"It makes another mouth, a small red one, like the mouths painted with thick brushes by

kindergarten children. A child's idea of a smile. [...] These are not snowmen

after all.”

“Moira was like an elevator with open sides. She made us dizzy."

“Falling in love, we said; I fell for him. We were falling women. We believed in it,

this downward motion: so lovely, like flying, and yet at the same time so dire, so

extreme, so unlikely."

"How I wasted them, those rooms, that freedom from being seen."

“It’s an oasis of the forbidden [...] It’s as if he’s offered me drugs”

“What we prayed for was emptiness, so we would be worthy to be filled: with grace, with love, with self-denial, semen and babies.”

“Nothing changes instantaneously: in a gradually heating bathtub you'd be boiled to death before you knew it.”

“My name isn't Offred, I have another name, which nobody uses now because it's forbidden. I tell myself it doesn't matter,

your name is like your telephone number, useful only to others; but what I tell myself is wrong, it does matter.”

"I almost gasp : he’s said a forbidden word. Sterile."

“I thought someone had made it up. I suppose all children think that, about any history before their own. If it's only a story, it

becomes less frightening.”

“We lived in the blank white spaces at the edges of print. It gave us more

freedom. We lived in the gaps between the stories.”

“Sanity is a valuable possession...I save it, so I will have enough, when the time comes.”

"I would like to believe this is a story I’m telling. I need to believe it. I must believe it...If it’s a story I’m telling, then I have control over the ending.”

“Then we had the irises, rising beautiful and cool on their tall stalks, like blown glass...and the bleeding hearts, so female in shape it was a surprise they'd not long since been rooted out.”

“You wanted a women's culture. Well, now there is one.

It isn't what you meant, but it exists.”

“Ignoring isn’t the same

as ignorance, you have

to work at it.”

"I\_ m\_\_\_\_ a\_\_\_\_\_\_ m\_\_\_\_, a s\_\_\_\_ r\_\_ o\_\_, l\_\_\_ t\_\_ m\_\_\_\_\_ p\_\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_\_ b\_  
k\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. A c\_\_\_\_'\_ i\_\_\_ o\_ a s\_\_\_\_. [...] T\_\_\_\_ a\_\_ n\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_\_  
a\_\_\_\_ a\_\_.”  
  
“M\_\_\_\_ w\_\_ l\_\_\_ a\_ e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_ o\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_. S\_\_ m\_\_\_ u\_ d\_\_\_\_."  
  
“F\_\_\_\_\_\_ i\_ l\_\_\_, w\_ s\_\_\_; I f\_\_\_ f\_\_ h\_\_. W\_ w\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_\_. W\_ b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ i\_ i\_,  
t\_\_\_ d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ m\_\_\_\_\_: s\_ l\_\_\_\_\_, l\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_, a\_\_ y\_\_ a\_ t\_\_ s\_\_\_ t\_\_\_ s\_ d\_\_\_, s\_  
e\_\_\_\_\_\_, s\_ u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_."  
  
"H\_\_ I w\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_, t\_\_\_\_ r\_\_\_\_, t\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_."  
  
“I\_’\_ a\_ o\_\_\_\_ o\_ t\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [...] I\_’\_ a\_ i\_ h\_’\_ o\_\_\_\_\_\_ m\_ d\_\_\_\_”  
  
“W\_\_\_ w\_ p\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_ w\_\_ e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, s\_ w\_ w\_\_\_\_ b\_ w\_\_\_\_\_ t\_ b\_ f\_\_\_\_\_: w\_\_\_ g\_\_\_\_, w\_\_\_ l\_\_\_, w\_\_\_ s\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_, s\_\_\_\_  
a\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_.”  
  
“N\_\_\_\_\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_\_ i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: i\_ a g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ h\_\_\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_\_ y\_\_'\_ b\_ b\_\_\_\_\_ t\_ d\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_ y\_\_ k\_\_\_ i\_.”  
  
“M\_ n\_\_\_ i\_\_'\_ O\_\_\_\_\_, I h\_\_\_ a\_\_\_\_\_\_ n\_\_\_, w\_\_\_\_ n\_\_\_\_\_ u\_\_\_ n\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_\_ i\_'\_ f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I t\_\_\_ m\_\_\_\_\_ i\_ d\_\_\_\_'\_ m\_\_\_\_\_,  
y\_\_\_ n\_\_\_ i\_ l\_\_\_ y\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ n\_\_\_\_\_, u\_\_\_\_\_ o\_\_\_ t\_ o\_\_\_\_\_; b\_\_ w\_\_\_ I t\_\_\_ m\_\_\_\_\_ i\_ w\_\_\_\_, i\_ d\_\_\_ m\_\_\_\_\_.”  
  
"I a\_\_\_\_\_ g\_\_\_ : h\_’\_ s\_\_\_ a f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_. S\_\_\_\_\_\_."  
  
“I t\_\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_\_ h\_\_ m\_\_\_ i\_ u\_. I s\_\_\_\_\_\_ a\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_, a\_\_\_\_ a\_\_ h\_\_\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_ o\_\_. I\_ i\_'\_ o\_\_\_ a s\_\_\_\_, i\_  
b\_\_\_\_\_\_ l\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”  
  
“W\_ l\_\_\_\_ i\_ t\_\_ b\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_ a\_ t\_\_ e\_\_\_\_ o\_ p\_\_\_\_. I\_ g\_\_\_ u\_ m\_\_\_  
f\_\_\_\_\_\_. W\_ l\_\_\_\_ i\_ t\_\_ g\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_\_.”  
  
“S\_\_\_\_\_ i\_ a v\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_...\_ s\_\_\_ i\_, s\_ I w\_\_\_ h\_\_\_ e\_\_\_\_\_, w\_\_\_ t\_\_ t\_\_\_ c\_\_\_\_.”  
  
"I w\_\_\_\_ l\_\_\_ t\_ b\_\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_ i\_ a s\_\_\_\_ I’\_ t\_\_\_\_\_\_. I n\_\_\_ t\_ b\_\_\_\_\_\_ i\_. I m\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_\_ i\_...\_\_ i\_’\_ a s\_\_\_\_ I’\_ t\_\_\_\_\_\_, t\_\_\_ I h\_\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_\_ o\_\_\_ t\_\_ e\_\_\_\_\_.”  
  
“T\_\_\_ w\_ h\_\_ t\_\_ i\_\_\_\_\_, r\_\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a\_\_ c\_\_\_ o\_ t\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_, l\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_ g\_\_\_\_...\_\_\_ t\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ h\_\_\_\_\_, s\_ f\_\_\_\_\_ i\_ s\_\_\_\_ i\_ w\_\_ a s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_'\_ n\_\_ l\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_ r\_\_\_\_\_ o\_\_.”  
  
“Y\_\_ w\_\_\_\_\_ a w\_\_\_\_'\_ c\_\_\_\_\_\_. W\_\_\_, n\_\_ t\_\_\_\_ i\_ o\_\_.  
I\_ i\_\_'\_ w\_\_\_ y\_\_ m\_\_\_\_, b\_\_ i\_ e\_\_\_\_\_.”  
  
“I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ i\_\_’\_ t\_\_ s\_\_\_  
a\_ i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, y\_\_ h\_\_\_  
t\_ w\_\_\_ a\_ i\_.”

"It makes  
kindergarten children.  
after all.”

“Moira was

“Falling in  
this downward  
extreme, so

"How I

“It’s an

“What we  
and babies.”

“Nothing changes

“My name  
your name

"I almost

“I thought  
becomes less

“We lived  
freedom. We

“Sanity is

"I would

“Then we

“You wanted  
It isn't

“Ignoring isn’t