

Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason

Helen Fielding

1 1 Bridget's mother was going to Kenya. Bridget was worried because when her mother had gone on holiday to Portugal a few months before, she had met a Portuguese tour operator called Julio. This had made Bridget's father jealous, and Bridget didn't want him to be upset again.

2 (a) He is Bridget's boyfriend.
(b) He is Bridget's boss and the producer at *Sit Up Britain*.
(c) She is Bridget's friend. She is married to Jeremy and has three small children.
(d) He is Magda's builder.

3 Because Shaz and Jude were Bridget's friends, and she had known them for many years. They had always been very kind to her, so she always answered their calls.

4 Giles Benwick is a friend of Mark's. He called because he wanted to talk about his separation. Mark wanted Bridget to talk to Giles because he thought she could give him some good advice.

2 1 Bridget was annoyed with Gary because there were dirty plates and fishing magazines everywhere in her flat and he had done a bad job of putting up the shelves. She made him leave by paying him.

2 A jellyfish looks harmless but can sting you. Rebecca seemed nice and friendly but said things which were actually very hurtful.

3 Magda was upset because Jude's question about having the baby made her think she looked fat. Bridget made her feel better by telling her that she looked great.

4 She was warning Bridget to be careful about Rebecca.

5 Bridget was nervous about the Law Society Dinner because it was very formal and Mark's friends would be there. She prepared herself by borrowing a long elegant dress from Magda and buying a special corset to make herself look slim.

3 1 Mark laughed because Bridget had put her make-up on wrongly – she had eye shadow all over her cheeks.

2 Bridget saw her talking and laughing with him.

3 Bridget got upset because she realized that she and Mark never stayed at Mark's house. She suspected it was full of messages from Rebecca.

4 Mark felt things weren't right because every time he tried to touch Bridget, she moved away. Bridget explained that this was because she didn't want him to find out she was wearing a corset.

4 1 Because Mark would miss Valentine's Day.

2 He arranged a surprise weekend ski trip. Rebecca gave him the idea.

3 She met her mother and Una Alconbury. They had a young African man, Wellington, with them.

4 Rebecca invited Mark and Bridget to her parents' house in Gloucester for a house party. Bridget didn't want to go, but she accepted the invitation because she didn't want Rebecca to have the chance to be alone with Mark.

5 1 'Johnny's boy' is Rebecca's teenage nephew. He tried to kiss Bridget because Rebecca had told him that Bridget really fancied him and that Bridget and Mark were breaking up. This caused trouble for Bridget because Mark saw the boy trying to kiss her.

2 Magda gave Bridget the best advice about Mark. She said that Mark hadn't ended the relationship and that Bridget should call him.

3 Bridget thought Mark was talking about their relationship, but he was actually talking about the football match.

4 Wellington showed support for Bridget by telling her that with or without a husband, older women have the respect of the tribe. He also held her hand after they saw Mark getting out of the taxi with Rebecca.

6 1 Bridget got the money for the extension by arranging a second mortgage with her bank – a loan of £7,000. She later changed her mind about it because she didn't think she would be able to repay the loan.

2 Rebecca was having a welcome back dinner for Mark but had not invited Bridget.

3 (a) There was a horrible smell on the stairs in Bridget's building.
(b) There was a large hole in the side of Bridget's flat and bricks everywhere.

4 Jude was getting married to Vile Richard. Shaz and Bridget were against the wedding because they thought Richard was mad and vile, and because they didn't want to be bridesmaids.

7 1 Two pieces of steak were causing the bad smell. Bridget's mother had put them in Bridget's bag without telling her. Bridget had left the bag in the hall cupboard.

2 Because Jude was going to go on holiday with Mark and Rebecca.

3 Bridget heard Mark and Rebecca talking behind the hedge. She learned that for Mark, some women were too dependent on their friends and self-help books, which he thought were full of rubbish. She also learned that Rebecca agreed with everything Mark said.

4 (a) Rebecca jumped into a shallow lake and hurt her foot.
(b) Giles tried to kill himself by taking temazepam pills.

8 1 Because she thought they might have destroyed her relationship with Mark.

2 Because she saw Vile Richard and Jude happy together, and realized that Jude really loved him.

3 To the island of Koh Samui in Thailand.

4 A piece of paper with the poem *If* on it.

9 1 Because earlier in the week Shaz had seen Jed, the man from the aeroplane that she fancied, trying to kiss Bridget.

2 Jed broke into the girls' hut and stole their bags. Then he gave Bridget another bag with drugs sewn into the lining. The Thai authorities found the drugs at the airport and arrested Bridget.

3 (a) She suggested that Charlie ring his father in the Foreign Office.
(b) She pretended she was an important TV journalist with connections in the highest level of government.

4 Because the newspapers were full of stories about the death of Princess Diana.

10 1 Rebecca was going out with Giles Benwick. Bridget thought this was strange because Giles was neither handsome nor rich, nor was he someone else's boyfriend – in other words, not the sort of person Rebecca would normally go out with.

2 Bridget decided to send a letter to Gary because she was fed up with the hole in the wall. She wanted it to be an official lawyer's letter so that Gary would take it seriously.

3 Bridget was pleased with the gift because she thought it was a promotional biro or lipstick, perhaps even an invitation to a launch party. She changed her mind when Mark told her it was a bullet.

4 Because they were too busy making arrangements for Princess Diana's funeral the following day.

11 1 Because Shaz's flat was messy and crowded.

2 Bridget wanted to see her mum because she was feeling very depressed – she had no job, money or boyfriend, her flat had a hole in the wall and someone wanted to kill her. Her mum helped by listening carefully to her, giving her a hug, saying she was proud of her and offering to talk to the detective. She also gave Bridget some good advice about Mark – to tell him how she really felt.

3 Bridget and Mark met each other on the stairs in the dark. They were both frightened because they thought the other person was the man who sent the bullet. They started laughing and then Bridget told Mark how she really felt. Mark said he felt the same.

4 Gary Wilshaw sent the bullet. The DNA from the stamp on the envelope matched the DNA on a cup in Bridget's apartment which Gary drank from. Gary was already wanted by the police for a number of burglaries.

12

- 1 Jude and Vile Richard were getting married. Shaz and Bridget were the bridesmaids.
- 2 Jude promised never to become a Smug Married person, and to keep in close touch with her best friends, Shaz and Bridget.
- 3 Because she just knew it was a relationship that was going to work and be very good for Shaz.
- 4 The Chief Executive was very pleased with Bridget's performance over the year, so he wrote to ask her to rejoin the *Sit Up Britain* team as Assistant Producer. Richard Finch had been removed from his job at the end of October because of 'personal difficulties'.
- 5 (a) She was excited about going to Los Angeles.
(b) She was not very sure that she wanted to go back to Thailand.