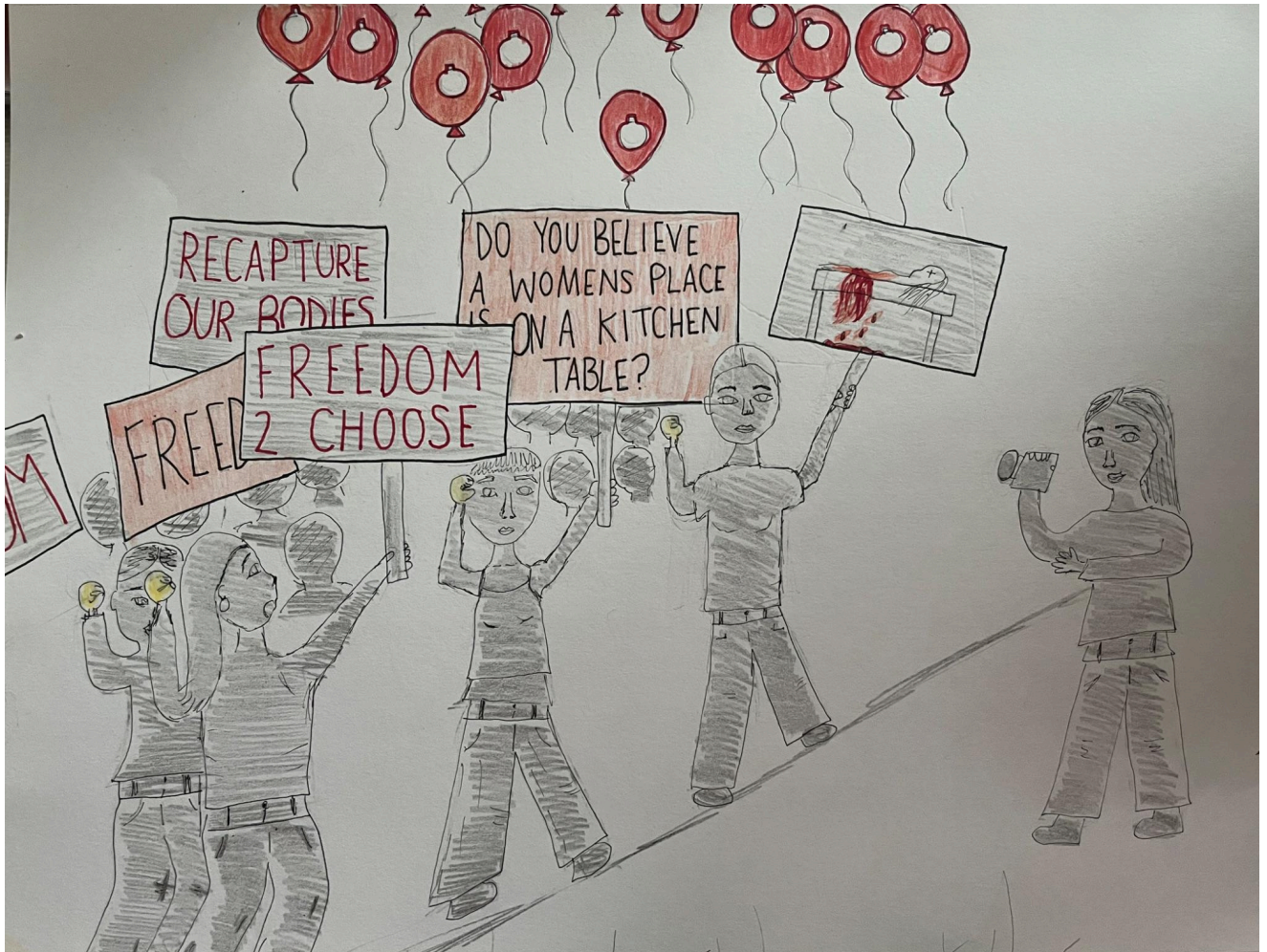


Recapture Our Bodies



One of the few memories that the readers have heard of Offred's mother is of this protest she had gone to. The author described a world that would soon be turned into reality and it was interesting to see how the past aligned with the future. The protest was described as fighting for women rights for their bodies.

Offred's mother was shown as a big activist and was very feminine. She was described as different in the society that they were living in. In a way it sounded like the mom could be a lesbian. "I don't want a man around, what use are they except for ten seconds' worth of half babies. A man is just a woman's strategy for making other women." (pg. 121) I interpreted that she didn't like men, especially Offred's dad. She cared about herself and what she needed.

The color red was mentioned a few times in this section. The balloons were red and the author mentioned "The camera moves to the sky, where hundreds of balloons rise, trailing their strings: red balloons, with a circle painted on them, a circle with a stem like the stem of an apple, the stem of a cross." (pg. 120) The design in the balloon symbolizes something but I am not sure what. The reason why my characters are all drawn black is because the way Offred is describing this scene it's in a film. Films back then were black and white however, the only color that is shown is what is most important. Their signs represented what they were fighting for, their fists showed how much they care and the balloons might represent their freedom floating away.

This chapter stood out to me because it was portrayed that Offred and the other handmaids were beginning to and have already been brainwashed. They were shown these films and they didn't know which were true and what to believe. They said that they were "Safe" and "being saved" but exactly from what? Projection equipment was brought out to show how unwomen wasted their time. But which position is better? Or is there even a better position?

It seemed like women have always had a hard time fighting for their rights and living their life. In my picture I purposefully left out men because they aren't mentioned as helpful or supportive. So I would assume they weren't at the protest. Another important detail in my picture and in the book was the line drawing of the women bleeding on a table. When I read this I interpreted it as the blood representing the women being hurt and not getting any justice. She is laying on the table probably unconscious or aware of anything which is how the handmaids are right now. They aren't aware of much because of what they are censored with. However the blood is the pain. The pain the women had and have gone through. The dystopian they were fighting against, has come into reality. Offred misses her mom but there is nothing she can do about it, she is stuck in the dystopian world.