

Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason

Helen Fielding

A Before Reading

- 1 a *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason* is the sequel to *Bridget Jones's Diary* and both books have been made into films. Do you know anything about Bridget Jones? What kind of person is she? What does she want in life? Is she single or married? Does she have a job? Which actress plays her in the films?

If you do not already know about Bridget Jones, read pages 4–7 to help you.

- b Do you know any other famous sequels?

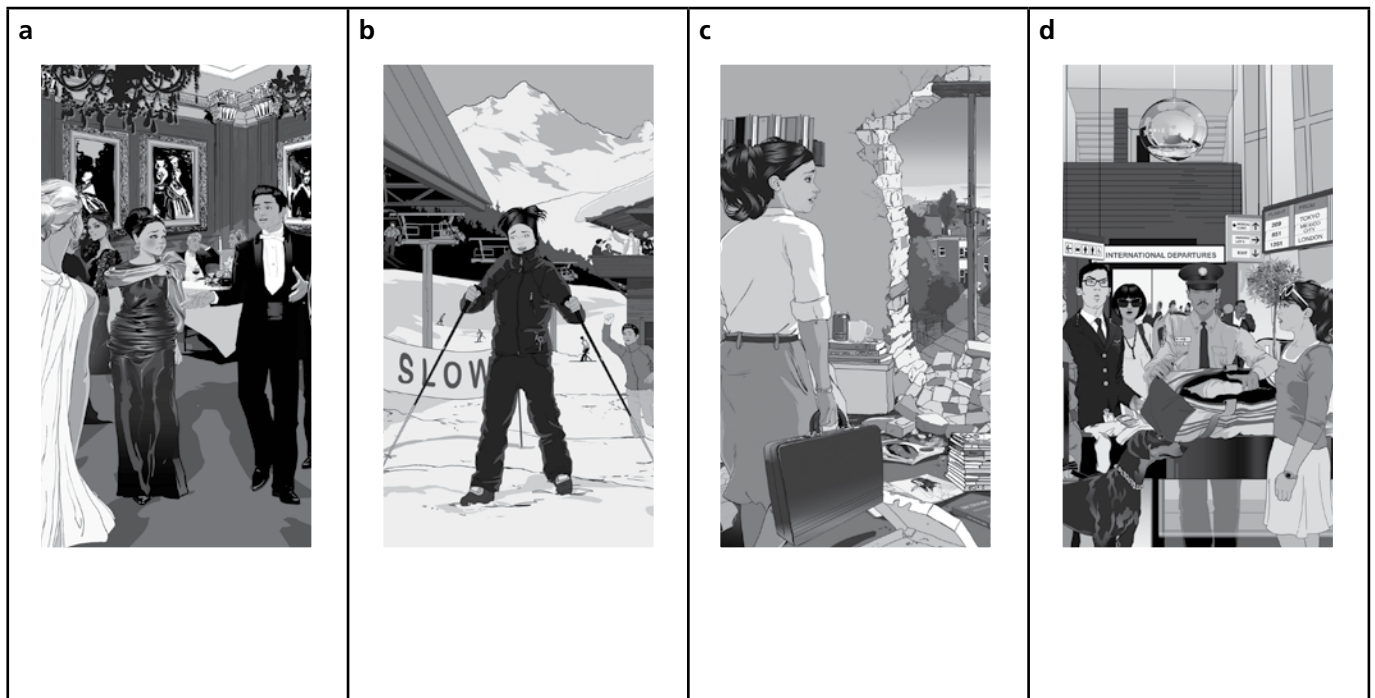


- 2 The story is set mainly in London in 1997, when there were two very important news stories: a new British Prime Minister was elected and a very famous British woman was killed. Answer the questions about these two stories:

- a Which political party won the election?
 b Who was the new Prime Minister?
 c Who was the famous woman who died?
 d How did she die?

Now check your answers on page 8.

- 3 The pictures show some of the difficult or embarrassing situations which Bridget finds herself in during the year. Can you guess what problem she is having in each one?



As you read, check your ideas.

B While Reading

- 4 a Bridget and her friends read self-help books and articles to help them with their problems. As you read, keep a note of any self-help books and articles mentioned, their title (if given), who reads them, and what they say or what they are about. The first one is an example.

Book or article?	Title (if given)	Who reads it	What it says / What it is about
<i>Book</i>	<i>How to Get the Love You Want / Keeping the Love You Find</i>	<i>Bridget</i>	<i>Don't chase men. The man must chase the woman.</i>

- b 'Some women believe everything they read in self-help books...but self-help books are full of rubbish.' (Mark Darcy, page 63).

Do you agree that self-help books are rubbish or can they give good advice? Would you like to read any of the books in 4a? Do you think self-help books have more male or female readers? Write a short paragraph giving your opinion.

5 On 14 July, Bridget is confused and unhappy, with many problems. She throws away her self-help books. Imagine that you are a friend of Bridget's and that she has emailed you to ask for help with this list of problems:

- There is a hole in the wall of my flat.
- I haven't got any money.
- My boyfriend is going out with another woman.
- One of my best friends is going on holiday with my boyfriend and the other woman.
- I hate my job, but need it to pay for the hole in the wall.
- I need a holiday away from all my problems, but I have no money and no one to go on holiday with.
- My self-help books aren't helping me.

Write an email reply to Bridget, giving your advice on what she should do.

New Message

Send Chat Attach Address Fonts Colors Save As Draft

To: bridgetjones

Subject: Some solutions?

Hi Bridget,

Thanks for your email. So sorry to hear about all your problems. It sounds like you've been having a terrible time! There are no easy solutions, but I'll try to give you my best ideas to help ...

C After Reading

- 6 a 'I also promise to keep in close touch with my best friends, Bridget and Sharon. They are the best friends a girl could have in the whole world.' (Jude, page 93).

For each of the following sentences about best friends, add a cross ('X') to the relevant column to show your opinion on it.

Best friends...	Agree	It depends	Disagree
... are as important as a boyfriend/girlfriend/partner.			
... must accept your boyfriend/girlfriend/partner.			
... give better advice than family members.			
... should live near to you.			
... should have a similar personality to you.			
... should have the same political opinions as you.			
... cannot be a member of the opposite sex.			
... must be with you in both good and bad times.			
... stay with you all your life.			

- b Write a paragraph explaining your opinions on the sentences above, using your own best friends or characters from the book as examples.
- 7 Imagine you are Bridget Jones writing a diary entry for 31 December one year after the end of the story. Include details of:
- where you spent the year (in Thailand? California? London?)
 - how your relationship with Mark is now going (are you still together?)
 - what has happened in your life during the past year (travel? career? health? flat?)
 - what your friends and parents are now doing.