

# Bridget Jones's Diary

## Helen Fielding

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  - 1 We learn that Bridget smokes, that she has no boyfriend and that she needs to take exercise. We also learn that she believes herself to be selfish and not caring or helpful enough to others.
  - 2 Mark Darcy is the son of Bridget's parents' friends. Bridget doesn't want to meet him because she thinks her mother is trying to arrange for Mark Darcy to become her boyfriend.
  - 3
    - a Una Alconbury is Bridget's mother's best friend.
    - b Perpetua works with Bridget in a slightly senior position.
    - c Daniel Cleaver is the boss of Bridget's department.
    - d Shazzer is one of Bridget's close friends.
    - e Tom is also one of Bridget's close friends. (He is gay.)
  - 4 Because he wants to sleep with her but doesn't want a relationship with her.
  
- 2
  - 1 Bridget calls her married friends the 'Smug Marrieds' because they think their lives are better than the lives of single people like Bridget. They make her feel bad by asking her why she isn't married yet, and telling her she'll soon be too old to get a good husband.
  - 2 Although Bridget pretends not to like Valentine's Day, she is secretly excited about it, and eager to see if Daniel has sent her a card.
  - 3 Bridget's mother wants to change her life because she is bored with looking after Bridget's father, which she has done for thirty-five years. Bridget doesn't think her mother is telling her the whole truth because she sees her mother with Julio, and suspects her mother is having an affair.
  
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  - 1
    - a Shazzer advises Bridget to tell Daniel that she is angry and upset because of his bad behaviour.
    - b Jude advises Bridget to give Daniel another chance.
    - c Tom advises her to start behaving in a cold and distant way, like an 'ice-queen', if she wants him to love her. Tom's advice works the best.
  - 2 Bridget wants to invite her friends to her flat for a meal for her birthday, but she doesn't want to spend her birthday cooking. On the other hand, she can't afford to take them out to a restaurant.
  - 3 Bridget says she loves her friends because they have realised that the meal at her flat will not be a success, but they don't mind. They have arranged to take her out for a surprise meal in a restaurant instead.
  - 4 Bridget's mother surprises her because she is going out with different men (Julio and the man from the tax office) and also gets a job as a TV presenter.
  
- 4
  - 1 Bridget wants to develop 'inner poise' because she wants to appear to be more calm and relaxed. She thinks this will enable her to deal with life's problems more easily.
  - 2 Bridget is surprised to see Jeremy in the restaurant because he is with another woman – not Magda, his wife. This causes problems for Bridget because she is Magda's friend. She doesn't know whether to tell Magda she has seen her husband with another woman.
  - 3 Bridget feels nervous about the book party because a lot of important people will be there, and she doesn't think she is very good at parties. She is only partly successful at achieving her list of aims for the party. She doesn't get too drunk, and she does use her social skills to introduce Mark Darcy and Perpetua correctly. But she doesn't make any interesting contacts with people in the publishing world, or with people who can help her in her career.
  - 4 Daniel tells Bridget that he knows Mark Darcy. He and Mark were both at Cambridge University, but Daniel doesn't like Mark.

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- 1 Bridget has mixed feelings about being pregnant. At first she feels happy as she imagines Daniel as a loving father. But she soon realises this is only a dream. She then begins to feel scared and worried about being pregnant.
  - 2 Shazzer helps Bridget with the pregnancy test. Bridget has read the instructions wrong. She thought that one blue line meant she was pregnant, but in fact it is two blue lines which mean you are pregnant.
  - 3 Magda surprises Bridget by saying that marriage is very hard work. She says it's very hard to stay at home and look after young children, especially knowing that your husband is out with other women. Bridget is very surprised, as she thought Magda had a perfect marriage and a wonderful life.
  - 4 Bridget is angry with her mother because her mother persuades her to be interviewed for her TV show, but she doesn't want the TV company to know that Bridget is her daughter. Instead, she wants Bridget to pretend to be a woman who has been left by her husband.
- 6
- 1 Bridget wants to go on a romantic minibreak with Daniel and stay in a nice hotel.
  - 2 Daniel likes staying indoors watching cricket on TV at weekends.
  - 3 Daniel doesn't behave thoughtfully towards Bridget on the minibreak because he doesn't consider her feelings or needs. He continues to watch cricket on TV, and makes Bridget feel bad by commenting on her weight.
- 7
- 1 He promises to go with her but later changes his mind and says he has too much work.
  - 2 Bridget is embarrassed because she has dressed up as a 'Bunny Girl' for the party but all the other guests are wearing normal clothes. This is Geoffrey Alconbury's fault because he forgot to call Bridget and tell her the party was no longer fancy dress.
  - 3 Natasha is with Mark at the party. Mark behaves thoughtfully towards Bridget because he realises she feels uncomfortable in her bunny girl costume and suggests to Una Alconbury that Bridget might like to borrow a dress.
  - 4 Bridget suspects that Daniel has another woman in his flat. She finds out the truth by opening the door that leads up onto the terrace. She finds the other woman sunbathing on the roof.
- 8
- 1 Bridget's mother makes her feel better by telling her to forget about Daniel because he isn't worth it. She also arranges a job interview for Bridget with a TV company.
  - 2 a Gav is a young man who Bridget meets at the party of one of Tom's friends.  
b Richard Finch is the editor of *Good Afternoon!*, a news and current affairs programme.  
c Patchouli is Richard Finch's personal assistant.
  - 3 Because she makes him laugh by her honest answer to his question about why she wants a job in television.
- 9
- 1 Because she was stopped by the security guards and then Patchouli was late coming to get her.
  - 2 Because her father wants to go to the party, to show his wife and Julio that he doesn't care. He wants Bridget to go with him and give him support.
  - 3 At the fire station, Bridget starts sliding down the fireman's pole too early and can't climb back up again. So the camera films her at the wrong moment when she is halfway down the pole and trying to pull herself up.
- 10
- 1 Bridget's mother embarrasses her by being rude about the party and the Darcys. She criticises the party as being too 'showy'. Bridget realises that Mark Darcy has overheard.
  - 2 Mark comes into the garden because he is looking for Bridget. He wants to ask her to have dinner with him.
  - 3 a Bridget doesn't hear Mark Darcy ring the doorbell because of the noise of the hairdryer.  
b Bridget goes into the shop to buy cigarettes. But while she is there, Elena Rossini comes out of the High Court, so Bridget thinks she has missed the chance to interview her.
  - 4 Because Mark Darcy is Elena's lawyer and he persuades her to give Bridget an interview.

- 11**
- 1 Bridget decides to have a dinner party because she wants an excuse to see Mark Darcy again; so she invites him to the party. She is going to cook soup and then a lovely dessert with oranges.
  - 2 Bridget ties the vegetables together with blue string, but the dye comes off and makes the soup blue. The orange dessert she makes tastes like marmalade.
  - 3 That Bridget's mother and Julio are wanted by the police for stealing money.
  - 4 Mark shows that he cares about Bridget by being very supportive. He drives her to see her father at the Alconburys' house. Then he goes to Portugal to find Bridget's mother.
- 12**
- 1 Bridget is upset about Rebecca's party because it seems that Rebecca has invited everyone except Bridget. Rebecca, on the other hand, is upset with Bridget because she thinks Bridget hasn't replied to her invitation. This misunderstanding has happened because Bridget's neighbour, Dan, accidentally pushed Bridget's mail, including her invitation to the party, under Bridget's doormat.
  - 2 Julio arrives unexpectedly at the Alconburys' place. Then Mark Darcy also arrives unexpectedly.
  - 3 She tells her mother that Una is spoiling the gravy.
  - 4 Mark told Julio that Bridget's mother was spending Christmas with Bridget's father. Julio was so jealous that he came straight back to England.