. She doesn't know how to keep Hannah safe from there. Moira knows Hannah will be okay, because June is her mother.

But Moira says Hannah isn't becoming a wife, they're not letting that happen. After Moira heads out, Lily informs June that Serena is coming back to Toronto.

From the airport, Serena gets escorted back to the detention center, and they see a group of people holding candles to welcome her back. Serena is pleased to see so many servants of God supporting her and her and Gilead's mission.

They turn the corner, and a car is facing them, headlights on, blocking their path. Suddenly, June slams her hands on the window and tells Serena to never touch her daughter again. The car backs up, and Serena is shaken up as they drive away.

Dear Offred

Season 5
Episode Number: 50
Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Wednesday September 28, 2022
Writer: Jacey Heldrich
Director: Dana Gonzales
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirra Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello)
Guest Stars: Amanda Brugel (Rita), Genevieve Angelson (Alanis Wheeler), Natasha Mumba (Danielle), Victoria Sawal (Tyler), Neil Babcock (Aide), Adam Kenneth Wilson (Angry Man), Malaika Hennie-Hamadi (Maid), Rossif Sutherland (Ezra Shaw), Imogen Haworth (Acolyte), Olivia Sandoval (Lisa)
Summary: June fights her need for violent revenge as Serena settles into her new role in Toronto. Rattled by Janine, Aunt Lydia makes a surprising suggestion to Lawrence.



June is at the playground with Nichole when a woman approaches her. She says she knows who June is, and June takes Nichole and gets ready to leave. The woman continues to talk to her, though, and she tells June she was lucky to be in Gilead because it gave her Nichole. She tries to touch Nichole, and June lashes out, telling her to stay away. She pushes the woman up against the swings after she tells June she doesn't deserve Nichole

and calls her names.

June and Luke talk to a therapist about the encounter, and the therapist tells June that the woman's response is common in women with infertility. June tells them she went a little past getting angry and got physical with the woman, and Luke and June both want to know how June can work on not getting physical with other people who pray to Serena and worship Gilead.

Mark tells Serena that the Canadian government won't be watching her like a hawk, so she should have some privacy. He also suggests that Serena takes asylum and gets protection as an American citizen, but Serena claims she isn't an American citizen, her allegiance is to God. Mark then officially releases Serena from the custody of the American government. Serena meets Mr. Shaw, her new escort. As she gets in the car, Mark wishes Serena luck and tells her to tread carefully, she's in a free country now.

Serena arrives at the Gilead Information Center, which is still in the process of being finished, and where she'll be living.

Mark shows up to see June, Luke, and Moira, and tells them that Hannah looked good and healthy in the brief moment he saw her. Mark tells them all that Serena has been released from their custody, and that she's now on property that Gilead owned pre-war. Mark tells them about the cultural center that's being built, and that Serena is going to be the spokesperson for Gilead in Canada. Luke orders Mark to get out, but Mark makes sure they know that Serena has no status or money here, so she can't do anything. June reminds Mark that she warned him, but

he didn't listen, and calls him a disappointment. Luke is livid, and wants to do anything to find out where this place is, but June points out that Serena always gets what she wants. Luke reassures June that they'll stop it, but June looks calm as can be as she assures Luke that she isn't worried.

That night, June sneaks out of bed, but Luke is awake and hears her get up. June digs up the gun that she buried in the snow and drives off.

June sees people with candles walking toward the Gilead Information Center and makes sure the gun is loaded. However she isn't able to cock the gun because it's frozen, no matter how hard she tries. She watches as the people stop and look up at Serena, who stands in the window. June gets out, stares at Serena, then drives off.

Mr. Shaw checks in on Serena, and tells Serena that they can't do anything unless June sets foot on the property. He promises to keep both Serena and the baby safe.

June returns home and tells Luke where she went. She admits to not being able to think about anything besides shooting Serena in the head, and she doesn't know how to stop herself from actually doing it. Luke reassures June that they can use alternative methods like the city council and building codes to take her down. When June still doesn't seem to believe him, Luke plays out the scenario of June shooting Serena: they take Nichole from her, and they lose their best chance of getting Hannah. Luke asks June if he can just try it his way, and June tells him okay.

Aunt Lydia tries to help Janine exercise and take a few steps. Aunt Lydia tries to quote the Bible, but Janine gets upset, saying her legs don't work, so that won't help her any. She asks if Esther has woken up yet, and Aunt Lydia says no, but it serves her right. Janine calls Aunt Lydia out, saying Esther is an abused child and that she warned Aunt Lydia about her. When Aunt Lydia says she gave Esther an opportunity to live in service, Janine reminds her that the only other option is the Colonies, so it's not really an option at all. Aunt Lydia continues to try and defend her actions, but Janine can see Aunt Lydia for who she truly is, she knows what she does to her "precious girls". Aunt Lydia walks out without another word.

Serena calls Lawrence, and asks why he declined invitations on her behalf. Lawrence tells Serena she doesn't need to overexert herself, but she wants to remind other countries that Gilead is the only one with an increase in live births. Lawrence agrees that it might be a good idea to talk to South America about that. Lawrence knows about her encounter with June, and advises Serena to focus on work and avoid June, since she has a history of lashing out.

June comes home to see Moira holding a letter addresses to Offred. June opens it, and it's a notice of the Gilead Information Center opening. June is positive that Serena is going to bring Gilead to Canada, and says the only way to stop them is to put them all in the ground. June paces angrily, then smashes a plate on the cabinets. Nichole starts crying, and June goes to comfort her.

Moira finds June with Nichole, and June doesn't understand why she's been acting the way she is. Moira tells her that she's rightfully angry, but that Luke is right, they have to play by the rules now. Moira says she'll gladly dance on Serena's grave, but it's not worth June losing her family. June wonders if this is just who she is now, but Moira assures her that she's no longer worried about June being around Nichole, so that's progress.

Mr. Shaw informs Serena that Luke is outside to see her, and suggests that he handles it, but Serena isn't worried. Luke comes in to see her, and Serena has Mr. Shaw search him for any weapons or security concerns again. When they're left alone, Luke tells Serena there's a ton of people that want her dead, but she says it looks like the exact opposite. Luke takes out papers, and tells Serena they're building codes. He claims he's found 15 violations that could get the building condemned; if he makes a few calls, he could get the place shut down in a few days. Serena doesn't seem impressed at that being his reason for being there. So, Luke tells her the other reason he came: to let Serena know that June is going to kill her, and he's going to let her.

Luke says that Serena can get kicked out or killed, or help them get Hannah back. Serena tells him that Agnes is happy and with good and loving parents, and she doesn't want to question God's will. Serena wonders why Luke never went back to Gilead to save Hannah and why he let June suffer the consequences for that, but says that Nick was her support, so she's sure that made Luke feel comforted. This angers Luke, and he threatens Serena to stay away from his family, or the next time he sees her, he's going to kill her himself.

When Lawrence talks to Aunt Lydia about another Handmaid-on-Handmaid attack, Aunt

Lydia assures him that Esther was the last Handmaid that was under June's influence. Lawrence hopes that's true, because now that Gilead is opening their doors slightly, when the world looks at the Handmaid system, it needs to be running smoothly. Aunt Lydia thinks that the system needs to be reformed to prevent further issues, and suggests that the Handmaids all remain under her care, except for once a month when the Commanders come to perform the Ceremonies. Lawrence practically laughs at this idea, saying no Commander is going to back up her plan. Lawrence assures her that the system isn't changing, but that Aunt Lydia just needs to get a grip on her Handmaids.

Serena prepares for a photoshoot, and is advised to stay away from the windows for her own safety. June is outside, and tucks her gun into her jeans as she gets out of her car. Serena can hear the crowd of protestors versus worshippers as her photos are being taken, and asks what's going on.

June walks up to the people fighting, and one man is telling a protestor that she needs a man to put her in her place. When the man shoves a girl, June and Moira step in. Moira defends the girl and tells him to take it easy, and the man punches Moira in the face. June pulls her gun to him, then shoots into the air. Serena hears this, and is scared as Mr. Shaw takes Serena to get her someplace safe.

Luke runs through the crowd and frantically tells June to put the gun away. June yells at the man to go, and he runs away. Luke pulls June away quickly, and after they check to make sure Moira is okay, they run off. However, they turn the corner and run right into Mr. Shaw and Serena as he's trying to help her into the car. Mr. Shaw tells them to stay back, but June's hand goes right to her gun. She looks as if she's going to do it, but then looks at Serena's pregnant belly, and hesitates long enough that Mr. Shaw is able to get Serena in the car. June and Luke take off running again. Serena is terrified as they drive off.

Aunt Lydia helps Janine walk out of the hospital, but she doesn't want Aunt Lydia's help. Aunt Lydia tries to tell her that God chose to save her, and wonders why Janine doesn't think there's a reason behind it all, but Janine doesn't care anymore.

Once they're in the back of the van, Aunt Lydia admits that she should have listened to Janine about Esther. She then asks Janine for her help with the other Handmaids, that she needs her to look out for them and let her know when one of them is struggling. Janine points out that if she does that, Aunt Lydia will just do something to punish them, but Aunt Lydia assures Janine that she wants to do things differently, she wants to know earlier on, and approach it with more compassion.

They get back to the Red Center, and once Aunt Lydia leaves, all the Handmaids run to Janine to make sure she's okay.

Luke and June get back home, and Luke gets a call. The Chief Inspector in the Fire Department lost his sister in Gilead, and is shutting down the Gilead Information Center for building code violations. That means Serena is homeless. Luke asks June for the gun, and she gives it to him. June tells Luke that even though she didn't do it this time, she can't promise that she won't the next time. Luke can't promise that he won't either, and tells June they'll just have to trust each other. They start kissing, and take it inside.

Mr. Shaw takes Serena to the home of a worshipper named Alanis Wheeler, who immediately gets down and starts praying while touching Serena's stomach.

June throws the notice of the Gilead Information Center into the fire and watches it burn.

Fairytale

Season 5
Episode Number: 51
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Wednesday October 05, 2022
Writer: J. Holtham
Director: Eva Vives
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moira Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello)
Guest Stars: Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam), Stephen Kunken (Warren Putnam), Genevieve Angelson (Alanis Wheeler), Lucas Neff (Ryan Wheeler), Christine Ko (Lily), Owen Painter (Jaden), Jordana Blake (Hannah Bankole), Feaven Abera (Housekeeper), Malaika Hennie-Hamadi (Maid), Stephanie Carpanini (Mayday Sentry), Sarah Murphy-Dyson (Woman #2), Avery Star Pryce Tibayan (Drawing Kid), Blythe Wilson (Female Acolyte), Joe Drinkwalter (Guardian #2), Stephen Alexander (Guardian #3)
Summary: June and Luke embark on a dangerous quest. Serena gets to know her new hosts.



June wakes up to a call from Lily, who tells her that a Guardian is coming across the border with information about wife schools in Gilead. While Moira, Luke, and June are driving up there, they see Canadian protestors who want the Americans to go back to their country.

Ezra gives Serena flowers that were left for her by supporters. Serena asks him where Mr. Wheeler is, because she still has yet to meet him and thank him,

but Ezra says he's usually busy. Serena has breakfast with Mrs. Wheeler, and Serena tells her they're going to try and get the Center back up and running, despite it possibly being shut down.

Luke, Moira, and June arrive at Lily's camp, but she tells them that the guy they're waiting on can't get across; the Canadian border patrol has increased. Lily apologizes that they made the trip for nothing, but when Luke sees June staring into the woods toward the border, he tells them all that he's going across. He can't just go home and sit around when information on Hannah is so close. Lily tells him that she can let someone know he's coming, that they have a meeting spot in No Man's Land. June tells Luke she's going with him, and Luke doesn't object. Lily gives Luke a bag with supplies to bring with him, and Lily gives them a map of trails to take to avoid the patrols to get to the meeting spot. Moira says goodbye, and Luke and June head off into No Man's Land.

While walking through the woods, June is hit with flashbacks of when they first got caught trying to escape, when Hannah was taken away from her. But she's determined to keep moving. When they run into a man hanging from a tree with the word "rapist" across his chest, June tells Luke that wasn't Gilead, but they have to keep going.

Back at the camp, Moira worries about her friends. She talks with Lily about how Luke and June keep fighting for each other despite everything that's happened. Moira talks with Lily about where the Mayday outpost is going next, but she's drinking and they just start joking around.

Mrs. Wheeler introduces Serena to a group of other women, who are all in awe of her miracle pregnancy. The baby starts kicking, and all the women put their hands on her stomach and praise her.

Serena has a flashback to when her and Naomi watched a group of children who had been taken from their mothers. They talked about how they need to be put in good homes. Serena asked Naomi if she's considered having a Handmaid, but they both say they haven't. Serena told Naomi that she and Fred were going to keep trying, that she knew that they'd be blessed with a baby some day.

June and Luke find the meeting spot, and after a Guardian with a gun comes out, they give him the safe word. June is about to give him the supplies, but the Guardian tells them to follow him, they can't do it there. Luke objects, nobody said anything about going anywhere else. But the Guardian tells them it's not safe during the day to talk, and he has to go. With no other option, Luke and June follow him.

When Serena is about to get on a call with Gilead, she invites Mrs. Wheeler to join in on the call, too. Mrs. Wheeler says wives shouldn't be a part of business, so she excuses herself. When Serena calls Lawrence, Commander Putnam is also on the call. Putnam calls out Serena for not doing her job of showing Gilead's "true purpose," especially after the incident at the Center. Serena suggests that someone should deal with June, because she's the main cause of it all.

Serena tells the Commanders that maybe focusing on Gilead at the Gilead Information Center isn't the right call. When Lawrence is confused, Serena clarifies that maybe instead they should focus on fertility and conception, since that's what it's really about, and that's what people want to hear about. She claims that a center focused on Gilead will always be a magnet for attacks, but a fertility clinic that's opened to everyone would be a welcoming place. Lawrence thinks it's an interesting idea, but Putnam just interrupts Serena, saying they'll consider it, and hangs up on her as she's in the middle of a sentence.

Putnam mentions a new plan of Lawrence's called New Bethlehem. Putnam thinks that it'll be the death of them all, and Gilead. Apparently, Lawrence wants to apparently welcome people back into Gilead. Putnam says the Commanders wouldn't go for that, they can't have the whole world poking around in their business. But Lawrence objects, saying if their walls stay up and borders stay closed, Gilead will die, and all of this would have been for nothing. Putnam laughs it off, saying his speech won't work, but that he's welcome to try it.

June and Luke follow the Guardian to an abandoned bowling alley, where he says he spends his shifts when it's too cold outside. They trade backpacks full of supplies, and then the Guardian mentions the Plums, the Wives in training. He says the schools are guarded, but the girls don't stay there long, it's a quick process so they can get matched up and married as soon as possible. The Guardian says he doesn't know where the schools are, it's a new system, but he gives them a flash drive and says it's everything that they do know. June and Luke prepare to head out, but the Guardian stops them, saying they shouldn't cross during the day. He says he'll help them get across the border once the sun sets. June and Luke talk it over, and they agree to wait until it's safer.

Luke and the Guardian bowl and have a good time. However, the mood darkens when the Guardian starts to talk about before, how he thinks he used to like bowling, but can't remember much before Gilead. He says it's not so bad, but when June reminds him that he's working to take it down, he says that people should be able to see their families and do whatever they want. June and Luke agree, and June tells Luke she's shocked because she's never seen anyone in Gilead as pure as this Guardian. He reveals his name is Jaden.

Jaden grabs them all beers, and Luke starts playing on the keyboard. Luke serenades June, and then brings her into a dance. Jaden shines a light on the disco ball as they dance.

Serena meets Ezra at the gate to the house, where the guards are turning away a supporter bringing Serena flowers. Serena just wants to talk to the woman, claiming she's harmless, but Ezra tells Serena that Mr. Wheeler gave him specific instructions to not open the gate.

Serena has another flashback of meeting with Aunt Lydia to talk about getting a Handmaid posted at their house. Aunt Lydia brought different profiles of hand-picked Handmaids for Serena to look through to make her decision. Serena only looked at two before picking one.

Mr. Wheeler finally meets Serena, and wants to follow up about Serena's proposal to the Commanders. He tells her that they're going to move forward with the fertility center. When Serena says she's eager to help and get to work, Mr. Wheeler tells her they have plenty of people

already on it. Serena says it was her idea, but Mr. Wheeler says that since Serena is pregnant, it'll come with bed rest, and they can't be too careful and have her running around. He says her baby's needs come before any ambition or initiative of hers. Mr. Wheeler also hands her water and some vitamins and watches as she takes them. Before he leaves, Serena asks if she can at least have a cell phone so she can conduct business from there, but Mr. Wheeler says that there's too many security concerns.

Jaden leads June and Luke through the woods, but stops suddenly when he realizes he stepped on a mine. Jaden assures them it's okay, but seconds later the mine goes off, knocking them all down. Jaden is still alive, and when Luke and June get over to him, they see his leg has been blown off. Jaden tells them they need to run, but June stops the bleeding in his leg. They see flashlights and hear yelling from other Guardians, so June and Luke have to leave Jaden, taking off toward the border.

Luke and June are so close to crossing back into Canada when a car pulls right up to them and people start chasing them. June has flashbacks of all the times she's ran for her life before. However, they're not fast enough, and the people get a hold of both Luke and June and drag them away from each other.

Together

Season 5
Episode Number: 52
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Wednesday October 12, 2022
Writer: Katherine Collins
Director: Eva Vives
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirira Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello)
Guest Stars: Mckenna Grace (Esther Keyes), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam), Stephen Kunken (Warren Putnam), Genevieve Angelson (Alanis Wheeler), Lucas Neff (Ryan Wheeler), Jeremy Shamos (Dr. Alan Landers), Carey Cox (Rose Blaine), Rossif Sutherland (Ezra Shaw), Jonathan Watton (Matthew Calhoun), Sean Sullivan (Gilead Doctor), Shawn Devlin (Butler), Daryl Patchett (Balaclava Agent), Adam Maros (Country Club Guardian)
Summary: June and Luke's mission puts them in serious jeopardy. Serena senses a threat from her benefactors. Lawrence and Nick make a shocking power move.



We pick up with the captured Luke and June in the back of a van, where he's desperately trying to break out of his restraints until she advises him to save his energy. After all, this isn't her first time at this messed-up rodeo. They're brought to a facility and photographed; June questions their captors about who they are and what's going on. After all, they're still in No Man's Land, and they're refugees with rights. The guy she's talking to is unmoved, and when he asks her name, she replies, "June Osborne." He notes her ear

cuff and responds that he meant who she was OF, and she expresses my sentiments exactly when she tells him to eff off.

June and Luke wind up getting thrown in separate, chain-link cells next to each other. The contrast between how each of them are reacting to their imprisonment is striking: Luke paces, talks ceaselessly, can't stop wondering who's holding them captive. June is quiet and still, and she advises her husband to sit down, because panicking wastes precious energy. Much like when someone tells me to calm down when I'm agitated, it only amps him up more, and he wonders how often she's been in this situation. "A few," she says. He continues to go off until June, who is near tears, demands that he stop. "I survived, right?" she says. "I survived. So just..." He apologizes and says he wishes he could have saved her, or at least been with her. "You were with me. You were," she reassures him.

Their time in the cells is punctuated by fingerprinting for June (during which she demands that the guards call Nick and/or Commander Lawrence) and a beat-down for Luke, which is truly painful to watch and which ends with him unconscious. When he wakes up, June apologizes. "You didn't know how bad it could be, and I did. I should've told you," she says.

He's sure that when they get to Gilead, they'll be executed, and he doesn't want a repeat of when they weren't able to say goodbye during their escape attempt years ago. But she has a different idea. "Last time when we were apart, no matter what happened, I never gave up hope. And you never gave up hope," she says. "Because we knew. We just knew that we would find each other again. So we're just gonna do that again, right?" They exchange "I love you," and man, this episode is making hamburger of my heart. "We are gonna do that again, you understand?" she says, smiling and crying as they reach their hands through the wires to touch.

Let's skip over to Gilead for a moment, where Aunt Lydia has just had a huge shock: The doctors were about to harvest Esther's uterus when they realized that she's about three weeks pregnant. Lydia immediately realizes that the baby is Commander Putnam's and was conceived during that terrible encounter in his study, when he asked her to leave him alone with the young girl. Also? Esther is awake, handcuffed to her bed and at rock bottom.

Even though Lydia is horrified, she can't stop terrible things from coming out of her mouth as she approaches Esther's bedside, such as when she asks, "Did you behave in a way that even unwittingly might have invited his attention?" The teen isn't having it. "I didn't do anything," she replies. "He raped me." Lydia seems stricken as she apologizes, but Esther definitely does not want to hear that from the very woman who left her alone with her rapist. Plus, she adds, her anger rising, none of this is a surprise! As Lydia draws nearer, it's too much for Esther, who loses her stuff and starts thrashing against her restraints, crying and screaming.

A shaken and livid Aunt Lydia goes straight to Lawrence to let him know what she's learned. "He violated that girl!" she cries, but the commander says The Ceremony isn't any different, and she's supported that for years. She maintains there's a difference, then demands justice for Esther. "Watch your tongue," he warns her, dismissing her summarily.

Later, we see Commanders Blaine, Lawrence and Putnam toasting to Putnam's new baby. Putnam is preening and cocky, and he can't stop himself from glorying in the fact that Lawrence's "New Bethlehem" idea about amnesty for those who've escaped Gilead seems to be dead. Later, Commander and Mrs. Putnam are out to eat, and everyone in the restaurant is staring at them in disgust. Naomi wonders what's up, and he merely says he did something "you will be thanking me for." Nope, dude. All of a sudden, Guardians seize him and bodily hustle him out of the restaurant, throwing him on the ground before Lawrence and Nick. A special, overnight session of court found him guilty of apostasy and "the rape of unassigned property." Putnam cries, "I have a baby on the way!" and they're his last words: Nick pulls out a gun and shoots him on the spot. As Naomi shrieks in horror, Nick wipes the commander's blood off his face.

When he returns home, Rose is waiting for him. "I'm worried about the kind of person this makes you," she says. "It makes me the kind of person who'll do whatever it takes to make Gilead a safer place for our child," he counters. She puts a hand on her obviously pregnant belly and asks if he's sure that's who he did it for; he says yes. Uh, congrats, Nick?

Commander Putnam's corpse winds up on the wall, and Aunt Lydia has her handmaids look. "I wish I could've watched," says Janine, whom you'll recall was stationed in his house and had his kid.

Meanwhile, over at the Wheeler estate in Canada, the bloom is off the preggo rose. They've got an obstetrics suite set up in house's upper level, and that's where Dr. Landers examines Serena. There's just something so undeniably creepy about his suggesting that she engage in perineal massage while he has his hand up her hoohah. Then he suggests some rest to combat her elevated blood pressure and wraps the whole thing by asking her out to dinner. Even better? He got permission from Alanis and Ryan Wheeler first. "That's an interesting proposal," she says as she contemplates sticking some forceps where the sun don't shine.

Downstairs later, Serena and Alanis arrange flowers and talk about the proposition. The widow Waterford says she's not going to date her gynecologist and muses that she might not marry again, at least not for a while. Alanis is shocked. "It's not really Gilead, is it?" Serena says, but honey, for you? It kinda is. Mrs. Wheeler gets madder and madder; when Serena tries to go for a walk, she won't let her. She eventually angrily orders that Serena go to her room. So she does, sitting on the edge of the bed and crying with her hand over her mouth. The shot's framing, the action, Serena's body language — all invoke June in her spartan bedroom in Season 1.

Later, she's called to Commander Wheeler's study. He informs her of June's capture — her assailants are "one of my teams in No Man's Land," he says — and that he's going to send Ezra in to "have him deal with her there." He doesn't want to send her back to Gilead because he fears

she won't be dealt with "properly;" Serena adds that she has too many sympathizers there.

She asks to accompany Ezra, but Wheeler says no. Serena begs. "She's taken so much away from me. I need to see it," she pleads. "I need to see the end." He relents, and she tearfully thanks him.

So when Ezra pulls June off a transport full of detainees, Serena is standing there in the road as the bus drives off. "Are you f—king serious?" June says; the annoyed tone of voice Elisabeth Moss uses is hilarious perfection. Serena comes out swinging. "As serious as you were when you told me you wanted my baby to die inside of me. Do you remember that?" she spits. "Yeah," June shoots back. "It was the best day of my f—king life."

They're in the middle of nowhere, an important detail to note for the future. Serena tells Ezra to cut June's bindings, because "I want her to be able to pray on her knees." June rolls her eyes, saying, "God's sake, Serena." As June bows her head and waits for the shot, Serena asks the Wheelers' thug to let her fire the kill shot, because "God is giving me a chance for justice." He hesitates but eventually hands over the weapon, and Mrs. Waterford aims it squarely at her former handmaid's forehead.

June's all outta jokes as she asks Serena not to kill her. "Pray," Serena commands. "OK. I pray for our children. I pray that my daughters live a life of peace, a life without all of this hate and violence. Give them a life," she says as tears course down Serena's face. "And dear God, may they do better than we did." Serena reponds, "Amen," pulls away... and shoots Ezra in the chest instead.

"Serena, what the f—k are you doing?!" June yells, while Serena trains the gun on her once more and orders her to get in the car. A bewildered June climbs into the driver's seat. Then Serena slides into the back and orders June to drive.

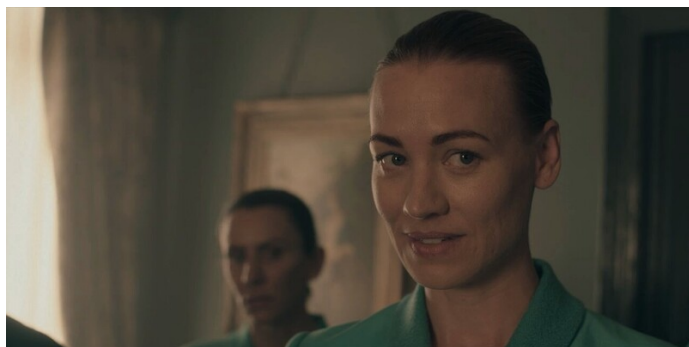
No Man's Land

Season 5

Episode Number: 53

Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Wednesday October 19, 2022
Writer: Rachel Shukert
Director: Natalia Leite
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirra Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello)
Guest Stars: Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam), Nina Kiri (Alma), Bahia Watson (Brianna), Catherine Saindon (OfClarence), Belinda Bijan (Handmaid #1), Kendra Leigh Timmins (Handmaid #2), Luna Szeto (Handmaid #3), Morgan St. Onge (Handmaid #4), Jennifer Villaverde (Nurse), Izad Etemadi (ER Receptionist), Emily Berry (ER Nurse), Neil Whitely (Captain)
Summary: June and Serena find themselves in a desperate situation. June and Serena find themselves in a desperate situation.



We pick up from the previous episode in the car, where June is driving while Serena and the gun hang out in the backseat. June demands to know where they're headed, but then Serena accidentally fires the weapon and a bullet pierces the windshield not far from June's head. "F—k this!" June very understandably yells, putting the vehicle in park and running away.

But she returns after she realizes that Serena, who got behind the wheel, has driven off the road and is now stopped, moaning and apparently... "Are you in f—king labor?!" June cries in disbelief. "Of course you are." While Serena pants her way through a contraction, June assesses the situation. Serena's water has broken. They have no phone. The car is stuck in a ditch. And Serena is vehemently refusing to go to a hospital if they can even get to one, because "they'll find me." So June grits her teeth, helps her in-distress former mistress to her feet and starts walking her to a nearby barn. "Maybe they'll have a manger," she deadpans.

The structure is abandoned and dilapidated, but at least June is there with Serena — a luxury June was not afforded when she went into labor, alone, with Nichole. She talks about how all she could think about at the time was how if anything went wrong, they'd both die, and no one would even know to look for them.

She's obviously considering several paths of action as she watches Serena scream and writhe for a minute, but then June makes a decision and starts to coach the laboring mama. When she tries to check Serena's cervix, however, Serena shoves her away and accuses June of trying to kill her and her baby. And just like that, June's out! She tells Serena to do it alone, and leaves.

Outside, June works to dislodge the car from the rut it's in. While she does, she remembers attending a birth in Gilead not long after she was posted at the Waterfords' home. In the flashback — aw, which features Alma and NuOfglen! — June and Serena exchange eyerolls across the room over all the "Breathe! Breathe! Breathe! Push! Push! Push!" nonsense. But any silliness quickly

ends when Ofclarence, who's having the baby, starts bleeding profusely. The wives quickly exit as doctor's come in to perform a C-section while the handmaids recite a prayer. The baby is delivered alive. Ofclarence dies. June is horrified as she looks into the parlor, where the wives are cooing over the infant as though everything is totally normal and fine. She and Serena exchange a loaded look full of silent accord about how messed up the whole situation is.

In the present, June uses a floor mat and a nearby fencepost to get the car back on the road, then she climbs behind the wheel. But the sight of her hands, which are covered in Serena's blood, gives her pause. She drops a gloriously frustrated F-bomb, then decides to go back to Serena.

"You came back," Serena says dazedly as she sees her former handmaid reenter the birthing barn. I'll say this for June: When she's in, she's in. She gets right down into it with Serena as if they've been attending Lamaze classes together for weeks. Eventually, they're forehead-to-forehead, hands on each other's shoulders, and June catches Serena's son when he's finally out in the world. June cries with what I can only assume are a mix of emotions as she hands the baby over to his mother, who names him Noah.

"Was it worth it?" June asks, attempting to harsh the buzz a few moments later. But that oxytocin is flowing full and free through Serena's system, and she dreamily responds, "Right now I think it was." And then, because it's the messy aftermath of a birth, and at the messy aftermath of a birth you tell the truth, Serena flat-out asks: "June, why didn't you kill me?" She's referring to the protest at the Gilead Information Center, when they ran into each other. "Why Fred, and not me?" June starts crying as she admits, "I didn't want to," then she chuckles at the absurdity of what she's just said.

Then Serena wonders whether Noah will grow up to be like Fred. June hardens a bit here, saying it depends on how he's raised "and on what you tell him is his to take." Serena also loses a bunch of goodwill points when she says that the Wheelers are "controlling me... It's like I'm their handmaid. It's like I'm you."

June swallows that and instead chooses to stick to facts: They have no food or water, Serena has a fever, and it's getting cold. That fever clearly is already making Mrs. Waterford loopy: She suggests that June take Noah "like what you did with Nichole, with your daughter" and leave her behind. She starts rambling about how June is an angel — albeit maybe an avenging one — sent from God, and then she begins to weep as she talks about how maybe it's God's will that Serena carried and delivered Noah, and that's the only role she'll play in his life.

Again, we see June tempted maybe to take the kiddo and run, but when Serena keeps babbling about being a "vessel," she snaps back to reality. June angrily remembers how handmaids were considered vessels and nothing more in Gilead. "We mattered. We were, we are people. We have lives," she says roughly. "And that's why I'm going to save yours, Serena. Because this isn't Gilead, and I am not you." Serena cries that she doesn't deserve to be saved. "It's not for you," June says. "It's for him... You are his mother, and he belongs with you. That is God's will." She makes Serena look at her; both of their eyes are filled with tears. "Do you understand me?"

June eventually gets Serena and Noah to a hospital, where the baby is taken to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and a very nervous Serena is only slightly calmed when June promises to stick around. After making a quick call to Moira, June returns to Serena's bedside to reassure the new mom that everything will be fine. In perhaps one of her most human moments in the entire series, Serena genuinely thanks June, and they clasp hands as June says, "You're welcome."

Very quickly, we learn that Tuello has the USB full of information they'd gone into No Man's Land to get. And there are Canadian immigration officials there who swiftly chain Serena to her hospital bed and announce that she crossed the border illegally, so she's being taken to a detention center. "What about my baby?" she wonders, panicked, and is told that the center has no infant care facilities.

Serena screams and cries "Please don't let them take my baby!," powerless to stop what's happening. In the hallway, Luke whispers "Justice" in a very satisfied voice, and June looks shellshocked as she realizes that her husband put all of this in motion.

Motherland

Season 5

Episode Number: 54

Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Wednesday October 26, 2022
Writer: Yahlin Chang
Director: Natalia Leite
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirra Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello)
Guest Stars: Genevieve Angelson (Gladys Wheeler), Jordana Blake (Hannah Bankole), Jonathan Watton (Matthew Calhoun), Michael Rhoades (Commander Dupar), Mark Samuels (Protester #1), Dean Buchanan (Protester #2), Ari Pollack (Protester #3), Jodi Jahnke (Protester #4), Rebecca Perry (Protester #5), Jeremy Hutton (Commander #1), Nabil Ayoub (Commander #2), Philip Honey (Commander #3), Steven B. Andrews (Commander #4), Malaika Hennie-Hamadi (Maid), Dorothy A. Atabong (Nanny), Simon Sinn (Grocer)
Summary: June receives a tempting offer from a surprise visitor. Serena hits rock bottom and searches for allies.



Near the top of the episode, we get our first look at "New Bethlehem," Commander Lawrence's housing development for people who've escaped Gilead. Or, as the pamphlet likely will say, "A modernized, strategically liberalized island where Gilead refugees can come home with amnesty and the promise of reuniting with long-lost family and friends." Lawrence tells Nick and the other commanders who are touring the site that he wants to project maturity, confidence and "moral fortitude" to the outside world.

What's more, he's planning a trip to Toronto to entice families into moving back.

Speaking of Toronto: We learn that Serena has been phoning June and Rita from the detention center, hoping for some help. They've been screening her calls. And when we cut to Mrs. Waterford, crying as she pumps breastmilk in a corner of the detention center's visitors' room, that assessment seems accurate.

The Wheelers are fostering Noah while Serena is in custody, and Alanis is there to collect the milk and be a judgmental jerk. As Mrs. Wheeler looks at Serena like she's a piece of chewed gum stuck to the bottom of her shoe, she relates that Ezra survived, thanks to the bulletproof vest he was wearing when Serena shot him. Serena tries to play on the younger woman's sympathies, saying "the pressure and the pregnancy" caused her to go a little kooky. Alanis doesn't really care. Instead, she complains about how Noah cries all day and night, and that they're using the cry-it-out method with him to try to get him to hush.

Then Alanis throws shade at Serena by implying that she doesn't have the "mental toughness" necessary for motherhood. "I have overthrown a country. And I have, against all odds, given birth to a very healthy baby. And not once have I lacked for mental toughness," she grits out. They

argue more, but it comes down to one stark truth in the end: "You're in here," Alanis says, "and I'm not."

June and Lawrence meet up during his trip north. He's both incredibly frank about his goals at the start of Gilead and his offer to bring June back into the fold. Gilead won't let Hannah out, but June is more than welcome to become one of New Bethlehen's first residents. "No handmaids, no hangings... where one might visit their grown children running their own houses," he dangles, bringing June to tears as she contemplates a reunion with Hannah. "You're saying I can be with my daughter?" she wonders, and man, Elisabeth Moss' reading on that one is truly heartbreaking. Lawrence also puts it out there that Nick is working with him on this resolution, and he gives June a phone so she can get in touch when she's thought things through.

Back at home, she's certainly considering the offer. Luke... definitely is not. She points out that Lawrence has repeatedly come through for her, and "he has been my friend," while the American government hasn't done much for them. Their conversation ramps up into an argument that isn't helped when Luke, who's understandably frustrated by how much Gilead has blown up his family and changed his wife on a fundamental level, blurts out that she's letting emotion cloud her judgment. "Of course you don't understand what I feel," she shoots back. "Look what you did to Serena and her baby."

Yeowtch. June's statement is interesting on several levels. First, it definitely falls into that category of "Things you think during an argument with your partner but try not to say... but then you say them and the fact that you've clearly been sitting on them for some time is more damning than the things themselves." Second, June is kinda #TeamSerena on this one, which is a change, to say the very least. June doubles down, telling her husband that she didn't ask for him to intervene. "Just let me protect you sometimes, please," he begs. But she doesn't soften. "The thing is, I don't need your protection. I don't need it," she says. "Hannah does."

June goes upstairs and soothes Nichole, who's been roused from sleep because anti-refugee protestors are honking outside the house. June sings The Velvet Underground's "I'll Be Your Mirror," which she used to sing to Hannah. "I want you to know her," she whispers to the little girl. Just outside the room, Luke overhears.

After June wakes up in Nichole's bed the next morning, she comes downstairs to find Tuello there. He's not pleased that the Architect of Gilead is canvassing refugee families in Toronto. "Lawrence's goal is to kill off America, once and for all. You're a get for them," he says, calling June a "domino" who will kick off a catastrophic effect if she chooses to go back. That's when June decides she's had just about enough of people who weren't handmaids telling her what is and isn't good for her re: Gilead. She demands to know what Tuello is doing with the information they got for him in No Man's Land; after trying to hide behind "it's classified," he eventually admits that a military action is in play. But that vague promise isn't enough for June. "Lawrence is offering us Hannah," she says angrily. "You are offering us nothing."

Later, June consults Rita, asking her what she should do. Rita gently says she'd never go back — but she also doesn't have a child on the inside. "If there were a world where my son isn't dead?" she wonders. "I would do anything to see him again. I would travel to the ends of the Earth."

Let's check in with Serena again. Lawrence swings by to tell her that she's being released to Gilead custody, and she'll return to a room at the Wheelers' house. She is not happy about that turn of events, and she's gutted when he reminds her that Alanis and Ryan have legal custody of Noah; basically, the only way she can be with him is to play ball. She refuses to live in the same house as her child's "kidnappers," crying and saying, "I'm not a handmaid." Honey, it if walks like a duck, talks like a duck and has its human rights violated like a ... OK, you get where I was going with this one.

Serena's next visitor is June. It's clear that Mrs. Waterford thinks they've leveled up in their relationship, and she doesn't hesitate to ask her former handmaid for help finding an advocate. "Serena, we're not friends," June says bluntly. In a brief but awesome exchange, June makes it clear that she did not for one moment forgive Serena, and that she helped with the birth because Noah "didn't do anything wrong." Still not completely getting it, Serena brings up their "bond," and June's face basically has a patronizing "Oh, sweetie" written across it. "I turned the other cheek," she explains. "Turns out after all this, I guess I'm a better Christian than you."

As Serena tries to process that truth, she wonders aloud "How do you go and live in a house with a woman who's trying to steal your baby?... How did you ever live with me?" So June tells

her: Basically, the entire time, she was plotting her revenge. And, it kinda paid off? "Look at what happened to Fred, and look at you now," June says. Who knew the detention center would serve up such a satisfying array of just desserts?! Before June leaves, she tells Serena that you can't help your child if you're not with your child. And that seems to cement something in her brain.

So when she next meets with Lawrence, she demands that he stop Gilead from marrying off Hannah. "Gilead's gonna Gilead," he replies glibly, adding that the "arranged marriage" is "not too bad" by the regime's standards. This is too much for June, who yells at him about all of the women raped, tortured and abused "in a world you created, you sick f—k." That hits him hard. Tearily, he says he was just trying to save the world "and it got away from me," and he'd erase everything "just so I wouldn't have Gilead on my conscience."

June implores the commander to do something, and he counters that New Bethlehem is that something, a "nicer autocracy." Still, not long after their meeting, June receives a package with a DVD in it... and it's footage of Hannah walking through a glass passageway at what appears to be a school.

Remember how Luke and June's earlier argument was tough? It was nothing compared to the way they throw down about what to do re: New Bethlehem and the footage they've just received. She yells that he hasn't done anything for seven years, then immediately apologizes. He puts his foot down that he won't bring Nichole back into Gilead, then June counters that she'll go alone. "We're never going to be enough for you, are we?" he says, dejected, and June sobs. "She needs me, and I left her behind," she cries as Luke takes her into his arms. "I abandoned her... I have to go back to her."

In the end, they take the footage to Tuello, who promises to throw every resource into locating Hannah but asks for some time before June makes her final decision. Elsewhere, Lawrence tells Nick he's pretty sure June will move, and he offers Nick a post in the development as his right-hand man. And elsewhere from there, Serena returns to the Wheelers' place, where they make it clear that she's only allowed to nurse Noah, and Alanis will perform "all the duties of motherhood." Even worse, Serena has to agree — out loud! — that she's not fit to be a mother. When Mrs. Waterford is able to hold her kid, he nurses with abandon as she weeps and tells him she missed him so much.

A week later, there's still no news from Tuello... until he calls June to say the words she's been waiting to hear: "We found Hannah." He explains that they know where the school is, they know where she is, and they have a plan. June's joy overflows; she's at a local market and winds up hugging the storekeeper before running home, smiling. She bursts into the house and hugs Moira and Luke as she cries, "They're gonna go get her!" Luke is overcome. Everyone is happy, except for me, who fears that any good thing on this show is going to be infected by Gilead's poison.

In the last shot, we see Hannah at her school, working on some plantings. As the camera pulls back... what's the shape of that planter?

Allegiance

Season 5

Episode Number: 55

Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Wednesday November 02, 2022
Writer: Eric Tuchman
Director: Bradley Whitford
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirra Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello)
Guest Stars: Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam), Jason Butler Harner (Commander MacKenzie), Genevieve Angelson (Alanis Wheeler), Amy Landecker (Mrs. MacKenzie), Lucas Neff (Ryan Wheeler), Carey Cox (Rose Blaine), Jordana Blake (Hannah Bankole), Jonathan Watton (Matthew Calhoun), Dorothy A. Atabong (Nanny), Dash Grundy (Photographer), Jessica Greco (Martha), Catherine McGregor (Aunt Paula), Allison Henry (Plum #1), Miranda Nagy (Plum #2), Olivia Kent (Plum #3), Sunni Park (Plum #4), Alyssa Peddle (Plum #5), Olivia Furman (Plum #6), Vivian Simms (Plum #7), Kianna Nicholas (Plum #8), Briana Templeton (Wannabe Mom #1), Laura Nordin (Wannabe Mom #2), Lovina Yavari (Driver), Vanessa Burns (Mrs. Calhoun), Michael Rhoades (Commander Dupar), Jahnelle Jones (Widow), Mish Tam (American Refugee #1), April Lee (American Refugee #2), Jonathan Ellul (American Refugee #3), Jarrod Clegg (American Refugee #4), Abbas Wahab (American Refugee #5)
Summary: June and Luke prepare for a rescue mission. Serena tries new tactics with her oppressive hosts. Lawrence makes a surprising proposal to elevate his status.



Ahead of the rescue mission, Mark Tuello escorts June and Luke into an airplane hangar and briefs them on what will happen. Hannah is at a school in Colorado Springs, Colo.; that evening, three aircraft will fly into Gilead, literally under the radar, and paratroopers will drop in and recover the girl. "They'll kill anyone who gets in their way," Tuello assures June and Luke, just before he introduces them to the commander leading the mission. June quietly advises him that the girls will be terrified, and he promises her

that he understands: He has a young daughter, a well. "My plan is to bring your daughter home, and go home to mine," he says with confidence. Though families usually aren't allowed to watch the mission's live feed, June demands that Tuello let her and Luke stay in the control room as everything plays out, as a thank-you for providing the intel that made the move possible. He relents.

Just before everything gets put in motion, we get a glimpse of Hannah and her fellow students at Wife School getting ready for bed. When she's sure the Aunt in charge of them isn't looking,

Hannah pulls out a picture book; it looks like she's drawn on the back pages. Surreptitiously, she signs her name in all capital letters — I'm guessing because that's all she learned before she was kidnapped into Gilead, where women are forbidden to read or write.

Unfortunately, that's the last bit of joy for a while. Back at the base, as June and Luke watch, the plane icons on the map suddenly go red and stop transmitting information. Hannah's folks are hustled into the hallway, where a crushed Tuello later finds them to tell them that the girls are safe, albeit still at the school, and the intel was wrong: Gilead anticipated the mission and took down all three planes as soon as they crossed the border, and there were no survivors. June and Luke are gutted.

The next morning June uses the burner to call Commander Lawrence, who apologizes but reasons that the attack was warranted, because "they invaded my country." He once more dangles New Bethlehem but adds that he's going to need her to go public and say that the mission was a "foolish act of aggression" on the United States' part. She angrily refuses. "I cannot make Gilead look like the victim here, Joseph. It is an evil f-king country!" she cries. He says he's trying to fix it from the inside, and that he's doing what he can to honor a promise to his dead wife. And that? Pushes our June right outta her mind.

"Eleanor hated you," she growls into the phone. "She couldn't stand the sight of you." After putting a fine point on how ashamed of Joseph the late Mrs. Lawrence was, June makes sure Joseph is crystal clear about one thing: "I watched her die... and I did nothing. Nothing." He admits that he'd suspected as much, but still — he's crying, his speech is halted. This is affecting him. "But Eleanor would still want me to help you with Hannah," he says. June resorts to crying and begging that he hand Hannah over so she can live with June and Luke in Canada. "It's never gonna happen," he says, so she loudly tells him what he can do with himself, then throws the phone and starts destroying the garden on the side of the house in her fury. Luke comes out and wraps his arms around her, repeating that it's going to be OK, as June brokenly says, "Let me go. Please let me go."

The call cements one fact: "I'm so done with that son of a bitch," June tells Tuello re: Lawrence. He wonders if she's also done with Nick; she's surprised to learn that he turned down immunity in exchange for being the U.S.'s inside man in Gilead. But the offer's still on the table, so if June wants to "put your power to use," Tuello says, that would be a good way to do it. She thinks for a minute, then asks him to set up a meeting with Nichole's dad.

You know how all of Nick and June's rendezvous are bittersweet? Well this one, which takes place in the middle of nowhere, is extra like that. He says he wishes she'd agreed to move to New Bethlehem. She is brought up short by the news that Rose is pregnant. "Gilead is changing. There's progress under Lawrence. We're making it better," he says. "'We?'" she replies, incredulous. They realize it's going to be even harder to see each other from now on, they exchange "I love you"s, and then he leaves without kissing her. "Hey Nick?" she says as he turns to go. "Children look to their fathers, you know? Set an example." After he leaves, she exhales and cries a little.

Back in Gilead, while some wives gather for what I think is Rose's baby shower, the men congregate in the study. They congratulate each other for China, Russia and North Korea's affinity for Gilead and its tactics, then Commander MacKenzie brings up June and notes that it's time to "fix that problem"... which will become important later.

Oh, and when Lawrence puts his hand on Naomi's shoulder at the end? He's not being what passes for brazen in Gilead: They're engaged! As we see earlier in the hour, Aunt Lydia oversees a proposal for the two crazy kids — and even though Lawrence literally had her former husband killed in front of her, Naomi fears getting sent to the Colonies so much that she agrees — though does she really have a choice? — to become the new Mrs. Joseph Lawrence. For what it's worth, neither party seems psyched about it.

Back in Canada, Tuello reads the names of the dead at a vigil for the victims of the failed mission. But it's hard to hear him over the anti-refugee protesters who have ringed the gathering. The mission commander's little daughter comes forward to recite the Pledge of Allegiance; when she falters, June steps up to help. They're almost at the end of the oath when someone shoots at them. We watch in slow motion as June dives on top of the girl to shield her, bullets ripping into the flag that's hanging behind them.

Meanwhile, at the Wheelers' home, Agnes oversees a photo shoot of Serena and Noah but shuts down the new mother's request to attend the opening of the fertility center with the baby in tow. When Serena asserts that Gilead's commanders sent her to Toronto as an ambassador for

the fledgling country, Alanis snaps that she and her husband don't answer to the commanders. Interesting — and chilling — to think of the rogue-faction potential, no?

Mrs. Wheeler is really reveling in her power as she demands that Serena pump instead of nursing Noah when it's time for him to eat, then she refers to the baby as "my smart boy." You can almost see the thought process as Serena nearly punches her, then remembers what June said about plotting her revenge, then acquiesces. And that night, she approaches Ryan Wheeler in his study to pitch her attendance at the center's opening, a move that works.

The next morning, though, Alanis is so livid that she slaps Serena twice in front of their horrified nanny. "Stay away from my husband," the younger woman threatens. "Who do you think you are?" Serena is done playing nice. "I am Mrs. Frederick Waterford," she says, quietly but scarily. "To me," Alanis counters, "you are just a whore." Then they all get in the car for I'm sure is a super-fun ride.

Serena, with Noah in her arms, holds court at the center until the Wheelers decide that's enough and it's time for her to go home. She's disappointed but asks to nurse her son first, and because there's no bottle in the baby bag, they grudgingly agree. So the nanny — who you're probably realizing is the true hero of this interlude — brings Serena to a side room, hands over the bag and gives the mama some privacy... to scoot out the exit door. She literally jumps into traffic, stopping a woman and asking her to "Please help me save my son." The driver agrees, and they're off!

Safe

Season 5

Episode Number: 56

Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Wednesday November 09, 2022
Writer: Bruce Miller
Director: Elisabeth Moss
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Max Minghella (Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirra Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello)
Guest Stars: Ever Carradine (Naomi Putnam), Jason Butler Harner (Commander MacKenzie), Carey Cox (Rose Blaine), Edie Inksetter (Aunt Elizabeth), Jonathan Watton (Matthew Calhoun), Ed Pinker (Military Assistant), Robyn Matuto (Handmaid #1), Keara Graves (Handmaid #2), Shannon Leibinger (Handmaid #3), Emily Shelton (Dr. Lo), Shirley Katz (ER Nurse), Chris Anton (Paramedic), Edwige Jean-Pierre (TPD Officer), Jessica Greco (Martha), Angela Vint (Leah), Vanessa Burns (Mrs. Calhoun), Michael Rhoades (Commander Dupar), Beth Hornby (Martha in Eye Van), Owen Ross (Refugee Kid #1), Willow Astbury (Refugee Kid #2), Jackie English (Canadian Guard)
Summary: Under threat, June must find a way to keep herself and her family safe from Gilead and its violent supporters in Toronto.



Since June nearly got swiss-cheesed by bullets at the end of the previous episode, I'm on high alert at the start of this one. So when a package is dropped off on her stoop, I fully expect it to explode as she picks it up. The box contains a bullet-proof vest, which she tries on in the bedroom; we learn that she's scheduled to lead a prayer at another memorial service that weekend, and she's taking the necessary precautions. "I hate this world," Luke says as he watches her in the vest. "I love you, though." She returns the thought and then, after he leaves the room, sits in the window seat and contemplates how deeply effed everything is.

Around the same time, Nick gets a private moment and tells Commander Lawrence about the shooting. Of course, the older man already knows, and he parrots some line about anti-refugee sentiment, quipping, "I can understand. Americans are particularly grating." Nick is in no mood for levity, and he gravely points out that June was present at the shooting. "The Eyes do see," Lawrence says in response.

"She's not a target," Nick says gravely, repeating it after Lawrence points out that June could be. He adds that Gilead's current policy doesn't target anyone outside of the country, but he reminds Nick: "She had a choice, Commander. She had a thousand choices." When Nick counters that June is just fighting for her daughter, Lawrence is unmoved. "This is what happens in a fight," Joseph says. "Everyone gets bloody."

Back at the house, June gets exactly one moment of peace with her morning coffee before there's a knock at the door: It's Mark Tuello, who brings news that the gunman, a 56-year-old

bakery worker, was apprehended that morning. "He's an angry man with a gun" but no clear ties to Gilead, Tuello adds. Then June accompanies him outside to walk him to his car.

Tuello has been to 19 funerals in five days, and you can see every one of them in his face. June is sympathetic. "I know what it's like, you know? To be responsible for people and lose them."

As Tuello gets in his car and drives off, June takes a look around neighborhood. Nothing seems amiss, except we get the feeling that she's a little uneasy. Understandable, no? Given the events of the preceding days/weeks/months/years? When she turns to walk back to the house, a truck that's parked down the road starts its engine. The vehicle is blasting The Beach Boys' "Kokomo." She's suspicious of it — the car, not the song, though John Stamos on conga drums does deserve a raised eyebrow. We soon see that June's wariness is on point: As she turns and starts to hustle back to the house, the truck speeds up and runs her down from behind.

It gets so much worse. As June lies on the pavement, the driver backs up and runs over her again, crushing her forearm. We get a tight shot of her face, eyes wide with shock immediately after. She grips her arm and rolls over, dazed. The driver seems intent on killing her, so he puts the truck in reverse and comes at her hard. Just before he hits her, though, the vehicle suddenly stops. You probably won't be surprised to learn that there's a Gilead flag sticker affixed to the bumper.

Luke is screaming at the driver and drags the guy out of the truck. The driver has a gun. They fight — we see it from June's perspective on the ground, which means we don't see everything — but eventually Luke wrests the weapon from the driver and knocks the would-be killer down, hard. He gets June to the hospital but quickly gets pulled away by the police, who want to question him in the man's beating.

While Luke is at the police station and the driver is in the Intensive Care Unit, Nick arrives at the hospital on a Tuello-aided, clandestine visit. He sits by her bedside looking very troubled, then kisses her on the forehead before he leaves. She stirs but doesn't wake, and Nick tells Tuello, "It's probably better if she doesn't know I was here."

Turns out, seeing June was Nick's condition for signing the deal Tuello floated earlier in the season: He's now America's inside man in Gilead. "I'll keep my end of the deal. You just keep her safe," Nick warns, standing with Tuello on the bridge at the border, and he's not reassured when the American repeatedly says he'll do his best. So Mark points out that Nick could've run away with June when he was a driver/Eye. "She has people who care for her. She doesn't need me. I'm nothing," Nick scoffs. "No you're not, Commander. Not to her," Tuello says. Aw, guys! When Nick turns to return to Gilead, Tuello bids him go in grace.

Back at home, June's arm is in a sling, and she's uneasy that they now have a gun in the house. Luke points out that the police hate refugees, and they've got to protect themselves. "This is not going to be like Boston," he vows. "I'm not going to let anyone hurt you. Promise."

That night, Rita gets a heads-up from a friend who works at the police department: The driver died, which is very bad news for Luke. "You killed a Canadian on Canadian soil," Moira tells him. "There's a whole bunch of people who are not going to wait for an investigation. They're just going to want you dead." Rita adds that the cops are likely going to arrest Luke. He rails about how he was just protecting his wife — which is true — but the louder he gets, the calmer June gets. Finally, she speaks: "Luke, we have to run."

Her reasoning: Last time they waited too long, and they lost Hannah and got captured and separated. And Canada is changing in very troubling ways. "Canada is not Gilead," he counters. "America was not Gilead, until it was, and then it was too f—king late," she points out. "We have to go. We have to run. Now." And then it's decided: They pack up, grab Nichole and plan to fly to Anchorage and then Hawaii.

Tuello pulls up to their driveway just before the family leaves, and he's got some bad news: They'll be flagged at the airport, which makes leaving Canada a whole lot harder. "We're not safe here anymore," June says, and it's heartbreaking when Tuello — always a level head — agrees with her. He says the United States is putting new refugees on trains going west, and "I can get you on one."

While Luke and June weigh their options, let's see what's going on in Gilead. Janine is relatively happy at the Red Center, which of course is anathema to the country's way of doing things, so another aunt not-so-subtly suggests that Lydia get her favorite handmaid assigned to a new commander "or they'll find another use for her." So Aunt Lydia lobbies Naomi Putnam, soon

to be Naomi Lawrence, to take her former handmaid into her new home. "That's insane!" the bride-to-be says, but as Aunt Lydia lays it on thick about how Naomi will be seen as a model of forgiveness and grace, she starts to consider it. Similarly, Janine is not excited about the idea, but Aunt Lydia points out that the assignment would let her see a lot of her daughter Angela.

On the morning of the wedding, Janine accompanies Lydia to Lawrence's house. She's crestfallen to learn that Angela is with her grandparents for the summer, so her first months of living with Commander and Mrs. Lawrence will be a "trial period." And when the girl returns, Naomi makes sure to say in cruel, crystal-clear terms, "Angela is my daughter" and to suggest anything else is "heresy."

Lydia is clearly relieved when the mercurial Janine endures all of that without losing her mind. And Naomi is pleased, asking Janine to be in some of the household wedding photos. But then a martha sidles up to Janine and privately relays the news that June was hit. "They want to kill her in Toronto... They never let anyone get away, f—kers," the woman whispers.

Not long after, it's almost like you can see Janine handmaid-Hulking out when Naomi tells her, "It'll be nice to have a friendly face in the house, Ofjoseph." Janine's hands curl into fists. "That's not my name," she grits out., "We're not friends." I don't know what's more delicious: the stricken look on Naomi's face, or how Janine finishes by saying, "I hate you, Naomi. How can you not know that?" and then climbing upstairs, smiling like the badass she is. '

Of course, badassery is not a virtue in Gilead, and Aunt Lydia knows the future is not bright for her mentee. She begs Janine to ask for Naomi's forgiveness, but Janine won't budge. And then the Eyes show up and haul her away, a move about which Aunt Lydia had no prior knowledge (and which Commander Lawrence ordered). "Don't worry about me, I'm fine," Janine insists as she's cuffed, muzzled and thrown into the back of a van. Lydia protests loudly and is pushed to the ground, sitting there in shock as the transport takes off.

Inside the vehicle, a martha is sobbing. Janine takes her hand and serenely comforts her without saying anything. Outside, Lydia stands and — oh boy, it looks like *The Testaments* just might have officially begun (in Aunt Lydia's head and heart, anyway).

Meanwhile, back at the Lawrences' wedding reception, Nick causes a stir when he stalks in and punches the groom. "You could've killed her," he repeats as Joseph says it wasn't his decision. Hannah's dad-mander Mackenzie watches the whole interaction very closely, which likely is part of the reason that the next time we see Nick, he's in a cell.

His wife, Rose, enters, and he immediately apologizes. "Why did you ever pretend that you loved me?" she wonders, angry. He maintains that he does, but she's not hearing it. "You will never let go of her, will you?" she asks. "I tried. I really tried. But I can't," he says, honest and broken. Rose is horrified and says that she doesn't want to be with him anymore; he reminds her that women's lib went the way of the dinosaur about six years ago. "We had a good thing, and you had to go and ruin it," she adds before she leaves. Then he folds his arms on the table, puts his head down and likely contemplates his seriously not-good prospects.

Back to Toronto! The new plan is to get on a refugee train to Vancouver, then a boat to Alaska or Hawaii or somewhere. Tuello advises Luke and June to toss their official refugee documentation, then hands them new cards. In her final moments with Tuello, June asks him to get a message to Nick that she and Nichole are safe; he says he will. Then she thanks him, and she, Luke and Nichole join a massive crowd of people waiting for the trains.

As they shuffle through the station, Luke realizes that it's a good idea to split up: That way, if he's recognized, it won't affect June and Nichole's ability to get aboard. "I'll be right behind you," he promises, but June is very uneasy with this idea. She and Nichole pass the checkpoint with no problem, but before she can climb onto the train, she hears authorities asking people if they've seen Luke Bankole — his luck has run out.

From where he's standing across the platform, Luke calls June and tells her to go ahead without him. Of course, she refuses. He calmly points out that the train won't leave until the officials have him in custody, so she's got to go. "You know you and Nichole are not safe if I'm with you," he adds. "I don't want to do this alone anymore," she cries, but he's firm that she needs to move forward without him. She realizes he was never going to get on the train, because he knew what a liability he'd be. "Luke, come find me. Come find me. I love you," she says into her cell. "I love you, June Osborne," he says before hanging up. Then he puts his hand in the air and makes a spectacle, and he's immediately handcuffed by law enforcement officials. He watches as June gets on the train and it pulls away.

On board, June takes a moment to cover her mouth with her hand and cry. Eventually, she pulls herself together enough to make her way through the car with Nichole, looking for a seat. June is kind of mindlessly babbling to Nichole about how they're going on an adventure to a "beautiful island," and then they hear the cries of another baby on the train.

June reaches the end of the car and realizes that the cries she's heard are coming from Noah, who is on the train with his mama, Serena Joy herself. I love the wholly banal way the women greet each other ("Hi June," "Hi Serena") — because of course they're up a creek together — as well as the episode's final line, courtesy of Mrs. Waterford: "You got a diaper?"

Season Six

Train

Season 6

Episode Number: 57

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Tuesday April 08, 2025
Writer: Bruce Miller, Nika Castillo
Director: Elisabeth Moss
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Max Minghella (Commander Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirira Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putman), Josh Charles (Commander Gabriel Wharton)
Guest Stars: Carey Cox (Rose Blaine), Cherry Jones (Holly Maddox), Rong Fu (Amy), Jennifer Gibson (Beatrice), Bridget Ogundipe (Lauren), Daniela Pagliarello (Linda (Aid Worker)), Darrin Baker (Dr. Brandt), Adam Fawns (Train Officer), Annelise Hawrylak (Female Refugee #4), Sebastian Gonzalez (Railroad Worker), Suzanne Miller (Female Refugee #5), Anita Olanick (Female Refugee #1), Fanny Poon (Female Refugee #2), Emi Yasuo (Female Refugee #3), Jose de Freitas (Refugee Man)
Summary: June and Serena's journey takes an unexpected turn. Moira makes a bold decision. Nick deals with a powerful visitor.



When June, Serena, and their babies find each other on a westbound refugee train out of Toronto. They have apparently gotten over the initial shock of seeing each other, and have settled into awkwardly catching up. June, still sporting a broken arm and bruised face following the attack on her life last season, fills her frenemy in on Gilead's failed attempt to take her out by running her down with a truck. Serena jokes that they're both unpopular with the totalitarian state, but June's defensive and quick to remind her that they

are not the same.

The former handmaid snaps again when she wakes to find baby Nichole missing, and discovers Serena took her to the dining car with baby Noah. "Just keep your f—ing hands off my kid," she growls, after Serena says she was just trying to help. But June definitely does need help, as she nearly passes out when attempting to part ways with Serena.

Serena returns with a doctor, who quickly diagnoses June with an infection. She reluctantly hands Nichole over to Serena, so the doc can take a closer look. While June's treated, we're taken to New Bethlehem, Gilead's new, reformed community where refugees are welcomed back with open arms. Nick has just been released following his assault on Commander Lawrence for targeting June.

Still upset over his inability to put June in the rearview, Nick's pregnant, assigned wife Rose isn't especially happy to see him home. Her father, however, greets him with a big smile and a "Blessed day!" Rose's dad High Commander Wharton.

Wharton is up from D.C. to check on his daughter, tour New Bethlehem, and give Nick lots of advice, whether he wants it or not. He seems to like the young commander, talking positively of

Nick's future, but he's also patronizing. And, like most commanders, it seems he might be hiding a dark secret or two.

Back on the train, June's feeling better, and has even reached Moira by satellite phone. But the news in Toronto isn't good. Luke has been arrested, and the destination of June's train is unknown due to stations being overcrowded with refugees. Serena tries to comfort June, telling her Luke will be reunited with her and Nichole soon. But June reminds her that Hannah is still being held prisoner — and being prepped to become a wife — back in Gilead.

We catch up with Moira directly at Mark Tuello's office, where she's badgering the U.S. agent to get Luke out of custody. But Tuello can't do much, as the tiny American embassy he runs out of Canada is losing support and may close soon. Gilead's control is spreading across the U.S. map, and Canada's beginning to normalize relations with it. With America's military nearly depleted, Mark tells Moira that rebel group Mayday is pretty much the country's last hope. Moira insists on joining the cause.

We return to the rail, where Serena listens uncomfortably as refugees share their Gilead horror stories. June is recounting her tale of the day she and Hannah were captured when the doctor returns. He pulls June aside to tell her Serena is a war criminal, and that an officer is coming to arrest her. He then shares this sensitive info with the entire car — by intentionally addressing her as "Mrs. Waterford" — prompting the other women to quickly turn on Serena.

As tensions threaten to turn to violence in the crowded train car, the officer arrives. But it seems he's no fan of Serena's either. His family was also lost to Gilead, so rather than arresting her, he leaves her for the increasingly angry mob. Serena does herself no favors when she becomes a bit self-righteous, preaching to her would-be attackers that they lost their country because they turned their backs on God.

Meanwhile, June's caught in the awkward middle, both trying to reel in Serena and keep the mob at bay. As Serena cowers on the floor, clutching Noah to her chest, the other women begin to tear at her clothes. With things about to get bloody, June pulls the locomotive's emergency break, bringing it to a screeching halt.

The distraction allows them to escape, but not for long. As they're relentlessly pursued by the attackers, June tells Serena she must leap from the stopped vehicle. She refuses to jump. Just as the mob's about to reach them, June pushes her and Noah from the train as it begins to pull away.

After being shunned by the other passengers, June sits on the floor with Nichole as the train hits the end of the line. It has stopped in Alaska, where June's soon taken to a refugee camp. An American flag, with just two stars remaining, flies above the settlement. A female medical volunteer approaches to help with the new group of arrivals. The woman is checking names on a clipboard when she suddenly drops it, and begins yelling — "June, June Osborne!" then, "sweetheart!" It's June's mom, Holly, previously only seen in flashbacks.

In utter disbelief, June responds by getting out of line and following the voice calling her name. She turns toward Holly and sees her face. Still in shock, she slowly walks right into her mother's arms. The episode closes on them enjoying a long, tearful, joyful embrace.

Exile

Season 6

Episode Number: 58

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired:	Tuesday April 08, 2025
Writer:	J. Holtham
Director:	Elisabeth Moss
Show Stars:	Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Max Minghella (Commander Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirra Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putman), Josh Charles (Commander Gabriel Wharton)
Guest Stars:	Cherry Jones (Holly Maddox), Naomi Snieckus (Abigail), Greg Ellwand (William), Stevey Hunter (Mayday Rebel #3), Jaemoon Lee (Ken), Paulyne Wei (Patti), Liz Der (Canaan Woman #5), Nelia Amaro (Canaan Woman #1), Nat Patricia Manuel (Mayday Rebel #2), Maria Halimi (Canaan Woman #2), Ruth Acheampong (Canaan Woman #3), Cydney Rusch (Canaan Woman #4), Letréal Farquharson (Mayday Rebel #1)
Summary:	June tries to settle in a new community. Serena seeks a sanctuary. Luke and Moira take a big risk.



Following the previous episode's throw-Serena-from-the-train cliffhanger, the second chapter finds the ex-Mrs. Waterford safe and sound with baby Noah. She walks out of the Canadian wilderness to immediately discover a church. This leads to her meeting a kind woman who drives her to a refugee settlement. A faith-based community that only houses women and children, the camp welcomes Serena.

June's safe as well, reunited with her mom in Alaska. The two do some catching

up, and we learn Holly, who June assumed was dead, was rescued from the colonies by the military. She offers to remove the red ear-tag that identifies June as a handmaid. But June declines, insisting on keeping the brand until all handmaids are liberated.

Back in Toronto, Mark is able to get Luke released from custody. But with his hearing months away, Luke's frustrated there's nothing he can do to help his family. Mark and Moira fill him in on Mayday's next move — the rebel group is working to identify and execute the most extreme Gilead commanders, including those that ordered the planes sent to rescue Hannah, shot down. Luke wants in, he wants to help Mayday.

Nick meets with Lawrence at the commander's New Bethlehem home. The latter insists he had nothing to do with the attempt on June's life in Toronto, but Nick's just there to tell him that his father-in-law, High Commander Wharton, is on his way over.

When Wharton arrives, he commends Lawrence on the early success of New Bethlehem, but he's also skeptical of this kinder, gentler Gilead. He also strongly suggests that he consider bringing Serena back to welcome returning refugees and serve as the friendly face of the reformed country. Lawrence likes the idea, and sends Nick to find Serena.

In Toronto, Moira and Luke are talking to Rita, who fears being kicked out of her home because of Canada's growing intolerance toward refugees. She's considering going back to Gilead to find her sister, who's still trapped there. As Moira's warning her not to go back, June calls. She's happy Luke's been released, and fills her husband in on her recent adventures with meeting Serena on the train, and finding her mom in Alaska. Luke notably does not share his intentions to join Mayday.

Next, we check in on one of Mark and Nick's clandestine meetings. The agent tells the commander June and Nichole are safe in Alaska. In exchange for the update, he asks Nick to secure him patrol route details for No Man's Land. Mayday has a mission in the lawless, unoccupied territory between Canada and Gilead, and it needs this intel. Tuello then gives his spy a burner phone so he can reach him when needed.

And with that, the series skips ahead two months. June's enjoying a safe and peaceful life in Alaska with her mom and baby Nichole, while Serena and Noah are similarly thriving at the Canadian settlement that took them in. While Serena works in the community's garden, we get a brief flashback to her before times. A younger Serena is visiting her dad, who references the "dark times" the world is facing. He also looks forward to meeting her new boyfriend, "Fred."

In New Bethlehem, Nick is having a fireside drink with Wharton, who continues to recognize his son-in-law's promise and potential while still patronizing him. He essentially tells Nick he needs to be his own man, less influenced by the likes of Commander Lawrence. When Wharton leaves, Nick removes the chip from the phone Mark gave him and tosses it in the fire.

June and Serena's new lives are soon shaken up by significant developments. In Alaska, June is beginning to worry about Luke, as she can't reach him by phone. She ultimately connects with Mark, who tells her Luke and Moira have joined Mayday, and are trapped in No Man's Land. Nick not only trashed his phone, but he apparently never came through with those patrol route details Mark requested.

Meanwhile, Serena receives a visit in Canada from Commander Lawrence, who's not only located her, but wants her to come home to New Bethlehem. He assures her that things are different — women are not only allowed to read, write, and conduct business, but they can live there without being married. He wants Serena to be the face of this progress and reform. He also makes her decision a bit easier by warning her it's only a matter of time before the Wheelers catch up with her.

At an awkward dinner gathering, where the Lawrences break bread with Serena's new refugee friends, she announces she's leaving to return to New Bethlehem. She believes God has a plan for her to heal the world. Another flashback with her father reveals she had similar visions of helping create a "New Garden of Eden," which, of course, became Gilead. But she's now determined to follow God's path, while also making up for her past mistakes.

June has big plans, too. Following the call with Mark, she decides she must return to Canada to help Luke and Moira. An embassy plane will fly her back, where she'll meet with Mayday to help rescue her husband and best friend. This doesn't sit well with Holly, who feels like she's just gotten her daughter back. After some fierce arguing and soul-searching, the two make up. June agrees to let her mom help by taking care of Nichole — who she reveals is actually named "Holly" after her — while she's off helping the rebels.

Before the credits roll, we get a sharp contrast between the two women's return journeys. Serena boards Lawrence's plush, private plane before arriving in the coastal, postcard-perfect New Bethlehem. At the same time, June rides in the back of a beat-up military truck before arriving at an equally beat-up Mayday safehouse.

Before the screen goes black, June turns to the rebels — and the camera — and introduces herself: "My name is June. Let's bring them home."

Devotion

Season 6

Episode Number: 59

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired:	Tuesday April 08, 2025
Writer:	John Herrera, Nina Fiore
Director:	David Lester
Show Stars:	Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Max Minghella (Commander Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirira Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putman), Josh Charles (Commander Gabriel Wharton)
Guest Stars:	Carey Cox (Rose Blaine), Camille James (Louise), Peter Deiwick (Herr Strauss), Puja Uppal (Female Delegate), Karen Espana (Diplomat #1 (Mexico Rep)), Naomi Wright (Aunt Miriam), Patricia Vanstone (Helen), Wes Berger (Patrol Guardian #1), Janet Monid (Diplomat #3 (Australian Rep)), Nathan Carroll (Diplomat #2 (UK Rep)), Shakila Fernando (Jezebel), Kyle Jonathon (Toby / Patrol Guardian #2)
Summary:	June struggles to save her loved ones. Commander Lawrence welcomes diplomats to New Bethlehem. Aunt Lydia searches for Janine.



June wastes no time getting to work upon returning to Canada. While the episode opens on happier times — a flashback to Hannah's baptism — the feel-good moment is cut short by Mark: "June, we need to go." Tuello quickly brings her up to speed on the situation. Luke and Moira's mission was simple — pick up a bag containing the identities of the extremist commanders Mayday wants to take out. But they've been trapped in No Man's Land for four days, and Nick isn't responding.

Nick is, however, quite busy back in New Bethlehem. He's preparing to host foreign dignitaries and, according to Lawrence's orders, convince them that Gilead is now as safe as Disneyland. When the German diplomat arrives, he pulls Nick aside to deliver a secret message: "June Osborne is at mile marker 17."

While Nick has no problem ignoring Mark's calls, he'll never say no to June. He meets her in the woods, at the mile marker, where she lays out Luke and Moira's dilemma in No Man's Land. But security has been beefed up due to the visiting diplomats, so Nick can't call off the security patrol. He decides he'll need to go in himself and rescue them. June insists on joining him.

While Lawrence nervously awaits his visitors, he checks in with Serena. He's excited for her to charm their new foreign friends, and sell them on the reformed Gilead. But while Serena feels she's doing God's work, she questions Lawrence's faith. When he tries to pass a quote from Broadway's "Book of Mormon" as prayer, Serena realizes she's right. But regardless of what's driving him — a guilty conscience, his dead wife — Lawrence assures her they can rebuild the country they broke.

We finally reunite with Aunt Lydia. The supposedly reformed baddie has been summoned to a Jezabel's, one of Gilead's underground brothels where punished handmaids are forced to work.

To her shock, she finds her "special girl" Janine has been sent there after her last stay with the Putnam's went south.

Upon further investigation, she realizes three more of her former handmaids are also being abused as sex workers. She's horrified and wants to help get them out. But Janine — who goes by Kitty at the brothel — tells her the best thing she can do is leave and forget about her. She's had enough of Lydia's "help" for a lifetime. But Lydia, who was led to believe her girls would be rewarded for bringing children into the world, is left speechless.

Back in New Bethlehem, Lawrence and Serena are giving the dignitaries — including Canada's female diplomat — a tour of the pastel-colored, Stepford Wives-like town. While he talks up the "safe and peaceful" community, Wharton approaches Serena. Under the guise of checking on her wellbeing, the commander uncomfortably — and creepily — complements her looks.

When we check back in with June and Nick, they're deep into No Man's Land. More specifically, they're skulking around an abandoned water park that's heavily patrolled by Gilead's goons. Between narrow escapes, he reveals that he agreed to spy for the U.S. so he could help keep her safe.

But he's also frustrated that he's risking everything to help save her husband, the man she chose over him. She says she still loves him, while he concedes he could never quit her even if he can't have her. It's quite the complicated love triangle in these dystopian times.

The perspective changes to the water park's gift shop, where Luke and Moira are safe — for now — but going a bit stir crazy. It's been four days and they're nearly out of rations. They've acquired the intel they came for, but have no way out. It seems they're about to be caught when someone breaches the gift shop. After a tense moment of waiting for the other shoe to drop, however, it's revealed to be Nick and June.

After an expectedly awkward exchange between Nick and Luke — and Nick and Moira, who's meeting him for the first time — the four sneak outside and make for the park's exit. But when they arrive at Nick's car, a guardian patrol pulls up. Nick sends the Mayday crew ahead, and goes to smooth things out with the suspicious soldiers. He tells them the situation is under his control and they needn't worry about it. But the guardians, while respectful of Nick's commander status, insist on recording the incident. He shoots them both dead.

A return to sunny New Bethlehem reveals Lawrence's tour is going splendidly, even if he and Wharton are wondering about Nick's whereabouts. At the tour's conclusion, however, the commander is forced to field a few difficult questions from some of the female ambassadors. They still don't trust Gilead after all the murder and mutilation — how can they, in good conscience, return refugees to this place?

But Serena saves him. She steps in, vouches for Lawrence's claims of progression and reformation, and soon has the foreign visitors eating out of her palm. They seem moved by her personal struggles and promises to atone for her own mistakes that led to the formation of the old Gilead.

They're even more impressed by the totalitarian government's rising birth rates, which are far ahead of any other country's. She punctuates this stat by trotting out Noah, who the diplomats immediately begin fawning over. Lawrence concludes the tour with a rousing, "All the good of Gilead. None of the bad. This is the promise of New Bethlehem." The Canadian dignitary, who's cradling Noah, agrees to consider sending her country's refugees back. While the ambassadors continue to gush over Noah — and Rose's pregnant belly — Wharton complements Serena on her sales skills.

He plays a slightly different tune later in the day, however. Lawrence is celebrating the successful day and already talking about expanding New Bethlehem, but Wharton pumps the brakes, claiming the country may not be ready for that. Serena and Naomi fully support Lawrence's expansion suggestion, but Wharton only agrees to keep the conversation going. He also asks about Nick's whereabouts, but Lawrence is quick to cover for the missing commander.

Lawrence arrives home ready to continue the celebration, but he has a visitor waiting for him. Aunt Lydia is upset and demanding answers about her handmaids being sent to work in a "den of depravity." Lawrence blows her off, believing they should be thankful they're not working the colonies. Lydia begs Naomi to take Janine back in, but that's a big no from the commander's wife.

Lydia, who — based on her trembling lips — seems to be in poor health, continues to plead with Lawrence. She gets angry when he refers to her girls as "stained" ex-handmaids. She can't

understand why they're not being rewarded for performing a "sacred service" for their country, but are rather being punished. Lawrence continues to brush her off, but does share that Serena has returned to New Bethlehem. This seems to ignite a spark in the defeated Lydia.

Before the episode ends, we discover Nick was able to get June, Luke, and Moira out of No Man's Land safely. He drops them off to Mark, who scolds the commander for going dark on him. He threatens to reveal his betrayal if he doesn't cooperate in the future. But Nick says he's doing his best, and that he wouldn't be any good to Mark if he was dead.

The Mayday crew then exchange goodbyes with Nick, who even gets a bro hug from Luke. Of course, Nick and June have the longest goodbye. He tells her to make a good life for herself, but she's not hearing it — she knows this isn't the last time they'll see each other.

Instead, she insists on a "See ya later." Nick complies, then watches her walk away. As she approaches Tuello's car, she turns to look at him one more time, not knowing for sure when — or if — Gilead will bring them together again.

Promotion

Season 6

Episode Number: 60

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired:	Tuesday April 15, 2025
Writer:	Jacey Heldrich
Director:	Natalia Leite
Show Stars:	Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Max Minghella (Commander Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirra Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putman), Josh Charles (Commander Gabriel Wharton)
Guest Stars:	Jonathan Watton (Commander Matthew Calhoun), Athena Karkanis (Ellen), Timothy Simons (Commander Bell), Linette Doherty (Gina), Tim Campbell (Commander Reynolds), Kwaku Adu-Poku (Ralph (Mayday Planner)), Avaah Blackwell (Penthouse Jezebel #1), Matthew Worku (Charlie), Laila Kharouba (Penthouse Jezebel #3), Charlotte Cattell (Susan (Mayday Planner)), Emmerly Tinglin (Penthouse Jezebel #4), Tyra Chichester (Penthouse Jezebel #2)
Summary:	June disrupts the rebels' plans. Commander Lawrence gains power and influence.



The episode opens with Luke confidently talking about "blast radiuses" and "maximum impacts." The rebellion is ramping up, and Luke's leading the charge on an imminent attack on the theocratic republic.

But June has other plans for her husband. Agent Tuello has managed to have Luke's case dismissed, so they are free to go back to Alaska, where June's mom and baby Nichole eagerly await their safe return.

Meanwhile, in New Bethlehem, Commander Lawrence nervously grooms himself in front of a mirror. Naomi tries to comfort him, even going in for a kiss, but Lawrence only married the former Mrs. Putnam to keep up appearances — the widower's heart still belongs to his true love, Eleanor.

We soon learn that Lawrence was getting ready for a big day — his official swearing in as a High Commander. At the cult-like ceremony, he's surrounded by other commanders — including Nick — while High Commander Wharton prays over him with a big sword.

Following the ritual, a frat boy-ish commander passes out gold watches and invites/pressures his buddies to join him at Jezebel's for a proper celebration. Wharton and Nick politely pass, but Lawrence — as the man of the hour — has no choice but to head to the brothel.

In less creepy parts of New Bethlehem, Rita has arrived by refugee bus to a reunion gathering. The former Martha is awkwardly welcomed by her former commander's wife, Serena, who's arranged the special day. Serena asks Rita if she'll consider resettling in the reformed community, but the latter spots her sister — who's still stuck in Gilead — before she can answer. The siblings enjoy a long, emotional embrace as Serena looks on.

Back at Mayday HQ, Luke tells June he's staying behind to help carry out his plans and personally deliver the bombs. To June's dismay, her best friend is also determined to stay back and fight. As a former Jezebel, Moira volunteers to return to the brothel to do a practice run on a planned commander-killing mission. The upcoming operation becomes even more crucial when Moira and June learn their old friend Janine has been sent to Jezebel's.

Speaking of the Putnams' former handmaid, she's currently being humiliated and abused by the same unsavory commander that encouraged Lawrence to "enjoy the fruits of his labors." Lawrence is clearly uncomfortable at his own celebration, so when he's offered to have his way with Janine, he takes the opportunity to leave the room with her. As he escorts her from the party, the other commanders cheer him on.

In the bedroom, Lawrence tells Janine he just wants to talk. She is furious at him for where she's ended up — after being kicked out of his home by Naomi — but he assures her he did what he could to help her. If she hadn't ended up at Jezebel's, she would have likely been sent to the colonies or hung on the wall.

Lawrence also shares with Janine a drawing that her young daughter Angela gave him.

The gift from her little girl — who still resides with him and Naomi — puts a bittersweet smile on Janine's face. She's concerned for Angela's safety, especially as she gets older, but Lawrence tells her he'll do everything he can to protect her from the women-oppressing country he helped create.

At Nick's New Bethlehem home, Serena is waiting with a pie for pregnant Rose. The mother-to-be is resting, however, so her father Commander Wharton is more than happy to enjoy a slice of the dessert with Serena. While they chat, and he endlessly gushes over her, we learn that he's a widow.

Serena enthusiastically talks about New Bethlehem but — despite his clear affection for her — he continues to voice his doubts on the reformed Gilead. That said, Wharton is far more focused on courting Serena than he is worried about ruining his authoritarian rule. Later that night, he nearly seals the deal while walking the former Mrs. Waterford home. He literally sweeps her off her feet, impulsively inviting her to dance beneath the soft glow of the neighborhood's street lamps.

But their beautiful moment is suddenly interrupted by an unexpected "Blessed evening" from the shadows. It's Aunt Lydia, who's clearly surprised by the two acting like love-sick teenagers. Embarrassed, the High Commander and Serena stop dancing and silently acknowledge Lydia.

Elsewhere in New Bethlehem, Rita unexpectedly encounters Nick. She asks him if he believes the reformed community is the real deal. He believes it is, and agrees to help reunite her entire family within a year or two. With that promise, she decides to extend her stay in New Bethlehem indefinitely.

Before the episode closes, we briefly peek in on Lawrence and Janine. He's reading "A Little Princess," his beloved Eleanor's favorite book, to Angela by the fire. At the same time, back at Jezebel's, Angela's biological mother stares longingly at the picture she drew.

Meanwhile, tensions at Mayday HQ have not subsided. June still wants Luke to go to Alaska. She also wants Moira to drop out of the Jezebel's scouting mission. In fact, she insists on taking her place to covertly infiltrate the brothel to gather the needed intel.

Unsurprisingly, this leads to a huge blowout between June and her best friend. Moira refuses to back down — she's going to Jezebel's whether she has June's blessing or not. Luke is also standing his ground, telling his wife he's staying behind to carry out his bombing mission. Moira and Luke also gang up on June a bit, painting a bigger picture for her. They call her out for wanting to stay and destroy Gilead just as badly as they do. They're also disappointed in what little faith she seems to have in them.

Things don't end well between June and Moira, as the latter walks off, furious at her friend. But later that night, June and Luke make up. She warns him not to get his hopes up. She's been so close to saving their daughter Hannah many times, just to have her ripped away from her at the last second. She doesn't want her husband to suffer that same disappointment.

She also admits that she does not want to return to Alaska, as her family will never truly be whole with Hannah still trapped in Gilead. Before the screen goes black, the two shed some tears, exchange "I love yous," and ultimately agree to fight together as a family to save their family... their whole family.

Janine

Season 6

Episode Number: 61

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Tuesday April 22, 2025
Writer: Ubah Mohamed
Director: Natalia Leite
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Max Minghella (Commander Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirra Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putman), Josh Charles (Commander Gabriel Wharton)
Guest Stars: Jonathan Watton (Commander Matthew Calhoun), Athena Karkanis (Ellen), Timothy Simons (Commander Bell), Tim Campbell (Commander Reynolds), Kim Huffman (Fern), Josh Peace (Guardian Kern), Jessica Abruzzese (Delia), Kyle Jonathon (Toby (Guardian)), Tyra Chichester (Penthouse Jezebel #2), Patricia Vanstone (Helen), Avaah Blackwell (Penthouse Jezebel #1), Laila Kharouba (Penthouse Jezebel #3), Emmerly Tinglin (Penthouse Jezebel #4), Samantha Wan (Aunt Claudia), Jon Ambrose (Loading Dock Guardian), Amanda Macevicius (Red Headed Jezebel), Kevin Bradfield (Penthouse Guardian #1)
Summary: June and Moira go undercover. Serena and Nick make consequential choices.



Joy Division's "Atmosphere" plays in the background as June, Luke, Moira and the Mayday operatives who'll go into Gilead prepare for their mission. Moira's still mad at June for going behind her back about the Jezebel's run, but June and Luke are in a good place; they share a long, passionate kiss before he closes her into the false back of the truck he'll drive.

Once they get there, June and Moira cover their faces — as Jezebel's Marthas do now — and everything goes

smoothly... for a while. While searching for Janine they learn that she's up in the penthouse and a bunch of commanders, including the extremely punchable Bell, are on their way there at that moment — which is news to Moira and June. They hustle upstairs and find her there with some of the place's other residents; when Janine recognizes June, she hurries over and wonders if they're martha's now. "Mayday," June whispers.

They're interrupted by the arrival of the commanders, a group that includes Lawrence. Janine slips June a keycard and tells her to meet her there later, then scurries off to stroke stupid Bell's stupid ego.

As the men drink and fondle, Lawrence talks about how successful New Bethlehem has been in normalizing Gilead's foreign relations, and how it'll do even better if they open other, similar settlements. The other commanders show interest in supporting his ideas, then Lawrence and Bell get into an argument over who'll take Janine into a private room. Lawrence wins. "No one

here likes you. No one. And no one respects you," he tells the younger commander as he leaves the penthouse. "Watch yourself."

When they're alone, Janine makes sure that Lawrence knows "you're not a good guy, but just compared to them, you are." She leaves him in the room for a minute, but not before showing him a peephole the girls use sometimes to see into the penthouse. And that's how Lawrence learns that none of the other commanders actually agree with him about New Bethlehem's merits; they're only using it as bait to bring people back to Gilead so they can zhush the population before they close the borders and "restitute tradition." Bell wants Lawrence on the wall, and the other commanders are easily swayed to his side. "He's done," Commander Reynolds says, while the subject of their conversation has an "oh s—t" moment just a wall away.

Janine makes her way to June and Moira, where they brief her on Mayday's plan. She gives them the intel they need — security, entrances and exits — and draws them a map, then hands them a pack of letters the other women who are trapped at the brothel have written to their families. June promises they'll get everyone out, and Janine is about to head back so no one suspects anything weird is going on, when June blurts out that Janine should come with them right now.

Moira thinks it's a bad idea, and Janine says she can't leave because she's got to prep her friends. When she leaves, Moira is angry. "If we had taken Janine today, there would've been security all over this place, and our Mayday plan would've been screwed," she correctly points out. They get into one of those arguments you can only have with someone with whom you've been friends for a really, really long time: The cuts are deep, and everyone ends up in tears. "Your guilt, your feelings, your friends, your trauma, you, you, you," Moira explodes. "Do you have any idea how f—king sick of you I am?"

She goes on to posit that being a handmaid was a lot easier and better than being a jezebel, where the nonconsensual sex happened every night instead of once a month. After June recovers from her shock, she agrees. And somehow — mainly through the talent of Samira Wiley and Elisabeth Moss — the scene comes around to where they're both weeping and agreeing that neither of them should have had to endure a minute of any of it.

"And I think if we start comparing our suffering, then those f—kers will have won," June says. Moira admits that there are times she hated June, but "I love you all the time. Even if I don't feel like it."

A guardian enters and tells them to take their mask off so he can "see your pretty faces." He grabs the letters and map and puts them in the room's safe, then it's not long before he's shoving Moira down on the bed so he can assault her. June jumps him from behind, and then the two women work together to end him: As June kicks him in the soft parts, Moira strangles him with a telephone cord.

They smuggle him out of the room in a laundry cart and bring him to the incinerator; the unexpected task, as well as the ensuing lockdown when the guardian's absence is noticed, causes them to miss their rendezvous with Luke and the supply truck that's supposed to get them out. The only available exit needs a commander's keycard to open it, and it looks like they're screwed... until Commander Lawrence approaches the exit in his car. "Oh, hell no," he mutters. June half begs, half instructs him to get them out of there, and even though he doesn't want to, he does.

High Commander Wharton drops some unwelcome news on an already on-his-guard Nick: The guardian he shot who didn't die "has shown remarkable signs of improvement. Call it divine providence." Wharton either knows, or highly suspects, that his son-in-law was involved in the incident — why else would he point out that the slowly recovering guardian "could identify whoever did this brazen act"?

Nick visits the guardian at the hospital, where the young man's mother hovers over his bed. She unwittingly lays it on thick about how much her son looks up to "brave men of honor, like you, Commander." She makes him promise he'll find out who shot him.

After she leaves, the guardian wakes up a little. "Do you know me, Toby?" Nick asks. Toby asks about his dog, and Nick assures him the pup is fine as he walks away. But before he leaves the room, Nick has a change of heart. He locks the door from the inside, pulls the blinds and turns back toward the bed.

Aunt Lydia swings by Serena's to enlist her help in advocating for former handmaids. "I was promised they would become respected members of society," Lydia says, incensed. "And you

believed it?" Serena asks pointedly. "You believed many things about Gilead before your recent travels," the older woman volleys back.

Still, Serena Joy sees an opening. If the handmaids retire to New Bethlehem, she posits, they could become attendants at the new fertility center. Aunt Lydia's eyes light up. "That's a divine calling," she says. Then they're interrupted by a delivery of flowers from Wharton, who would like to see Serena again before he takes Rose to Washington, D.C. "High Commander Wharton is exactly the kind of political support we need," Lydia remarks. "He also is a single man, with a good fortune, in want of a wife." Serena scoffs at the aunt's quoting of Jane Austen, but her face indicates that she's had similar thoughts.

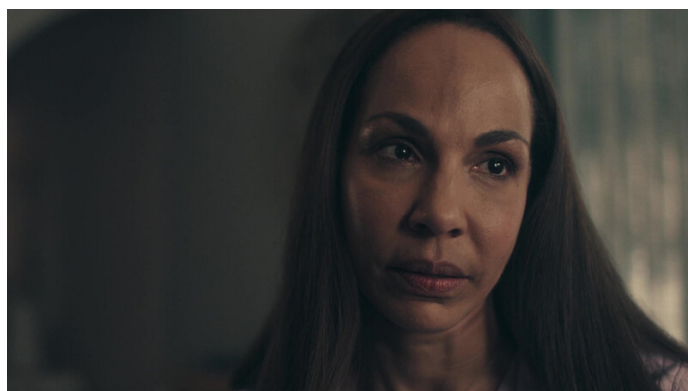
That evening, Serena meets Wharton for their date and finds him at a library: "I've built a safe place for the children of New Bethlehem to come to read, the boys and the girls," he says. I'm equally annoyed by how pleased he is with himself and how taken she is by the gesture. Then he ramps it up: He shows her a mockup of the sign that says "The Serena Joy and Gabriel Wharton Library," indicating his plans for them. "I didn't come back here to be a wife," she says. "Fred tried to erase the best parts of you, and I'd never do that," he promises. "I want all of you." She says she can't move to D.C. or Boston, and he quickly suggests that they split their time between New Bethlehem and the city in "a house that you choose."

She's teary as her defenses begin to fall, but still, she shrewdly tries to cover all her bases. "I will never stop writing," she says, and he draws closer as he replies he won't ask her to. She still wants to change the country; he says they'll do it together. She wonders if he'll be able to raise another man's child, and he vows that it won't be a problem. "Don't you think Noah deserves a little brother or sister in the largest, most loving family that we can manage?" he wonders. She's on board. So he drops to one knee, presents her a ring and formally proposes. She happily accepts, then they kiss.

Surprise

Season 6
Episode Number: 62
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Tuesday April 29, 2025
Writer: Aly Monroe
Director: Natalia Leite
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Max Minghella (Commander Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirira Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putman), Josh Charles (Commander Gabriel Wharton)
Guest Stars: Timothy Simons (Commander Bell), Kyle Jonathon (Toby (Guardian))
Summary: June hides in an unexpected place.



In the trunk of Commander Lawrence's car, June and Moira worry: In addition to their current predicament, the letters and the map that they got from Janine are still in a safe at Jezebel's. But before they can get too deep in conversation, the car stops and the trunk opens. They don't know where they are, and Lawrence threatens to leave them there and let them fend for themselves. June is still angry at him about the military plane strike, but he says he didn't have anything to do with it. When she counters

that he could have stopped it, he spits back, "You could've stopped Eleanor!" When things cool a little, he shares what he heard earlier that night when he was snooping: The other commanders want a return to Gilead's original form, and they want him dead on the wall. June tempts him by teasing their plan: What if they all died, and Lawrence was the most powerful commander left in Boston?

This sways him a bit, and he agrees to get them across the border — but it has to happen right then. When Moira raises the issue of returning to Jezebel's, Lawrence says it's impossible: The place is in lockdown. So June calls Nick, who agrees to retrieve the documents. He also tells her to stay put — Lawrence can take Moira — because "I need to see you."

Nick brings the packet to June but is in no hurry to get her back to the United States. What he says: Rose and High Commander Wharton are in Washington, D.C., and a crossing at dawn will be safer. What he means: He is having feelings and wants her nearby for a while. "Sometimes, I think you're the only good thing in my life," he says, hugging her tightly; his demeanor is such that June instantly looks concerned.

A flashback to when June was the Waterfords' handmaid and Nick their driver gives us some insight into what his life was like prior to the rise of Gilead. His mother left when he was 11 and he didn't go to college, he tells her as they cuddle in his bed after sex: "I didn't have much of a life before this. I wasn't anyone. You wouldn't have noticed me." She asserts that that wouldn't have been the case, because he still would have good, kind, brave "and very, very handsome," she says, pulling him near for a kiss. "I definitely would've noticed that."

Nick drives June to his house but freezes when he sees his father-in-law in the house, and not in D.C. as planned. He instructs June to wait in the car and, if he's not out in five minutes, to run to Serena's house instead.

Let's take a break and check in on Janine. Aunt Lydia stops by Jezebel's — which apparently is no longer under lockdown? — with a plate of cookies and some news for her "special girl." She excitedly tells her about former handmaids' roles in the new fertility center Serena has proposed, and God love this delusional woman, she expects Janine to be excited, too. Janine harshly tells the older woman that if she really wants to do something for Janine, she can bring Charlotte (aka Angela) to her. And when Lydia says that's impossible, Janine grabs her and physically throws her out of the dressing room.

Back to New Bethlehem. It's pouring outside, but the mood is even stormier inside once Nick is opposite Wharton. Though Rose is on her way to D.C., Wharton came back when he got a call about his son-in-law. He asks if Nick was at the brothel, and Nick confirms he was — but says the matter he was investigating was "confidential." Wharton doesn't buy it, and he insinuates that Nick killed the guardian he visited at the hospital. "Can't you see? These lies, they're going to land you on the wall. And your son will be left without a father. Is that what you want?" Wharton asks, adding that he can't help Nick unless he's 100 percent honest with him.

Meanwhile, when Nick doesn't return by the allotted time, June shows up on Serena's doorstep. It's the first time they've seen each other since June literally tossed Serena off the refugee train, and Serena is stymied by her former handmaid's sudden appearance. June tells a story about how she came to try to entice Nick to move to Alaska and be in her life, but he said no, and now she needs somewhere safe to plan her next move.

Interestingly, Serena is not mad about being flung into God-knows-where with an infant strapped to her chest. "You saved us, truly," she says. "You protected us from that mob." And I hope you enjoyed that moment of warmth, because they're back to their usual dynamic in 3... 2... "You know, Nick has responsibilities," Serena lectures, wondering what Luke thinks of June's "selfish" request. "You know our daughter and our whole relationship started because of you, right, because of what you wanted?" June counters. Serena is all, yeah, I went to prison for it. They get snippy with each other, June points out that she just needs a place to stay for the night, and "you owe me."

So Serena shows her to a guest room and remarks that, given how often they cross each other's paths, "it seems God has designs for us." June: "I really wish he'd do other things. Then Serena shares her engagement news, and off June's tepid response, she adds, "He's not like Fred." June's face doesn't change as she asks, "Was Fred like Fred in the beginning?" She points out that, despite Serena's insistence that she's changed and things are different, Serena is still subjugating herself to a powerful man in the service of Gilead. Their argument escalates, with Serena wondering why June refuses to forgive her. "I can't forgive you. You don't think I wish I could? If I could, then I'd finally get rid of you!" And that's pretty much how they leave it until the next morning, when Serena knocks and says she's made June breakfast.

She's also invited Rita over. June is surprised to hear that Rita has permanently moved to New Bethlehem; when Serena goes to feed Noah, June hints that Mayday could use another contact there... but Rita demurs, saying that she's just trying to keep her family safe. June understands.

Later, after Rita's gone, Nick enters the house and breathlessly tells June "Come with me to Paris." He says he loves her, and that she loves him, and that her mom can bring Holly. "We can be a family, just like we talked about... You're it. It's always been you." The words are intoxicating, and June is certainly affected, but there's something about the manic way he's kissing her that signals imminent disaster.

And that disaster arrives with a knock on the door: Serena hustles the pair into a closet just before she lets Wharton inside. And though she tries to get him to go out for a walk with her and Noah, he lingers inside long enough — directly outside the closet in which Nick and June are hiding — to deliver the news that's got him so giddy: He shut down Jezebel's. "I found out the resistance was planning a massacre... but by His grace, their plan was exposed."

Inside the closet, Nick can't meet June's eyes. "God sees everything," Serena chirps. "God," Wharton agrees, "and my son-in-law," adding that Nick proved his loyalty by sharing all the details of Mayday's planned attack on the commanders. As the camera pulls back, the only light coming into the closet illuminates a shattered June. It's so dark on Nick's side, it's like he's no longer there at all.

Shattered

Season 6

Episode Number: 63

Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Tuesday May 06, 2025
Writer: Katherine Collins
Director: Daina Reid
Show Stars: Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Max Minghella (Commander Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirra Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putman), Josh Charles (Commander Gabriel Wharton)
Guest Stars: Timothy Simons (Commander Bell), Athena Karkanis (Ellen), D'Arcy Carden (Aunt Phoebe), Angela Vint (Leah), Vanessa Burns (Mrs. Calhoun), Diana Bentley (Mrs. Bell), Sebastian MacLean (Lead Guardian), Robin Schisler (Wife #3), Kyle Gatehouse (Enforcer Guardian), Christina Song (Wife #2), Bryce Wynter (Gate Guardian), Liudmyla Koblytska (Nick's Housekeeper), Melissa Cossey (Wife #1)
Summary: After a shocking revelation, June spirals. Serena plans for a prestigious future.



While June and Nick, still trapped in the closet, marinate in his betrayal, the women of Jezebel's are startled by guardians busting into their dressing room and roughly moving them into the corner of the space that doubles as a bathroom. At the last minute, one of the guardians singles Janine out and has her separated from the group. As the rest of the women are corralled into the shower stalls and killed by a machine gun at close range, Janine is hauled away, screaming in horror.

Serena eventually succeeds in getting High Commander Wharton to go on a walk with her and Noah, leaving the house empty. "Your friend was taken, but I'll find out where," he says of Janine. "He wanted the whole place gone," he continues, adding that he never said the girls had anything to do with the plot. When June asks if all of the women are dead, all Nick can say is "I didn't think he would do that."

He takes her back to the brothel; along the way, she suddenly opens the car door and demands to get out. Friends, it appears we've reached the Nick's Mislabeled Righteous Indigation stage of the tour! "You never cared what I did unless it helped you," he calls as he hustles to catch up to her. "I killed those two guardians to protect you and your friend and your husband. And those men were just doing those job. One of them was 19 years old." She points out that he's just like all the men in Gilead, giving up others in order to save himself. "And you love me," he counters, "so what does that make you?"

The minute it's out of his mouth, he knows it's too much. He calls her name, but she says, "Don't," and keeps walking. He doesn't follow.

At some point after the massacre, Aunt Lydia arrives at Jezebel's. She weeps as she surveys the shattered dressing room, holding Charlotte's drawing to her chest.

June returns to Mayday headquarters, where Luke & Co. are trying to find out what went wrong. "Nick told them," she says, and it's not long before Luke realizes who told Nick. "He doesn't give a s—t about the resistance," he says, getting angry. "He doesn't want us to win!" He says the only thing Nick ever cared about was June, "and because of that, you're going to run around like he's some hero, like he's a f—kin savior that you've been pining for ever since you got back?" Oh man, this is ugly, and, given the look on June's face as she tries not to break down in sobs, true — at least, in part. She gasps out that she doesn't know what to do. "Don't be in love with a f—king Nazi," Luke yells, also on the verge of crying. "How about that?" Then he walks back to the rest of the Mayday gang, who pretend (badly) that they weren't eavesdropping the whole time.

"I trusted him for so long, I forgot who he was," June tells Moira, who finds her later. "He never gave you any reason not to trust him," Moira reasons. "And he was kind to you. He helped you survive. I mean, you'd be dead if it weren't for him. S—t, we'd all be."

But can Luke? When June gets a minute alone with her husband, things are still real rough. She makes it clear that she loves him — "I want you to be happy, and I want you to be with someone that deserves you" — but that she doesn't want him to stay with her out of pity or obligation. "I should want to leave you," he admits, "but I can't." She wonders if Hannah is the only reason they're still together, and Luke thinks for a minute but then shakes his head no, and gently reaches for her hand.

When Rita finds Nick later to ask if June got out OK, she waves away his assertion that June thinks he's a monster. After all, she reasons, they were friends long before June arrived at the Waterfords. He's drinking and sad, so he gruffly says they weren't friends; they were afraid of each other and would've crossed each other to save themselves. "Yeah, maybe," she says, "but not now." He continues to be mean and dismissive, and she gets upset as she realizes that he isn't going to be the help she needs in getting her family out. "This is Gilead," he tells her coldly. "The only person you should count on is yourself."

The commanders' wives throw Serena a bridal shower that doubles as a teal-dressed interrogation: They're sure that New Bethlehem is godless, and they want Serena to give them the scoop. No, that's not exactly true: They want Serena to say things that will make them feel superior and righteous. She doesn't give it to them. As the wives parrot their husbands' thoughts on the settlement, Serena interrupts: "What do you say? What are your thoughts and dreams for Gilead's future?" Unsurprisingly, they have none — or, at least, none that they feel safe to share.

Serena moves on, bringing up her work with the fertility center and how it will employ handmaids. As the wives scoff and speak demeaningly of the women they've helped their husbands rape for years, Serena finds herself in a position to which she is unaccustomed: handmaid advocate. "Where would you suggest that they spend their retirement?" she asks. Naomi foists that responsibility onto the commanders, then steers the conversation elsewhere.

At home, she grouses to High Commander Wharton that the wives don't respect her, then she suggests that a proper wedding would do a lot toward proving them wrong. They make plans for a "grand celebration" that invites the whole community — including handmaids. "Yes, I suppose you're right," she says flatly. Aw, there's our girl: talking a big, inclusive game one minute, angry that the red cloaks are going to interfere with her Big Day of Pretty the next.

Aunt Lydia returns to the Red Center bereft, and she has no time for Aunt Phoebe. But that doesn't change Phoebe's sunny attitude about the good news she has to share: Commander Bell and his wife want a handmade, and he wants it to be Janine, whom he "rescued" from the Jezebel's killings. The news that Janine is alive nearly brings Lydia to her knees in relief. "Oh, praise be!" she cries, sobbing and collapsing against Phoebe. "Praise be!"

Her joy is short-lived, though; when she brings Janine's new robes to the Bell house, Commander Bell refers to Janine as a "firecracker" and won't let Aunt Lydia see her. He also says she won't be at the wedding, because she's not suitable for "public view." As Lydia leaves, she sees a beaten and bruised Janine waving from an upstairs window.

June is on the verge of having a very private, very major breakdown when a car carrying Lawrence and Tuello pulls up to Mayday's base. "I always thought you were an idiot for trusting him," Lawrence tells her, but remember: He's surlier than normal because the commanders he thought were going to be gone by now are still in play and seriously hate him. "I want you to get

these people to find another way to kill those commanders, like you promised," he says.

June says she can't help him, but her interest is piqued when he mentions Serena's wedding — and the handmaids that will be there. Still, she says she's done... until he mentions one fact: "Janine's not dead. She probably wishes she were. That pervert, Bell, made him her handmaid." June quickly spits out, "I hope she kills him in his sleep." And then you can almost see the idea form over June's weary head.

She and Lawrence outline it for Ellen, the Mayday leader, and Luke: While Serena is busy micromanaging every detail of her wedding, and while the commanders are busy resting on their laurels for the Jezebel's massacre, it'll be the perfect situation for an attack led by the handmaids. Hell yeah. The bones of a plan are barely out of June's mouth, and Moira is on board to return with her.

June and Moira will smuggle weapons in. And also? "The bombs are still in place. Would be a shame not to use them," Luke offers. And when the chaos breaks out all over the city, Lawrence posits, Tuello can have the American military invade.

As June voiceovers about how they're going to use "all of our friends" in the plan, we see Lawrence get a case from Tuello, then hand it off to Rita: Inside are vials of white powder. And guess what? Rita is making the cake for Serena's wedding, after all! "They will never see us coming," a reenergized June says.

For his part, Lawrence has Aunt Lydia sent to Washington, D.C., for the day, ostensibly to talk to higher-ups about handmaids' roles in the New Bethlehem fertility center. She tries to postpone, because she doesn't want to miss the wedding, but he says she must go right that minute.

Outside, Aunt Phoebe has a guardian check out a small hole in the fence surrounding the Red Center. And when he's stepped away, she opens the trunk of Lawrence's car to find June crouched inside. "Blessed be the fruit," she whispers. "Let the revolution begin."

Phoebe sneaks June and Moira inside the building and briefs them: The handmaids and Marthas are on board, and Janine doesn't know what's going on, because Bell won't let her out of the house. "I'll take care of it," Janine says quickly. Phoebe stashes them in the basement, then unexpectedly runs into Aunt Lydia just as she arrives upstairs. Lydia is suspicious of the younger aunt, who bids her a safe trip to D.C. and bustles along her way.

Downstairs, Moira is a little more shaken than she expected, and she asks June to say something "leaderish." So June recites the 23rd Psalm, adding at the end: "And please, dear God, give us the strength to murder those g-ddamn mother—kers." Moira is bolstered. "A-f—king-men," she replies.

Exodus

Season 6

Episode Number: 64

Season Episode: 8

Originally aired:	Tuesday May 13, 2025
Writer:	Yahlin Chang
Director:	Daina Reid
Show Stars:	Elisabeth Moss (June Osborne), Yvonne Strahovski (Serena Joy Waterford), Madeline Brewer (Janine Lindo), Ann Dowd (Aunt Lydia Clements), O.T. Fagbenle (Lucas "Luke" Bankole), Max Minghella (Commander Nick Blaine), Samira Wiley (Moirira Strand), Amanda Brugel (Rita), Bradley Whitford (Commander Joseph Lawrence), Sam Jaeger (Mark Tuello), Ever Carradine (Naomi Putman), Josh Charles (Commander Gabriel Wharton)
Guest Stars:	Jonathan Watton (Commander Matthew Calhoun), Carey Cox (Rose Blaine), Timothy Simons (Commander Bell), Tim Campbell (Commander Reynolds), D'Arcy Carden (Aunt Phoebe), Angela Vint (Leah), Vanessa Burns (Mrs. Calhoun), Patricia Vanstone (Helen), Diana Bentley (Mrs. Bell), Rojan Molanian (Handmaid), Nayo Sasaki-Picou (Handmaid), Sabrina Jade (Handmaid), Dylan Hawco (Guardian Peter), Pooja Bhandari (Handmaid), Annika Ferronato (Handmaid), Uditia Khanna (Handmaid), Ellen Denny (Handmaid), Lily-Fay Mowbray (Handmaid), Madison Hayes-Crook (Handmaid), Maggie May (Handmaid), Ryan Ali (Guardian Harry), Kyla Musselman (Handmaid), Jazlyn Wong-Lee (Handmaid), Chloe Coyle (Handmaid), Allana Reoch (Ofgabriel), Zachary Smithers (Church Guardian), Ashleigh Gillan (Ashleigh — Posted Handmaid), Jacob Moro (Waiter), Rosali Annikie (Handmaid), Keren Edelist (Handmaid), Rachel Sybblis (Handmaid), Lisa Malanie Pryce (Handmaid), Lauren Saunders (Handmaid), Shantel Vaillou (Handmaid)
Summary:	June and Moira execute their dangerous plan. Serena makes a big commitment.



"They wanted us to look like we'd been dipped in blood, some fairytale figure in a red cloak," June voiceovers as we watch econowomen dyeing and sewing new red robes for the handmaids. Moira and June then sew knives into the finished garments, which are then distributed among the women living at the Red Center. "They used our clothes to divide us, to dehumanize us. But tonight, those robes will be our weapons," June continues. "Tonight we will use these robes to start a war."

Then she and Moira get dressed and join the handmaids at the Red Center, gently touching the women's hands in solidarity as they step into formation. "They put us in red, the color of blood, to mark us. They forgot that it's also the color of rage," she narrates. And then, with their faces covered and heads bowed, the 'maids walk to the church and file into the pews for Serena's wedding to High Commander Wharton.

The massive sanctuary eventually fills with the rest of the commanders, their wives and handmaids. Nick escorts Rose to her seat, then stands on the altar, where he'll officiate. Wharton arrives next, and then it's time for the bride's big entrance. Serena wears a pale blue, longsleeved gown with butterflies adorning the train. It's also got bedazzled bows down the front, which I'm sure reads as positively slutty in Gilead, but Serena's so New Bethlehem now, I'm also sure she doesn't care.

As Nick begins the ceremony, the handmaids who have blades sewn into their robes surreptitiously remove them and pass them, hand to hand, down the pew. One woman accidentally drops her blade; the clattering draws the attention of the Guardian nearby, but the weapon is scooted under the bench, and no one sees anything. From the pulpit, Nick drones on about how fruitful his own marriage has been, and I know you've been a giant help in the past, sir, and I know it's complicated, but you are dead to me.

The reception gets underway, and let's just take a moment to appreciate how utterly bothered by everything Naomi Putnam looks anytime the camera is on her. I love it so much. Anyway, Wharton and his new missus enter and take to the dance floor; while everyone's attention is on the couple, the handmaids continue their work of making sure everyone wearing a white bonnet has her own personal death stick.

Serena takes a victory lap around the room, reassuring Lawrence that she's still committed to their New Bethlehem goals — yeah, that's why he looks so worried — before making sure to greet "my most important guests": the handmaids. She asks them to gather; June and Moira quickly slip toward the rear of the crowd as the new Mrs. Wharton reassures them that she's working on their behalf in New Bethlehem. She's about to step away but decides she needs to sing them *The Ballad of Serena and June*, so she turns back to tell them about her own former handmaid. "I could've been kinder to her. To be honest, she could've been kinder to me," she says as June fumes in the back. It only gets worse when Serena says she counts June as a "friend" and "I do believe that my former handmaid forgives me."

Rita comes over, and Serena presses her also to speak about forgiveness and how she's achieved it in her own life. Though Rita clearly wasn't expecting this, it's so rad to watch her turn the moment into a rallying point for the handmaids. "Well, you set a goal, and you work towards it," she tells the women. "Keep your eyes on the prize, ladies." Then she puts an end to wifey's ridiculousness by calling her away to cut the cake.

The dessert in question is a gorgeous, tiered, scarlet confection that is dosed with enough medicine to send everyone who eats it into a sleeping stupor in about two hours. The handmaids don't touch their pieces, obviously, and they fold it into their napkins and leave it under their benches when Aunt Phoebe tells them it's time to go. "I'll meet you at the Red Center," she says in a low voice to Moira and June. "Godspeed."

Their plan is nearly thwarted by Aunt Lydia, who returns from DC and swings by to congratulate the happy couple. She gets a glimpse of June in the process; the older woman starts to chase her, but June eludes her. That doesn't stop Lydia from going to Lawrence with her suspicions. "You're losing it, lady," he says, knowing full well that the bane of both of their existences is in the building. Then Aunt Phoebe joins in the gaslighting, and a befuddled Lydia is ushered away for some dinner.

High Commander Wharton carries his bride into their home, and she's giddy... until she sees a handmaid kneeling in the entryway. Commander Bell's dad has sent her, "the most fertile handmaid in Gilead," as a wedding gift. "But, I'm fertile," a shocked Serena replies. "But you're only one person, my love," Wharton says.

Serena forbids having a handmaid in the house, but he maintains that Ofgabriel will help them achieve the big family they talked about. Serena tells the woman, whose real name is Christina, to "run and never come back." But Wharton intercepts and wonders why the woman whose thoughts and opinions he's said he admires is suddenly having thoughts and opinions about this.

"I was so stupid to do this again!" Serena says, crying. "I thought you were a better man, but you're just like the rest of them!" He screams at her, then uses that soft and mean voice that he used on Nick a few episodes back. "I have bent to your liberal attitudes, but I will not turn my back on God," he vows. "You think God wants this abomination of A marriage?" Serena spits.

Just then, Noah starts crying; Serena grabs him, muttering, "We can't stay here." A Guardian blocks her exit, and Wharton forbids her to leave: "You are my wife now. Your place is in this

house. You have nowhere to go." She's like, what are you going to do, cut off my finger or beat me with a belt? "I will survive it, and I will survive you," she promises. He maintains he's a good man and husband. "You can't be," she whispers. "You're a commander." With hatred in his eyes, Wharton orders the Guardian to step aside. Serena and Noah exit via the front door, and she runs.

Aunt Lydia sits, alone, eating her meal while the reception crew cleans up and notices that the area the handmaids were sitting in has a ton of uneaten cake chucked under the benches (which were skirted; the only reason she sees is because one napkin is sticking out from the end). So she hotfoots it back to the Red Center, where Aunt Phoebe is unsuccessful in stopping her from checking on the handmaids in their beds. Everything seems to be status quo in the dormitory... until Lydia rips the covers off one woman and finds her fully dressed.

Meanwhile, June and a handful of other women are out in Gilead, working to kill the commander who either didn't have handmaids or whose handmaids were not at the wedding. As she promised, our girl takes on Commander Bell, creeping into his house and finding him asleep in the living room. He rouses when the phone next to him rings. It seems like he's getting news of what's going down, but he's distracted when June audibly steps into the room. "June Osborne," he says, voice full of contempt. "Nice to meet you," she responds, then instantly slams her box cutter into his right eyeball. He's dead moments later.

She sits, takes a swig of the drink he was enjoying, and breathes a minute before she hears footsteps behind her: It's Janine, who starts crying as she thanks her friend.

Back at the Red Center, Aunt Lydia is screaming at the handmaids, whom she has kneeling on the floor in the center of the room, a Guardian holding his gun on them. She singles out Aunt Phoebe, and it seems like she's going to make an example of her, when Moira stands and tells her to stop. To add insult to Moira's continued and horrifying Gileadian injury, Lydia doesn't even know who she is. I do love that once Moira drops a couple of F-bombs, it's Aunt Lydia's clue that "you're working with her!" She threatens to shoot anyone who won't tell her "Where is June Osborrrrrrrrrrne?!" That's when June quietly announces from behind her, "I'm right here."

Lydia blames the rebellion on June, but June calmly states that "you did this" by mutilating and terrorizing the handmaids and taking their children away. "But I think that you've seen things you can't unsee," June says, approaching slowly, "and I think you've learned things that you can't unlearn. And I know that in your heart of hearts, you know that rape is rape, and you know it wasn't our fault, and that we don't deserve this, and we're not fallen women."

The louder Lydia gets, the more hushed June gets. When Lydia storms that June shouldn't presume to know what's in God's heart, she quietly urges Lydia to ask herself "if you think that God wants this for us." June's words are affecting Lydia, who grows tearful and trembling. "Or is there a God who would empower a woman like you to stand up for us, to arc toward the light and to finally declare 'Enough?'"

It's really all over when Janine walks in behind June. "If you really want to save us, let us go," she says. Lydia, whose entire world is crumbling before her, has the Guardian lower his weapon. "I'm sorry he hurt you, dear," she tells Janine, who hugs her. The other women scurry out as the Guardian looks on, stymied. June is the last to leave, sharing a significant look with Aunt Lydia before turning and walking out the door. Alone, Lydia slowly lowers to the floor and sobs as she implores God to help her.

"The dress became our uniform," June voiceovers as the handmaids take to the streets, peeling off one by one as they pass their targets' homes, "and we became an army."

Actor Appearances

A

Yahya Abdul-Mateen II.....1	0203 (Omar)
Feaven Abera.....1	0505 (Housekeeper)
Jessica Abuzzese.....1	0605 (Delia)
Ruth Acheampong.....1	0602 (Canaan Woman #3)
Genevieve Adam.....3	0102 (Wife 2); 0204 (Wife #2); 0213 (Wife #2)
Kwaku Adu-Poku.....1	0604 (Ralph (Mayday Planner))
Massey Ahmar.....1	0405 (Brad)
Evgeny Akimov.....1	0108 (Commander)
Brittney Aleah.....1	0306 (Handmaid)
Stephen Alexander.....1	0505 (Guardian #3)
Ryan Ali.....1	0608 (Guardian Harry)
Kevin Allan.....1	0313 (Senior Guardian)
Jessica Allen.....1	0311 (Bar Jezebel)
Emily Althaus.....1	0308 (Noelle)
Nelia Amaro.....1	0602 (Canaan Woman #1)
Jon Ambrose.....1	0605 (Loading Dock Guardian)
Prince Amponsah.....1	0305 (Cashier)
Steven B. Andrews.....1	0508 (Commander #4)
Genevieve Angelson.....5	0504 (Alanis Wheeler); 0505 (Alanis Wheeler); 0506 (Alanis Wheeler); 0508 (Gladys Wheeler); 0509 (Alanis Wheeler)
Rosali Annikie.....1	0608 (Handmaid)
Maythaila Jerome Antoine.....1	0308 (Handmaid)
Chris Anton.....1	0510 (Paramedic)
Luke Aquilina.....1	0401 (Guardian 1)
Jose Arias.....1	0209 (Kevin McConnell)
Alex Armbruster.....1	0313 (Search Guardian)
Sam Asante.....1	0201 (Ultrasound Tech)
Zawe Ashton.....3	0402 (Moiras Girlfriend); 0406 (Oona); 0407 (Oona)

Willow Astbury.....1	0510 (Refugee Kid #2)
Dorothy A. Atabong.....2	0508 (Nanny); 0509 (Nanny)
Tasha Attey.....4	0201 (Punished Handmaid #2); 0207 (Amber); 0308 (Amber); 0309 (Handmaid #5)
Margaret Atwood.....1	0101 (Aunt)
Nabil Ayoub.....1	0508 (Commander #2)
Danielle Ayow.....1	0301 (Dr. Chung)
Michael Ayres.....1	0406 (Chris)

B

Neil Babcock.....1	0504 (Aide)
Clark Backo.....1	0209 (Genevieve)
Roger Bainbridge.....1	0207 (Paul Watson)
Darrin Baker.....1	0601 (Dr. Brandt)
Jennifer Baker.....1	0313 (Sheila Murray)
Scott Baker.....1	0301 (Jonathan)
Fode Bangoura.....1	0405 (Trader)
Christian Barillas.....1	0106 (Mr. Flores)
Amanda Barker.....1	0203 (Tricia)
Tom Barnett.....1	0304 (Commander Logan)
Lilly Bartlam.....1	0212 (Eden's Sister)
Elise Bauman.....1	0206 (Jenny)
Carrie Beale.....2	0201 (Travelor); 0202 (Travelor)
Paul Beer.....1	0201 (Doctor #2)
Dan Beirne.....1	0103 (Barista)
Liam Bell.....1	0503 (Econo Man)
Gil Bellows.....1	0309 (Doctor)
Alexandria Benoit.....1	0212 (New Handmaid)
Diana Bentley.....2	0607 (Mrs. Bell); 0608 (Mrs. Bell)
Kirilee Berger.....1	0306 (Ofgeorge)

Wes Berger	1	ing); 0207 (Ray Cushing)	Dean Buchanan	1
0603 (Patrol Guardian #1)			0508 (Protester #2)	
Emily Berry	1		Josephine Buettner	1
0507 (ER Nurse)			0202 (Unwoman #3)	
Pooja Bhandari	1		Craig Burnatowski	1
0608 (Handmaid)			0401 (Barber)	
Sehar Bhojani	1		Vanessa Burns	7
0207 (Elise Watson)			0309 (Mrs. Calhoun); 0312 (Mrs. Calhoun); 0502	
Belinda Bijan	1		(Mrs. Calhoun); 0509 (Mrs. Calhoun); 0510	
0507 (Handmaid #1)			(Mrs. Calhoun); 0607 (Mrs. Calhoun); 0608	
Reed Birney	1		(Mrs. Calhoun)	
0403 (Gilead Loyalist)			Zaarin Bushra	1
Avaah Blackwell	2		0407 (Muslim Girl 1)	
0604 (Penthouse Jezebel #1); 0605 (Penthouse Jezebel				
#1)				
Jordana Blake	12			
0107 (Hannah); 0109 (Hannah); 0110 (Hannah);				
0201 (Hannah Bankole); 0203 (Hannah Bankole);				
0210 (Hannah Bankole); 0301 (Hannah Bankole);				
0403 (Hannah Bankole); 0502 (Hannah Bankole);				
0505 (Hannah Bankole); 0508 (Hannah Bankole);				
0509 (Hannah Bankole)				
James Blinkey	1			
0403 (Driver)				
Troy Blundell	2			
0104 (Guardian #1); 0208 (Offred's Guardian)				
Joanne Boland	1			
0313 (Martha Maggie)				
Paula Boudreau	5			
0105 (Grace Williams); 0205 (Grace); 0304 (Grace				
Williams); 0308 (Grace); 0502 (Grace)				
Jason Boyd (I)	1			
0101 (Guardian)				
Steve Boyle	1			
0402 (MP Guardian)				
Karina Bradfield	1			
0206 (Heckler #1)				
Kevin Bradfield	1			
0605 (Penthouse Guardian #1)				
Michala Brasseur	1			
0203 (Caitlyn)				
Madeline Brewer	25			
0101 (Janine); 0102 (Janine); 0103 (Janine); 0104				
(Janine); 0105 (Janine); 0106 (Janine); 0109				
(Janine); 0110 (Janine); 0202 (Janine); 0205				
(Janine); 0207 (Janine); 0208 (Janine); 0209				
(Janine); 0210 (Janine); 0211 (Janine); 0212				
(Janine); 0213 (Janine); 0302 (Janine); 0303				
(Janine); 0304 (Janine); 0307 (Janine); 0308				
(Janine); 0309 (Janine); 0310 (Janine); 0313				
(Janine)				
Jenny Brizard	1			
0313 (Escapee Martha)				
Lauren Brotman	1			
0501 (Acolyte #2)				
J. Adam Brown	1			
0313 (Young Guardian)				
Robert Curtis Brown	5			
0108 (Andrew Pryce); 0110 (Commander Pryce); 0204				
(Andrew Pryce); 0205 (Andrew Pryce); 0206				
(Andrew Pryce)				
Dominique Brownes	1			
0307 (Ticona)				
Christy Bruce	1			
0109 (Emma Monroe)				
Amanda Brugel	4			
0310 (Rita); 0311 (Rita); 0313 (Rita); 0504 (Rita)				
Kristian Bruun	2			
0104 (Doctor); 0206 (Doctor)				
Greg Bryk	3			
0204 (Commander Cushing); 0206 (Commander Cush-				

C

Tim Campbell	3			
0604 (Commander Reynolds); 0605 (Commander				
Reynolds); 0608 (Commander Reynolds)				
D'Arcy Carden	2			
0607 (Aunt Phoebe); 0608 (Aunt Phoebe)				
Stephanie Carpanini	2			
0503 (Mayday Sentry); 0505 (Mayday Sentry)				
Ever Carradine	16			
0204 (Naomi Putnam); 0205 (Naomi Putnam); 0208				
(Naomi Putnam); 0210 (Naomi Putnam); 0213				
(Naomi Putnam); 0304 (Naomi Putnam); 0307				
(Naomi Putnam); 0312 (Naomi Putnam); 0409				
(Naomi Putnam); 0502 (Naomi Putnam); 0503				
(Naomi Putnam); 0505 (Naomi Putnam); 0506				
(Naomi Putnam); 0507 (Naomi Putnam); 0509				
(Naomi Putnam); 0510 (Naomi Putnam)				
Nathan Carroll	1			
0603 (Diplomat #2 (UK Rep))				
Michael Caruana	1			
0103 (Roger)				
Alexandra Castillo	2			
0402 (Dawn Mathis); 0408 (Dawn Mathis)				
Charlotte Cattell	1			
0604 (Susan (Mayday Planner))				
Julia Chantrey	1			
0304 (Videographer)				
Daniel Chaudhry	1			
0201 (Uniformed Eye #2)				
Li Chen	1			
0410 (Aide)				
Tyra Chichester	2			
0604 (Penthouse Jezebel #2); 0605 (Penthouse Jezebel				
#2)				
David Chinchilla	1			
0105 (Guardian #1)				
Michelle Chiu	2			
0308 (Birthing Handmaid #3); 0309 (Hospital Hand-				
maid #3)				
Kaitlyn Chu	1			
0503 (Rachel)				
Jarrold Clegg	1			
0509 (American Refugee #4)				
Lisa Codrington	1			
0102 (Officer 2)				
Christina Collins	1			
0201 (School Worker)				
Lindsey Connell	1			
0311 (B&B Econo Mom)				
Steve Coombes	1			
0313 (June's Guardian Escort)				
Christopher Cordell	1			
0503 (Driver)				
Lisa Michelle Cornelius	1			
0110 (UN Volunteer)				

Melissa Cossey	1
0607 (Wife #1)	
Bernadette Couture	1
0501 (Unit Leader)	
Carey Cox	8
0501 (Rose Blaine); 0503 (Rose Blaine); 0506 (Rose Blaine); 0509 (Rose Blaine); 0510 (Rose Blaine); 0601 (Rose Blaine); 0603 (Rose Blaine); 0608 (Rose Blaine)	
Chloe Coyle	1
0608 (Handmaid)	
Eric Craig	1
0310 (Post Ceremony Doctor)	
Philip Craig	1
0203 (Maintenance Driver)	
Phillip Craig	1
0202 (Maintenance Van Driver)	
Deidre Cross	1
0304 (Mother / Wife 4)	
Katherine Cullen	1
0213 (Neighbouring Martha #5)	
Jim Cummings	1
0103 (Burke)	

D

Chris D'Silva	1
0306 (Tom)	
Natalie Dale	2
0201 (Punished Handmaid #4); 0207 (Claire)	
Jailin Daley	1
0406 (Teen Soldier)	
Shane Daly	1
0107 (Joe Bradley)	
Bobby Daniels	1
0305 (Guardian Technician)	
Todd Thomas Dark	1
0106 (Commander Derek Chambers)	
Yahsmin Daviault	1
0310 (June's Aunt)	
Wayne Davis	1
0408 (Raymond Lomas)	
Cyndy Day	4
0108 (Handmaid); 0303 (Commander's Wife); 0304 (Commander's Wife); 0501 (Gilead Supporter)	
Peter Deiwick	1
0603 (Herr Strauss)	
Jeanette Delgado	1
0502 (Assistant Choreographer)	
Débora Demestre	2
0311 (Martha Reese); 0405 (Reese)	
Ellen Denny	1
0608 (Handmaid)	
Liz Der	1
0602 (Canaan Woman #5)	
Shawn Devlin	1
0506 (Butler)	
Lucy DiPucchio	1
0313 (Bloody Martha)	
Heather Dicke	1
0301 (Staffer)	
Seema Doad	1
0302 (Hurt Martha)	
Linette Doherty	1
0604 (Gina)	
Tosha Doiron	1
0102 (Nurse 1)	
Lesleh Donaldson	1
0213 (Neighbouring Martha #2)	
Joanna Douglas	1
0203 (Heather)	

Ann Dowd	30
0101 (Aunt Lydia); 0102 (Aunt Lydia); 0103 (Aunt Lydia); 0104 (Aunt Lydia); 0106 (Aunt Lydia); 0109 (Aunt Lydia); 0110 (Aunt Lydia); 0201 (Aunt Lydia); 0203 (Aunt Lydia); 0204 (Aunt Lydia); 0205 (Aunt Lydia); 0206 (Aunt Lydia); 0207 (Aunt Lydia); 0208 (Aunt Lydia); 0209 (Aunt Lydia); 0210 (Aunt Lydia); 0211 (Aunt Lydia); 0212 (Aunt Lydia); 0213 (Aunt Lydia); 0302 (Aunt Lydia); 0303 (Aunt Lydia); 0304 (Aunt Lydia); 0305 (Aunt Lydia); 0306 (Aunt Lydia); 0307 (Aunt Lydia); 0308 (Aunt Lydia); 0309 (Aunt Lydia); 0310 (Aunt Lydia Clements); 0312 (Aunt Lydia Clements); 0313 (Aunt Lydia Clements)	
Sava Drayton	1
0312 (Detention Security Guard)	
Julie Dretzin	7
0213 (Eleanor Lawrence); 0302 (Eleanor Lawrence); 0305 (Eleanor Lawrence); 0307 (Eleanor Lawrence); 0310 (Eleanor Lawrence); 0311 (Eleanor Lawrence); 0312 (Eleanor Lawrence)	
Joe Drinkwalter	1
0505 (Guardian #2)	
Clea DuVall	5
0202 (Sylvia); 0302 (Sylvia); 0304 (Sylvia); 0307 (Sylvia); 0501 (Sylvia)	
Allie Dunbar	1
0206 (Student Host)	
Raven Riley Duporte	2
0213 (Hannah (3 Years Old)); 0313 (Young Hannah)	

E

Keren Edelist	1
0608 (Handmaid)	
Allison Edwards-Crewe	2
0404 (Theresa); 0405 (Theresa)	
Novie Edwards	2
0202 (Kit); 0205 (Kit)	
Caleb Ellsworth-Clark	1
0301 (Guardian #1)	
Jonathan Ellul	1
0509 (American Refugee #3)	
Greg Ellwand	1
0602 (William)	
Toni Ellwand	1
0103 (Female Worker #2)	
Jackie English	1
0510 (Canadian Guard)	
Karen Espana	1
0603 (Diplomat #1 (Mexico Rep))	
Samantha Espie	1
0402 (Jean)	
Izad Etemadi	1
0507 (ER Receptionist)	

F

Adrian Falconer	1
0206 (College Dean)	
Kelsey Falconer	1
0308 (Ofandy)	
Tanya Faraday	1
0205 (Dee)	
Scott Farley	1
0305 (Guardian Jeremiah)	
Letréal Farquharson	1
0602 (Mayday Rebel #1)	

Adam Fawns	1
0601 (Train Officer)	
Krystle Ferdinand	1
0306 (Praying Econowife #1)	
Shakila Fernando	1
0603 (Jezebel)	
Annika Ferronato	1
0608 (Handmaid)	
Deb Filler	1
0205 (Sally)	
Jamila Fleming	3
0204 (Handmaid C); 0207 (Handmaid C); 0211 (Handmaid C)	
Victoria Fodor	2
0213 (Martha Cora); 0302 (Cora)	
Gary 'Si-Jo' Foo	1
0105 (Guardian — Shooter)	
Malakai Fox	1
0304 (Gilead Extra)	
Alex Frankson	1
0103 (Courthouse Tall Eye)	
Keisha T. Fraser	1
0307 (Protestor #1)	
Jose de Freitas	1
0601 (Refugee Man)	
Rong Fu	1
0601 (Amy)	
Olivia Furman	1
0509 (Plum #6)	

G

Jacqueline Gagliardi	1
0110 (Handmaid)	
Gita Galadauskaite	1
0304 (Econowife #3)	
Sarah Gale	1
0301 (Aunt Louise)	
Lily Gao	1
0307 (Evelyn Chu)	
Soo Garay	2
0202 (Fiona); 0205 (Fiona)	
Ric Garcia	1
0502 (Male Balletgoer)	
Kyle Gatehouse	1
0607 (Enforcer Guardian)	
Yvonne Gaudry	1
0103 (Female Worker #1)	
Ian Geldart	1
0202 (Mike)	
Jen Georgopoulos	1
0313 (Escapee Econowoman)	
Emma Gibbs	1
0306 (Praying Econowife #2)	
Jennifer Gibson	1
0601 (Beatrice)	
James Gilbert	1
0209 (Stuart)	
Riley Gilchrist	1
0302 (Guardian #2)	
Ashleigh Gillan	1
0608 (Ashleigh — Posted Handmaid)	
Chris Gillett	1
0213 (Commander Grinnell)	
Rosa Gilmore	1
0107 (Zoe)	
David Gingrich	1
0204 (Linds)	
Karen Glave	1
0208 (Dr. Hodgson)	

Chris Gleason	1
0313 (Bus Driver)	
Sebastian Gonzalez	1
0601 (Railroad Worker)	
Patrice Goodman	1
0211 (Doctor #3)	
Victoria Goodman	2
0401 (Handmaid Fugitive 2); 0403 (Handmaid Fugitive 2)	
Jeananne Goossen	3
0405 (Aunt Ruth); 0408 (Aunt Ruth); 0409 (Aunt Ruth)	
Nick Gough	1
0304 (Gilead Extra)	
Mckenna Grace	6
0401 (Mrs. Keyes); 0402 (Mrs. Keyes); 0409 (Esther Keyes); 0502 (Esther Keyes); 0503 (Esther Keyes); 0506 (Esther Keyes)	
Jenessa Grant	11
0101 (Ofsamuel); 0102 (Ofsamuel); 0105 (Ofsamuel); 0106 (Ofsamuel); 0110 (Ofsamuel); 0201 (Ofsamuel); 0204 (Ofsamuel); 0206 (Ofsamuel); 0207 (Dolores); 0208 (Dolores); 0307 (Dolores)	
Keara Graves	1
0510 (Handmaid #2)	
Roland Greber	1
0410 (Security Officer)	
Jessica Greco	2
0509 (Martha); 0510 (Martha)	
Jessica Greenberg	1
0203 (Holly's Friend #4)	
Kathryn Greenwood	1
0302 (Alison)	
Adrian Griffin	1
0108 (Commander Davidson)	
Dash Grundy	1
0509 (Photographer)	
Nicky Guadagni	2
0202 (Aunt Sarah); 0205 (Aunt Sarah)	
David Gudjonsson	2
0106 (Commander); 0108 (Commander)	
Zabrina Guevara	1
0106 (Mrs. Castillo)	
Kelaiah Guiel	1
0503 (Acolyte #2)	
Kristen Gutoskie	10
0108 (Beth); 0109 (Beth); 0302 (Beth); 0303 (Beth); 0307 (Beth); 0310 (Beth); 0311 (Beth); 0312 (Beth); 0313 (Beth); 0403 (Beth)	

H

Jane Hailes	1
0402 (Doctor)	
Maria Halimi	1
0602 (Canaan Woman #2)	
Jordin Hall	1
0408 (RCMP Officer)	
Charlie Hamilton	1
0304 (Gilead Extra)	
Luxton Handspiker	1
0402 (Asher)	
Lucky Harmon	1
0306 (Guardian)	
Jason Butler Harner	3
0503 (Commander MacKenzie); 0509 (Commander MacKenzie); 0510 (Commander MacKenzie)	
Percy Harris	1
0410 (Official)	
Ronin Harris	1
0306 (Micah)	

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Alex Harrouch.....	1
0203 (Young Driver)	
Thomas Hauff.....	1
0103 (Judge)	
Dylan Hawco.....	1
0608 (Guardian Peter)	
Imogen Haworth.....	1
0504 (Acolyte)	
Annelise Hawrylak.....	1
0601 (Female Refugee #4)	
Madison Hayes-Crook.....	1
0608 (Handmaid)	
Trevor Hayes.....	1
0203 (Pilot)	
Josh Hohner.....	1
0110 (Assisting Surgeon)	
Danielle Height.....	3
0204 (Handmaid A); 0207 (Handmaid A); 0211 (Meredith)	
Sharon Heldt.....	1
0501 (Waitress)	
Laura Hendrickson.....	1
0309 (Handmaid #4)	
Malaika Hennie-Hamadi.....	3
0504 (Maid); 0505 (Maid); 0508 (Maid)	
Allison Henry.....	1
0509 (Plum #1)	
Deidrie Henry.....	1
0405 (Martha)	
Tom Henry.....	1
0501 (Acolyte #3)	
Janelle Heron.....	1
0203 (Econowife)	
Ian Ho.....	1
0308 (Ryan)	
Jeff Ho.....	1
0209 (Bartender)	
Philip Honey.....	1
0508 (Commander #3)	
Elva Mai Hoover.....	2
0312 (Social Worker); 0313 (Social Worker)	
Lauren Horejda.....	1
0104 (Helen)	
Beth Hornby.....	1
0510 (Martha in Eye Van)	
Michelle Hospedales.....	1
0203 (Holly's Friend #3)	
Brett Houghton.....	1
0503 (Jonah)	
Damien Howard.....	1
0108 (Checkpoint Guardian)	
Catherine Huculak.....	1
0304 (Gilead Extra)	
Kim Huffman.....	1
0605 (Fern)	
J. Timothy Hunt.....	1
0201 (Airport Refugee)	
Stevey Hunter.....	1
0602 (Mayday Rebel #3)	
Jasmin Husain.....	3
0408 (Ex-Handmaid); 0410 (Ex-Handmaid); 0501 (Ex-Handmaid)	
Janelle Hutchison.....	1
0402 (Aunt Wendy)	
Jeremy Hutton.....	1
0508 (Commander #1)	

I

Kathy Imrie.....	1
0405 (Aunt Cordelia)	

Edie Inksetter.....	10
0104 (Aunt Elizabeth); 0106 (Aunt Elizabeth); 0201 (Aunt Elizabeth); 0301 (Aunt Elizabeth); 0308 (Aunt Elizabeth); 0403 (Aunt Elizabeth); 0408 (Aunt Elizabeth); 0409 (Aunt Elizabeth); 0502 (Aunt Elizabeth); 0510 (Aunt Elizabeth)	
Nina Iordanova.....	1
0207 (Refugee)	
Jenny Itwaru.....	1
0304 (Econowife #1)	

J

Alia Jackman.....	1
0406 (Woman)	
Sabrina Jade.....	1
0608 (Handmaid)	
Sam Jaeger.....	5
0209 (Mark Tuello); 0305 (Mark Tuello); 0311 (Mark Tuello); 0312 (Mark Tuello); 0313 (Mark Tuello)	
Jodi Jahnke.....	1
0508 (Protester #4)	
Camille James.....	1
0603 (Louise)	
Jason Jazrawy.....	1
0202 (I.C.E. Agent)	
Edwige Jean-Pierre.....	1
0510 (TPD Officer)	
Kelly Jenrette.....	1
0204 (Annie)	
Karen Jewels.....	1
0308 (Karaoke Singer)	
Natasha Araya Jimenez.....	1
0309 (Handmaid #5)	
Kirsten Johnson.....	1
0108 (Aunt)	
Nona Parker Johnson.....	1
0404 (Darla)	
Diane Johnstone.....	1
0311 (Helen)	
Ayomi Jonas.....	1
0211 (Hannah (4 Years Old))	
Kyle Jonathon.....	3
0603 (Toby / Patrol Guardian #2); 0605 (Toby (Guardian)); 0606 (Toby (Guardian))	
Cherry Jones.....	5
0203 (Holly Maddox); 0211 (Holly Maddox); 0304 (Holly Maddox); 0601 (Holly Maddox); 0602 (Holly Maddox)	
Jahnelle Jones.....	1
0509 (Widow)	
Tattiawna Jones.....	7
0103 (Ofglen #2); 0105 (Ofglen #2); 0106 (Ofglen #2); 0109 (Ofglen #2); 0110 (Ofglen #2); 0204 (Ofglen #2); 0206 (Ofglen #2)	
Tattiawna Jones.....	1
0102 (Ofglen 2)	
Daniel Jun.....	1
0311 (Billy)	
Claudia Jurt.....	1
0308 (Red Center Aunt)	

K

Athena Karkanis.....	3
0604 (Ellen); 0605 (Ellen); 0607 (Ellen)	
Shirley Katz.....	1
0510 (ER Nurse)	
Marvin Kaye.....	1
0107 (Boat Captain)	

Melissa Kelly 2
 0401 (Handmaid Fugitive 1); 0403 (Handmaid Fugitive 1)

Olivia Kent 1
 0509 (Plum #3)

Elena Khan 4
 0101 (Martha); 0103 (Martha); 0109 (Martha); 0110 (Martha)

Kat Khan 1
 0406 (Hysterical Woman)

Udita Khanna 1
 0608 (Handmaid)

Laila Kharouba 2
 0604 (Penthouse Jezebel #3); 0605 (Penthouse Jezebel #3)

Vicki Kim 1
 0213 (Neighbouring Martha #3)

Helen King 2
 0202 (Aunt Pauline); 0207 (Aunt Pauline)

Keyya King 1
 0202 (Jenna)

David Kirby 1
 0110 (Commander Bennett)

Nina Kiri 26
 0101 (Alma); 0102 (Alma); 0104 (Alma); 0105 (Alma); 0106 (Alma); 0109 (Alma); 0110 (Alma); 0201 (Alma); 0204 (Alma); 0206 (Alma); 0207 (Alma); 0208 (Alma); 0210 (Alma); 0211 (Alma); 0302 (Alma); 0304 (Alma); 0307 (Alma); 0308 (Alma); 0309 (Alma); 0310 (Alma); 0312 (Alma); 0313 (Alma); 0401 (Alma); 0402 (Alma); 0403 (Alma); 0507 (Alma)

Christine Ko 2
 0503 (Lily); 0505 (Lily)

Liudmyla Koblytska 1
 0607 (Nick's Housekeeper)

Michael Koras 1
 0311 (Rough Commander #2)

Shruti Kothari 1
 0101 (Woman with Moira)

Ericka Kreutz 1
 0201 (Nurse Wheeler)

Jennifer Krukowski 1
 0311 (Dancer Jezebel #2)

Stephen Kunken 18
 0106 (Commander Putnam); 0109 (Commander Putnam); 0110 (Commander Putnam); 0204 (Warren Putnam); 0206 (Warren Putnam); 0207 (Warren Putnam); 0208 (Warren Putnam); 0210 (Warren Putnam); 0213 (Warren Putnam); 0304 (Warren Putnam); 0305 (Warren Putnam); 0312 (Warren Putnam); 0401 (Warren Putnam); 0405 (Warren Putnam); 0409 (Warren Putnam); 0502 (Warren Putnam); 0505 (Warren Putnam); 0506 (Warren Putnam)

Raimo Kurppa 1
 0107 (Refugee)

L

Ashleigh LaThrop 7
 0302 (Ofmatthew); 0304 (Ofmatthew); 0305 (Ofmatthew); 0306 (Ofmatthew); 0307 (Ofmatthew); 0308 (Ofmatthew); 0309 (Ofmatthew / Natalie)

Joel Lacoursiere 1
 0312 (Staircase Guardian)

Emma Laishram 1
 0311 (Econo Wife Guest)

Amy Landecker 3
 0301 (Mrs. Mackenzie); 0503 (Mrs. Mackenzie); 0509 (Mrs. MacKenzie)

Justin Landry 1
 0108 (Pushy Job Seeker)

Dave Lapsley 1
 0201 (Executioner)

Caeden Lawrence 1
 0103 (Guardian #1)

Carinne Leduc 1
 0209 (Claudine)

April Lee 1
 0509 (American Refugee #2)

Jaemoon Lee 1
 0602 (Ken)

Raevv'n Leedham 1
 0308 (Handmaid)

Shannon Leibinger 1
 0510 (Handmaid #3)

Ben Lewis 1
 0107 (Peter)

Eileen Li 1
 0406 (Elena)

Natalie Lisinska 1
 0302 (Dr. Phillips)

Masa Lizdek 2
 0401 (Handmaid Fugitive 3); 0403 (Handmaid Fugitive 3)

Christian Loyd 1
 0108 (Commander Guthrie)

Daveed Louza 1
 0308 (CPS Agent)

Sachi Lovatt 1
 0304 (Mother / Wife #3)

Charlie Luborsky 1
 0306 (Jonas)

Jane Luk 1
 0408 (Presiding Judge)

Ariel Lukane 1
 0304 (Gilead Extra)

Cornelia Luna 1
 0202 (Unwoman #1)

Tabitha Lupien 1
 0503 (Acolyte #1)

Wilex Ly 1
 0502 (Person)

John Carroll Lynch 1
 0202 (Dan)

M

Bill MacDonald 2
 0401 (Commander Keyes); 0402 (Commander Keyes)

Matthew MacFadzean 1
 0503 (Doctor)

Sebastian MacLean 1
 0607 (Lead Guardian)

Ian MacPherson 1
 0309 (Med Student)

Amanda Macevicius 1
 0605 (Red Headed Jezebel)

Jonathan Malen 1
 0201 (Quinn)

Carson Manning 1
 0303 (Commander Lawrence Driver)

Nat Patricia Manuel 1
 0602 (Mayday Rebel #2)

Samantha Marchand 1
 0308 (Handmaid)

Adam Maros 1
 0506 (Country Club Guardian)

Nola Martin 1
 0209 (Ashlyn's Mother)

Jason Martorino	1	Jake Mossop	1
0303 (Prayer Circle Member)		0309 (Nurse)	
Omar Maskati	2	Lily-Fay Mowbray	1
0404 (Steven); 0405 (Steven)		0608 (Handmaid)	
Vanessa Matsui	1	Kate Moyer	1
0211 (Mrs. Tanaka)		0313 (Kiki)	
William Matthews	1	Lara Mrkoci	1
0302 (Checkpoint Guardian)		0308 (School Security Guard)	
Robyn Matuto	1	Natasha Mumba	4
0510 (Handmaid #1)		0408 (Danielle); 0410 (Danielle); 0501 (Danielle);	
Maggie May	1	0504 (Danielle)	
0608 (Handmaid)		Grace Munro	1
Colin McClean	1	0101 (Red Centre Handmaid)	
0304 (Gilead Extra)		Sadie Munroe	1
Tejay McDonald	1	0309 (Rose)	
0401 (Farmhand 2)		Laurie Murdoch	1
James McDougall	1	0307 (Canadian Minister)	
0108 (Driver #1)		Sarah Murphy-Dyson	1
Al McFoster	1	0505 (Woman #2)	
0408 (Bailiff)		Kyla Musselman	1
Andrew McGillivray	1	0608 (Handmaid)	
0305 (Eye)			
Catherine McGregor	1		
0509 (Aunt Paula)		N	
Catherine McNally	1	Miranda Nagy	1
0203 (Sarah)		0509 (Plum #2)	
Roderick McNeil	1	Jean Paul Najm	1
0401 (Farmhand 1)		0110 (Guardian #1)	
Andy McQueen	1	Stefanie Nakamura	1
0208 (Dr. Epstein)		0308 (Coat Check Woman)	
Sarah McVie	2	Maria Nash	1
0306 (Lena); 0307 (Lena)		0306 (Polly)	
Rohan Mead	3	Lucas Neff	3
0209 (Isaac); 0210 (Isaac); 0212 (Isaac)		0505 (Ryan Wheeler); 0506 (Ryan Wheeler); 0509	
Matthew Mease	1	(Ryan Wheeler)	
0304 (Commander Father 1)		Timothy Ng	1
Christopher Meloni	4	0410 (Video Tech)	
0306 (Commander Winslow); 0307 (Commander Winslow);		Kianna Nicholas	1
0310 (Commander Winslow); 0311 (Comman-		0509 (Plum #8)	
der Winslow)		Deena Nina	1
Katie Messina	1	0502 (Acolyte Bystander)	
0203 (Carol)		Laura Nordin	1
Suzanne Miller	1	0509 (Wannabe Mom #2)	
0601 (Female Refugee #5)		Simon Northwood	1
Max Minghella	2	0101 (Guardian 2)	
0210 (Nick Blaine); 0303 (Nick Blaine)		Paloma Nuñez	1
Sarah Mitchell	1	0404 (Dr. Thomas)	
0306 (Praying Martha #2)		Alexander Nunez	1
Michelle Mohammed	1	0307 (Guardian)	
0308 (Handmaid)			
Rojan Molanian	1		
0608 (Handmaid)		O	
Janet Monid	1	Chris O'Bray	1
0603 (Diplomat #3 (Australian Rep))		0304 (Gilead Extra)	
Alicia Di Monte	1	Bridget Ogundipe	1
0407 (Muslim Girl 2)		0601 (Lauren)	
Andrew Moodie	1	Katherine Oh	1
0110 (Mike Ahn)		0502 (Female Balletgoer)	
Krista Morin	6	Anita Olanick	1
0107 (Rachel Tapping); 0207 (Rachel Tapping); 0209		0601 (Female Refugee #1)	
(Rachel Tapping); 0403 (Rachel Tapping); 0407		Matthew Olver	1
(Rachel Tapping); 0408 (Rachel Tapping)		0109 (Commander Monroe)	
Adrian Morningstar	1	Morgan St. Onge	1
0503 (Hotel Messenger)		0507 (Handmaid #4)	
Jacob Moro	1	John Ortiz	1
0608 (Waiter)		0308 (Jim Thorne)	
Ishan Morris	1	Julian Osen	1
0104 (Guardian Nurse)		0304 (Gilead Extra)	
Barrett Morrison	1	Samy Osman	1
0410 (Gilead Soldier)		0304 (Eye #1)	

P

Jim Pagiamtzis 1
 0305 (Commander)

Daniela Pagliarello 2
 0307 (Protestor #2); 0601 (Linda (Aid Worker))

Owen Painter 1
 0505 (Jaden)

Marlon Palmer 1
 0402 (Security Guardian)

Alana Pancyr 1
 0201 (OfWyatt)

Sunni Park 1
 0509 (Plum #4)

Karen Parker 1
 0501 (Acolyte #4)

Cam Parkes 1
 0104 (Young Guardian)

Konima Parkinson-Jones 1
 0501 (Prosecutor)

Samantha Parkinson 2
 0308 (Birthing Handmaid #2); 0309 (Hospital Handmaid #2)

Daryl Patchett 1
 0506 (Balaclava Agent)

Amish Patel 1
 0108 (Driver #2)

Ipsita Paul 1
 0201 (Aunt Kimberly)

Josh Peace 1
 0605 (Guardian Kern)

Alanis Peart 1
 0302 (Optometrist)

Alyssa Peddle 1
 0509 (Plum #5)

Imali Perera 1
 0306 (Martha Tamara)

Ryan Perlus 1
 0110 (Surgeon)

Rebecca Perry 1
 0508 (Protester #5)

Andrew Perun 1
 0311 (Econo Husband Guest)

Melanie Phan 1
 0313 (Escapee Martha)

Nadeem Phillip 1
 0406 (Pierre)

Alisha Phillips 1
 0304 (Gilead Extra)

Boomer Phillips 1
 0110 (Eye)

Daniel James Pike 1
 0303 (Economan)

Ed Pinker 1
 0510 (Military Assistant)

Janet Pinnick 1
 0202 (Ticket Agent)

Joshua David Pivato 1
 0104 (Official J)

Silvia Platsis 1
 0307 (Gabrielle)

Ari Pollack 1
 0508 (Protester #3)

Kathleen Pollard 1
 0303 (Prayer Circle Member)

Fanny Poon 1
 0601 (Remale Refugee #2)

Anna Popowicz 1
 0304 (Gilead Extra)

William Poulin 1
 0304 (Cambridge Priest)

Nykeem Provo 1
 0307 (Protective Service Agent)

Lisa Malanie Pryce 1
 0608 (Handmaid)

Dana Puddicombe 1
 0109 (Econowife)

Taylor Belle Puterman 1
 0209 (Ashlyn)

Q

Thandie Quiambao 1
 0306 (Sadie)

R

Ashleigh Rains 2
 0102 (Wife 1); 0204 (Wife #1)

Gord Rand 1
 0306 (Mattias)

Tim Ransom 1
 0107 (Whitford)

Jennie Raymond 2
 0102 (Caroline); 0103 (Caroline)

Elizabeth Reaser 3
 0306 (Olivia Winslow); 0307 (Olivia Winslow); 0312 (Olivia Winslow)

Tara Redmond van Rees 1
 0408 (Kylie)

Romii Reilly 2
 0202 (Unwoman — Stage 4); 0206 (Unwoman Prisoner — Stage 4)

Bas Reitsma 1
 0110 (Eye #2)

Asia Rempel 1
 0203 (Young June)

Afton Rentz 1
 0501 (Female Tac)

Allana Reoch 1
 0608 (Ofgabriel)

Sean Rey 1
 0406 (Man)

Michael Rhoades 3
 0508 (Commander Dupar); 0509 (Commander Dupar); 0510 (Commander Dupar)

Charlie Riina 1
 0108 (Handmaid)

Joel Rinzler 2
 0109 (Butcher); 0201 (Butcher)

Rebecca Rittenhouse 1
 0207 (Odette)

Helene Robbie 1
 0304 (Mother / Wife #1)

Kim Roberts 1
 0107 (Christine)

Karen Robinson 1
 0102 (Nurse Tania)

Spencer Robson 1
 0307 (Brookline Guardian)

Isaiah Rockcliffe 1
 0203 (Adam)

Nadine Whiteman Roden 1
 0501 (Marcia McPhadden)

Ian Ronningen 2
 0109 (Guardian); 0208 (Offred's Guardian 2)

Paul De La Rosa 1
 0103 (Guardian Captain)

Tara Rosling 1
 0306 (Sofia)

The Handmaid's Tale Episode Guide

Jamillah Ross	1
0402 (Jezebel's Martha)	
Owen Ross	1
0510 (Refugee Kid #1)	
Matthew Rowsell	1
0311 (B&B Econo Son)	
Cydney Rusch	1
0602 (Canaan Woman #4)	
James Russell	1
0304 (Gilead Extra)	
Ella Ryan	1
0502 (Angela Putnam)	
Maya Ryan	1
0502 (Angela Putnam)	

S

Evan Sabba	1
0311 (B&B Econo Dad)	
Catherine Saindon	1
0507 (OfClarence)	
Ronica Sajnani	1
0202 (Unwoman #2)	
Samer Salem	2
0401 (David); 0402 (David)	
Mark Samuels	1
0508 (Protester #1)	
Cristina Sanchez	1
0306 (Handmaid)	
Olivia Sandoval	1
0504 (Lisa)	
Bea Santos	1
0102 (Protester)	
Vas Saranga	1
0203 (Kyle)	
Nayo Sasaki-Picou	1
0608 (Handmaid)	
Lauren Saunders	1
0608 (Handmaid)	
Victoria Sawal	4
0408 (Tyler); 0410 (Tyler); 0501 (Tyler); 0504 (Tyler)	
Robin Schisler	1
0607 (Wife #3)	
Glen Schultz	1
0106 (Commander Glen Cooper)	
Catherine De Seve	1
0308 (Mrs. Allston)	
Jeremy Shamos	1
0506 (Dr. Alan Landers)	
Melody Shang	1
0306 (Praying Martha #1)	
Emily Shelton	1
0510 (Dr. Lo)	
Vivian Simms	1
0509 (Plum #7)	
Felicia Simone	1
0202 (Crying Student)	
Timothy Simons	5
0604 (Commander Bell); 0605 (Commander Bell); 0606 (Commander Bell); 0607 (Commander Bell); 0608 (Commander Bell)	
Rebecca Singh	1
0306 (DC Station Aunt Guard)	
Simon Sinn	1
0508 (Grocer)	
Sarah Slywchuk	2
0301 (Handmaid); 0308 (Red Center Handmaid)	
James Smith	1
0209 (Protestor #2)	
Sophia Smith	1
0308 (Handmaid)	

Zachary Smithers	1
0608 (Church Guardian)	
Jane Smythe	1
0204 (Wife #3)	
David Snelgrove	1
0201 (Eye Commander)	
Naomi Snieckus	1
0602 (Abigail)	
Birgitte Solem	5
0102 (Putnam Martha); 0103 (Putnam Martha); 0109 (Putnam Martha); 0213 (Putnam Martha); 0502 (Putnam Martha)	
Christina Song	1
0607 (Wife #2)	
Alex Spencer	1
0301 (DCBS Officer)	
Nicole Stamp	1
0103 (Lenore)	
Ordena Stephens	2
0301 (Martha Frances); 0307 (Martha Frances)	
Sacha Stewart	1
0213 (Neighbouring Martha #4)	
Sugenja Sri	6
0308 (Sienna); 0310 (Sienna); 0311 (Sienna); 0312 (Sienna); 0313 (Sienna); 0403 (Sienna)	
Sean Sullivan	1
0506 (Gilead Doctor)	
Naima Sundiata	1
0307 (Non-Veiled Handmaid)	
Rossif Sutherland	2
0504 (Ezra Shaw); 0506 (Ezra Shaw)	
Sydney Sweeney	7
0205 (Eden Spencer); 0206 (Eden Spencer); 0207 (Eden Spencer); 0208 (Eden Spencer); 0209 (Eden Spencer); 0210 (Eden Spencer); 0212 (Eden Spencer)	
Nora Sweet-Underhill	1
0108 (Wife)	
Rachel Sybblis	1
0608 (Handmaid)	
Luna Szeto	1
0507 (Handmaid #3)	

T

Catherine Tait	1
0309 (Rose's Mother)	
Sanjay Talwar	1
0501 (Desk Constable)	
Mish Tam	1
0509 (American Refugee #1)	
Peggy Bree Tam	1
0201 (Punished Handmaid #1)	
Chris Tarpos	2
0202 (I.C.E. Agent); 0206 (Protester)	
Katerina Taxia	1
0302 (Aunt Rebecca)	
Briana Templeton	1
0509 (Wannabe Mom #1)	
Shahi Teruko	2
0202 (Gwendolyn); 0205 (Gwendolyn)	
Yohance Thomas	1
0304 (Gilead Extra)	
David Thompson	1
0401 (Captured Guardian)	
Alastair Thorburn-Vitols	1
0106 (Young Singer)	
Avery Star Pryce Tibayan	1
0505 (Drawing Kid)	
Kendra Leigh Timmins	1
0507 (Handmaid #2)	

Emmerly Tinglin 2
 0604 (Penthouse Jezebel #4); 0605 (Penthouse Jezebel #4)

Marisa Tomei 1
 0202 (Mrs. O'Conner)

David Tompa 2
 0212 (Mr. Spencer); 0213 (Mr. Spencer)

Luc Trottier 1
 0206 (Heckler #2)

Dylan Trowbridge 1
 0303 (Daniel)

Taylor Trowbridge 1
 0501 (Acolyte #1)

Diana Tso 1
 0202 (Unwoman #4)

Bruce Tubbe 1
 0110 (Mathew)

Brianne Tucker 3
 0201 (Punished Handmaid #3); 0207 (Molly); 0309 (Handmaid #1)

Ryan Turner 1
 0201 (Uniformed Eye #1)

U

Malube Uhindu-Gingala 1
 0406 (Mother)

Puja Uppal 1
 0603 (Female Delegate)

V

Shantel Vaillou 1
 0608 (Handmaid)

Laura Vandervoort 1
 0402 (Daisy)

Patricia Vanstone 3
 0603 (Helen); 0605 (Helen); 0608 (Helen)

Joe Vercillo 5
 0102 (Guardian); 0103 (Guardian); 0104 (Guardian); 0106 (Guardian); 0107 (Guardian)

Jennifer Villaverde 1
 0507 (Nurse)

Angela Vint 12
 0102 (Leah); 0103 (Leah); 0106 (Leah); 0204 (Leah); 0205 (Leah); 0213 (Leah); 0304 (Leah); 0308 (Leah); 0502 (Leah); 0510 (Leah); 0607 (Leah); 0608 (Leah)

Perrie Voss 1
 0205 (Ofzachary)

W

Michael Wacholtz 1
 0103 (Gambel)

Abbas Wahab 1
 0509 (American Refugee #5)

Sophia Walker 2
 0404 (Abby); 0410 (Abby)

Eilish Waller 1
 0102 (Ofmyles)

Adrian Walters 1
 0213 (Commander Horace)

Cornelia Walters 1
 0209 (Protestor #1)

Samantha Wan 1
 0605 (Aunt Claudia)

Stephanie Ng Wan 1
 0310 (Fearful Handmaid)

Oshini Wanigasekera 1
 0501 (Officer Margeaux)

Edonis Washington 1
 0306 (Guardian)

Mark Waters 1
 0313 (Kiki's Father)

Bahia Watson 23
 0101 (Oferic); 0102 (Oferic); 0105 (Oferic); 0110 (Oferic); 0201 (Oferic); 0204 (Oferic); 0206 (Oferic); 0207 (Brianna); 0208 (Brianna); 0210 (Brianna); 0211 (Brianna); 0302 (Brianna); 0304 (Brianna); 0305 (Brianna); 0307 (Brianna); 0308 (Brianna); 0309 (Brianna); 0310 (Brianna); 0313 (Brianna); 0401 (Brianna); 0402 (Brianna); 0403 (Brianna); 0507 (Brianna)

Jonathan Watton 15
 0303 (Mathew Calhoun); 0304 (Mathew Calhoun); 0305 (Mathew Calhoun); 0309 (Mathew Calhoun); 0312 (Mathew Calhoun); 0401 (Mathew Calhoun); 0405 (Mathew Calhoun); 0502 (Commander Calhoun); 0506 (Matthew Calhoun); 0508 (Matthew Calhoun); 0509 (Matthew Calhoun); 0510 (Matthew Calhoun); 0604 (Commander Matthew Calhoun); 0605 (Commander Matthew Calhoun); 0608 (Commander Matthew Calhoun)

Erin Way 4
 0107 (Erin); 0203 (Erin); 0209 (Erin); 0302 (Erin)

Paulyne Wei 1
 0602 (Patti)

Savannah Welch 1
 0503 (Sam)

Kirsten Wendlandt 1
 0304 (Econowife #6)

Kevin Whalen 1
 0304 (Toronto Priest)

Neil Whitely 1
 0507 (Captain)

Bradley Whitford 14
 0212 (Commander Lawrence); 0213 (Joseph Lawrence); 0301 (Joseph Lawrence); 0302 (Joseph Lawrence); 0303 (Joseph Lawrence); 0304 (Joseph Lawrence); 0305 (Joseph Lawrence); 0306 (Joseph Lawrence); 0307 (Joseph Lawrence); 0308 (Joseph Lawrence); 0310 (Joseph Lawrence); 0311 (Joseph Lawrence); 0312 (Joseph Lawrence); 0313 (Joseph Lawrence)

Elizabeth Whitmere 1
 0311 (Martha Maureen)

Mark Wiebe 1
 0202 (I.C.E. Supervisor)

Samira Wiley 19
 0103 (Moirra); 0104 (Moirra); 0105 (Moirra); 0108 (Moirra); 0109 (Moirra); 0110 (Moirra); 0203 (Moirra); 0207 (Moirra); 0209 (Moirra); 0211 (Moirra); 0212 (Moirra); 0301 (Moirra); 0302 (Moirra); 0303 (Moirra); 0304 (Moirra); 0305 (Moirra); 0307 (Moirra); 0312 (Moirra Strand); 0313 (Moirra Strand)

Adam Kenneth Wilson 1
 0504 (Angry Man)

Blythe Wilson 1
 0505 (Female Acolyte)

Laura Wilson 1
 0103 (Martha)

Marissa Kate Wilson 4
 0110 (Handmaid); 0205 (Ofzachary's Partner); 0305 (Ofzachary's Partner); 0308 (Ofzachary's Partner)

Oprah Winfrey 1
 0211 (Newsreader (voice))

Adam Winlove-Smith 1
 0101 (Guardian Prisoner)

Jazlyn Wong-Lee	1
0608 (Handmaid)	
Kenny Wong	1
0406 (Lead Soldier)	
Matthew Worku	1
0604 (Charlie)	
Naomi Wright	1
0603 (Aunt Miriam)	
Teagan Wright	1
0311 (B&B Econo Daughter)	
Bryce Wynter	1
0607 (Gate Guardian)	

Y

Emi Yasuo	1
0601 (Female Refugee #3)	
Lovina Yavari	1
0509 (Driver)	
Anne Yorke	1
0101 (Aunt 3)	
Beatriz Yuste	1
0213 (Neighbouring Martha #1)	

Z

Paniz Zade	1
0311 (Wanda)	
Greg Zajac	1
0304 (Gilead Extra)	
Charlie Zeltzer	3
0304 (Oliver); 0407 (Oliver); 0410 (Oliver)	
Amanda Zhou	3
0408 (Vicky); 0410 (Vicky); 0501 (Vicky)	
Sylvia Zuk	1
0101 (Protestor)	