

# **Angus, Thongs, and Full-Frontal Snogging; On the Bright Side ... Study Guide**

**Angus, Thongs, and Full-Frontal Snogging; On the Bright Side ... by Louise Rennison**

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## Overview

As the titles indicate, Georgia Nicolson's diaries of contemporary adolescent life in middle-class England are aimed at hilarity.

Georgia has to deal with a much younger sister, a powerful cat, parents who do not see things her way, and the tribulations of finding a boyfriend. Basically realistic in their handling, the diaries are also characterized by wacky teen slang, some vivid description, and ridiculous situations and characters. Anyone who is or has been a teen can identify with Georgia. Life's little absurdities can be engaging.



## About the Author

New young adult author Louise Rennison draws on her abilities as a former standup comedian to portray the humorous side of adolescence. Her tales of Georgia Nicolson's life, told in diary format, capture the lighter side of teen angst—worrying about impressing the opposite sex, making fun of teachers, and enduring one's foolish parents. According to Kate Ginn in *The Scotsman* (July 26, 2000), 49-year-old Rennison has based much of Georgia Nicolson's life on her own experiences growing up on an On the Bright Side, I'm Now the Girlfriend of a Sex God: Further Confessions of Georgia Nicolson, 2001 estate in Leeds, England. Rennison, like her protagonist, attended an all girls' school which required a uniform, went for snogging (kissing) lessons when she was fourteen, and had a ferocious cat like Angus. Her family emigrated to New Zealand, a move which she thought would ruin her life.

Rennison usually finds her own family a source of laughs.

However, Georgia is more innocent and uncomplicated than the author. Rennison moved back to England and lived with her grandparents, became pregnant, and gave up her infant daughter for adoption. In her twenties she lived in London and participated in the pop culture of the 1970s. Later she became a comedian and took her onewoman show, "Stevie Wonder Felt my Face," to the Edinburgh Festival where she won several awards.

Rennison continued to write comedy for various British stars, contributed to radio shows, and has worked as a roving reporter and columnist. She is writing a three-part series on Georgia. *Angus, Thongs, and FullFrontal Snogging*, the first in the series, won the Nestle Smarties Children's Book award bronze medal in England and the Michael L. Printz Honor award. Rennison has developed a film deal with Paramount for the first book. Rennison clearly enjoys calling up her own teen memories for her writing, including having shaved off her eyebrows and embarrassing herself with a fake tan.

The author says in an online interview with Sarah Mellish in *Alphabetstreet* (September 4, 2001), "Now I get to hang around with 14-year-old girls in the name of research— it's brilliant! I get teenagers from Brighton writing to me and asking if I want to go to the pier and hang out with them."

In an online interview with Lucy Burns in *Teenreads* (July 18, 2001), Rennison explains that she began writing young adult novels accidentally. An English publisher read a funny article she had written about her shoes and suggested she write a teenage girl's diary—"Because I have never read anything so self obsessed and childish." It took her six months to write the first book. Rennison now lives in Brighton, England, with her partner, John, and her two goldfish, Finn and Bjork.



## Plot Summary

British teenager, Georgia Nicolson, struggles to cope with her family and school. She worries about her body and takes drastic measures. Through a series of adventures, she and her best friend, Jas, find love with two brothers. She thinks her life is perfect, until her mother announces that they are leaving for another country.

Fourteen-year-old Georgia Nicolson tells about a year of her life in her diary. She lives in England with her parents and three-year-old sister Libby. She also has a wildcat named Angus who she got in Scotland on vacation. Her best friend Jas likes a boy named Tom who works in a supermarket so Georgia and Jas go to see him. While talking to Tom, they see Tom's older brother Robbie who Georgia falls for. Tom and Robbie's parents own the store. The new school year starts for Georgia and her friends. Georgia visits a seventeen-year-old boy named Peter who teaches girls how to kiss. After the kissing lesson, Georgia meets with Peter at a party. At the party, they kiss and fall in front of Robbie and his date Lindsay. Georgia grows tired of Peter and gets Jas to break up with him for her. Jas and Tom go to Robbie's band's show, and Jas socializing with Lindsay there makes Georgia mad. However, Georgia and Jas make up. At a neighborhood bonfire, Georgia meets Mark.

When Jas asks if she should break up with Tom, Georgia says yes so she does. Due to a layoff, Georgia's father plans to go to New Zealand for work. Robbie's band plays at the school Christmas dance, and Georgia goes with Mark. Mark causes a fight. Georgia decides to break up with him, but he breaks up with her first.

Meanwhile, Jas is out of school. Georgia spends Christmas with her family, and her father leaves for New Zealand at the end of the year. Georgia visits Jas who is depressed and cheers her up. Georgia's mother wants to redecorate so a builder named Jem visits the house. Georgia and her mother like him. Georgia gets mad at Jas for accepting an invitation to coffee from Robbie. Georgia sees Jem and her mother getting along and thinks they are having an affair. Angry, Georgia watches Jas go off with Robbie. Georgia is relieved to hear from her friend Rosie that Robbie only wanted to talk about Tom. Jas and Georgia make up. Georgia and Jas spy on Lindsay and see her kiss Robbie. Georgia tries to downplay it. Georgia goes to Robbie's concert, and he kisses her and promises to call. Lindsay warns her away from Robbie, but Robbie breaks up with Lindsay anyway. Robbie tells Georgia he likes her, but she is too young. Georgia finds out her mother loves her father and not Jem. Angus is missing, but Robbie finds him. Robbie tells Georgia they can date in secret. Georgia is happy, until her mother tells her they are going to New Zealand.



# August Chapter

## August Chapter Summary

British teenager Georgia Nicolson struggles to cope with her family and school. She worries about her body and takes drastic measures. Through a series of adventures, she and her best friend Jas find love with two brothers. She thinks her life is perfect, until her mother announces they are leaving for another country.

The narrator Georgia, who is from England, tells her American readers that there are words in the book they may not understand. She explains there is a glossary at the back of the book that will define the words.

Fourteen-year-old Georgia worries about her breasts. She thinks it is funny Jas calls them "bosoomers." Georgia complains that she cannot have a lock on her bedroom door, because her parents fear something could happen to her in there with the door locked. Georgia talks about what is wrong with her life. She has a difficult pimple on her nose. Her three-year-old sister might have peed in her room. Summer will be over in two weeks, and then it will be time for school or "Stalag 14" and the mean teachers. She thinks she looks bad enough for an ugly home. She dressed as a stuffed olive for a party. Due to an article about finding happiness in her mother's Cosmo, Georgia is on a mission to change her life. The article teaches how to remember a bad time then how to experience the feelings behind it, and finally how to release the feelings

Jas is there. She says she had a hard time taking off the cat suit she wore to the party. Georgia tells her about the magazine article so they remember the costume party and let go of the bad emotions. Georgia blames Jas for letting her dress as an olive. She describes the costume, and how hard it was to go down the stairs. Her cat Angus, who she calls crazy, attacked her tights so she had to change them. She explains how she found him as a stray kitten on vacation in Scotland. Despite Angus attacking her sweater, Georgia pleaded with her parents to take him home. Even though her father joked the kitten probably ate his parents, Georgia was able to persuade her mother. The Scottish woman on vacation guessed Angus was half-tame cat and half wildcat. Georgia thought that was cool, until Angus got so big and crazy. She attributes his madness to hearing the call of his home place. She figured he thought of her tights as "prey" and knocked him off with the broom. Georgia hated the party. However, Jas had a good time as boys paid attention to her. Georgia is irritated by Jas saying the boys did not go for her, because her costume was too goofy. Georgia is insulted by Jas implying boys might not like girls like her. As they argue, Georgia looks out the window and sees the neighbor's poodle barking futilely at Angus. Jas leaves in the middle of the argument. Georgia is disgusted with boys even though she has no experience with them. She is afraid she will be a lesbian and wonders what lesbians do.

Georgia is depressed no one has called and goes to bed early. Her sister Libby gets into bed with her. Her repeating "Ha" makes Georgia get up. She takes comfort in her



sister, who is a little smelly, liking her. Her friends Ellen and Julia call and arrange for a mystery walk or La Marche avec Mystery the next day. Georgia gives herself a facial in case she sees cute guys on the walk. Georgia decides to dress sporty for the walk. She wants to look like Brigitte Bardot and asks her parents if she can dye her hair blond. Her mother ignores her, and her father tells her she is too young. She pointedly ignores her father who tells her sarcasm and applying makeup will not help her with her O-levels, an old name for school exams. She thinks he is old-fashioned. During the walk, Georgia and her friends speak French. They ask different people for directions. A good-looking guy comes up. Julia and Ellen avoid him, but Georgia fakes a limp and talks to him in French. Not able to speak much French, she is embarrassed when he takes her to a French shop so she can speak to a worker in French. She figures she will have to dye her hair before she goes to town again.

Georgia is sad, because she feels friendless. Her parents are working, and her sister is in playschool. She thinks she should be dead and wonders how she would know she is dead. She thinks it would be like a movie where she can see people, but no one can see her. This spooks her, and she decides to play music and dance. She wonders if anyone would come to her funeral. She figures her parents would have to, because they would be the main reason she committed suicide. She thinks her family is not normal like other families. She hates that her father wants to talk about his feelings. Hoping she is not a lesbian, she wants a boyfriend who is emotional about her like the man who played Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice* even though she did not like the actor in other movies. She knows she will never have a boyfriend because of her ugliness. Georgia looks at old family pictures and realizes why she is ugly. She thinks her father as a child was just a nose with legs and arms. That night, Georgia lets her sister sleep with her. Georgia dreams she is in the Caribbean ocean with a hunk and wakes up to Libby having wet the bed. She changes the sheets and gets a slap on the hand and called "bad boy" when she changes her sister's pajamas.

Georgia wonders what she should wear to school which starts in eleven days. She knows she cannot get away with much makeup. She worries about her eyebrows, which is one eyebrow. She wants to pluck it with her mother's tweezers and hopes she can find them in the bedroom, because her mother hides things from her so Georgia will not lose them. Georgia finds the tweezers in her father's tie drawer. She also finds an apron thing and hopes her father is not a cross dresser. She imagines her father dressing up in her mother's clothes and calling him Daphne. The plucking is difficult. She decides to lie down because of the pain and her eyes watering. Although Georgia has only tweezed a few hairs, her eyes are swollen. She decides to use her father's razor. She has a hard time evening the eyebrows. Her mother almost drops Libby when she sees Georgia and asks what dumb thing she has done. Georgia is insulted. Georgia sort of hears her parents talking about her. Her father bangs on her door, which is blocked by a dresser and wants to know what she has done. Georgia shouts from under the covers that at least she is a real woman. Her father asks what she is talking about. She thinks he is so rude. She hopes the eyebrows grow back overnight.

Georgia reports no eyebrows. Jas calls and asks her to go shopping for makeup that is really natural looking. Georgia asks if the store has eyebrows. She explains to a





confused Jas that she accidentally shaved off her eyebrows. Jas tells her to stay put, until she gets there. After seeing Georgia, Jas says she looks like a creature from outer space. Georgia thinks Jas is a bad friend. Georgia says Jas has left. Jas thinks she should draw eyebrows on with eyeliner pencil. Georgia resigns herself to being a recluse. Georgia's father keeps looking at her and laughing. Libby is being nice by rubbing the area where Georgia's eyebrows used to be and bringing her cheese. This makes her feel like a rat. Georgia wonders who her teacher will be. She hopes it is not Hawkeye Heaton. She describes Hawkeye as an old, serious spinster. However, Georgia feels, in her current state, she will share the same fate. She does not have the energy to kill herself.

Preparing to go to town, Georgia's mother offers to get shoes for her. Georgia looks pointedly at her mother's shoes and thinks it is sad someone her mother's age tries to be youthful. Ellen, Julia, and Jas call to say they will come by after shopping. Jas likes someone in a shop. Georgia figures she will have to live vicariously through others. Georgia reads about how to kiss in a teen magazine. She still does not know what to do and wishes she had never read it. She thinks that since she is a recluse, she will not need this information anyway unless a blindfolded boy makes his way to her room. Georgia fixes coffee for the girls. They experiment with makeup. Georgia has been taping her bangs down to hide her lack of eyebrows. Jas says it makes her look like an insane asylum escapee. Ellen suggests Georgia emphasize her mouth and eyes with makeup to make her nose smaller. Georgia decides on more lipstick. While listening to music, Jas talks about Tom, the guy in the shop. The girls agree to check him out after Georgia can leave the house again. They talk about Ellen kissing an older guy. Georgia notes Libby kisses her on the mouth all the time, but that is fine since she is her sister. She thinks it can help her train to be a lesbian. Georgia looks at the big, yellow moon outside and wonders how many people who see it have no eyebrows.

Georgia is glad her family is going out and refuses to go with them. She cannot leave anyway because of her lack of eyebrows. She knows she will never have a boyfriend and thinks it is unfair that weird people have boyfriends. She has not asked her father about the apron. A bored Georgia looks at the neighbors, who she calls Mr. and Mrs. Next Door, in their greenhouse. She cannot understand what they do there. She hopes she does not end up with someone like Mr. Next Door who has a big butt. Georgia then talks about how sad it is in French. Georgia thinks she has to get Angus so he will not bother the neighbors' poodle. Then she sees Mrs. Next Door throw a brick at him. At the end of the day, Georgia says she hates Sundays but is encouraged her eyebrows are growing a little.

## August Chapter Analysis

Georgia Nicolson, a fourteen-year-old in England, writes about her life in a diary. Before beginning the diary, she writes an introductory note to American readers about the glossary at the end that explains some of her words. The British have their own words for things such as rucksack instead of backpack. Plus, Georgia uses slang that teens like to use such as TTFN ( ta ta for now). Although she may be foreign to some of her



readers, she has concerns like any teen about her body and dating. She thinks her parents are beneath her, and that her mother tries to act young. She has a three-year-old sister Libby who is loving but strange. Georgia can be strange herself, and her antics get her into trouble. Her best friend is Jas, and she has other girlfriends. Georgia is jealous when her friends interact with boys. Georgia can speak some French, which she learned in school, and her attempt to be someone else fails. She uses magazines for self-help and makes popular culture references such as the actor Colin Firth. Her cat Angus, who is named in the title, is a character himself whose wildcat ways bedevil everyone especially the neighbors. Georgia wants him to be a tame pet. It is the end of summer with the school year approaching. Georgia likens the school to a prisoner of war camp or Stalag 14 and does not care for the teachers.



# September Chapter

## September Chapter Summary

There are six days until school. Georgia plans what she will wear to school. She wants to wear makeup but knows Hawkeye will make her take it off. She feels she has to wear makeup on the way to school, because she will encounter boys going to the Foxwood School. She also worries about the beret and has to talk to the girls. She will meet with the girls Friday to talk about the beret and other things. She has eyebrows, but she has still has a surprised look. Georgia asks her father Bob about the apron. Angry, he tells her she should not go through his things. She wants to know if he is a cross dresser. Her mother laughs, and this makes her father madder. Her mother tells Bob to relax, but the idea of him being a cross dresser is funny. Georgia is happy he goes to the pub. Her mother says it is a Masonic apron, and it is that thing where they do things for each other. Georgia smiles and nods but is still confused. She wishes she were adopted and wonders if it can still happen. She thinks about calling Esther Rantzen's helpline but worries she will have to talk to Esther.

Georgia feels like she can leave the house since she has eyebrows. She meets with the girls at a coffee shop. Georgia is not crazy about coffee but goes along with the crowd. She has not been out for five days. After the meeting, the girls plan to go to Jennings', a grocery store/deli, to see Tom, the boy Jas likes. Jools asks about the beret. They are required by the school to wear a beret with the outdoor uniform. The girls think it makes them look silly, and it messes up the hair. Last term, the girls wore their beret flat like a pancake. Ellen has invented "the sausage" and shows them how to wear their beret in the shape of a sausage. They decide to begin Operation Sausage at the start of the term. The beret fight has been a long one. They appealed to the headmistress Slim, who is actually overweight, about it, but she wanted them to wear berets even though the boys from Foxwood teased the girls about it. Slim told Georgia to worry about her grades instead. Georgia is tired of hearing this.

Last year, all the girls in the class decided to really wear their berets, and they went to school with the berets pulled down with only the ears showing. Although it was fun to provoke Slim and Hawkeye, they had to stop doing that, because it was hot, hard to see, and messed up the hair. The beret talk is finished, and it is time to see Tom. Jas is unsure about this, because she has only ordered food from him. The girls decide to let Jas place an order and then go to her to say hello. Georgia allows her five minutes then she sees Jas and a handsome boy. He smiles while giving Jas onions. Jas is nervously playing with her hair, which Georgia does not like. Georgia says hello to Jas and hugs her while whispering to stop the hair playing. After the hug, Jas says she is buying onions, and Georgia says Jas knows onions. Then Ellen and Jools approach Jas and happily greet her. Jas apologizes to Tom for the wait and asks how much she owes. Then she tells him bye, and he tells her he will see her later. Outside, the girls run and laugh.



On the phone, Georgia and Jas analyze Tom's "see you later." Georgia thinks he says that to everyone. Jas asks if that means he does not like her. Georgia reassures her by saying he could have meant it. There is a pause, and Jas asks what "later" means. Georgia, who feels they are going around in circles, says she does not know, and Jas should figure it out. Jas asks if that means she should ask him out. Georgia says it is Jas's decision, but she knows what Sharon Stone would do and wishes her good night. The next day, Georgia puts on makeup to make her nose look smaller. She shares her nose concern with her mother who offers her makeup tips. Georgia wants her to say her nose is fine. Georgia tells her mother she does not want to look old-fashioned like her mother and her friends did in pictures.

Later, Mrs. Next Door complains about Angus bothering her poodle. Georgia says he is a wildcat who has to hunt for prey. The neighbor says Angus should not be a pet. Georgia agrees and says Angus is hard to train. Georgia does not feel she has to solve her neighbors' problems and thinks they should get a bigger pet. She knows she should be nice, or she will be called the sullen teenager. Georgia goes next door and asks Mrs. Next Door if she wants anything from the store. The neighbor acts afraid. Georgia knows she can be nice, but another personality possesses her. She wonders if she is schizophrenic and a lesbian. Jas calls and wants to work on her plan to get Tom. It is decided Georgia will go in the store and buy apples from him while Jas stands behind her. Georgia will tell him about their school and ask what school he goes to. This way, they can accidentally run into him at the school.

Georgia and Jas are at the store and see Tom. Georgia asks for apples, and Tom looks happy to see Jas. He asks if they are ready for school. Georgia is annoyed he ruins the plan but answers no. Georgia is about to tell him the name of their school, but she sees a "Sex God" come from the back. Georgia describes how good he looks. The Sex God gives Tom tea and says his little brother needs tea to sell apples to nice-looking girls. He winks at Tom then smiles at Georgia then leaves. Georgia is stunned. Tom tells her how much the apples cost and asks for the school name. Georgia just stammers. Jas is confused by her reaction and tells Tom the name of their school. At home, Georgia is still stunned over meeting the hunk who happens to be Tom's brother. She knows her mouth was open, but at least she had eyebrows. She looks in the mirror to see how she looks with her mouth open. At least, her nose is not bigger. Georgia wonders how old Sex God is and thinks she has to be more grown up.

Georgia's father acts shocked to see Georgia up so early. Georgia says she wants hot water, which is good for the skin. Mum says she is going and tells Libby to kiss her sister. Later, Georgia has done the Cosmo yoga plan. She is going to do yoga every day before school. She thinks she will look good to the Sex God. Georgia has done beauty treatments including a milk bath. Jas calls and says they should see Tom the next day after school. Georgia does not care about Tom. Libby has put her foundation cream on her panda. Georgia realizes she has no foundation or money and wants to murder her sister. She tries to calm herself with a chant. Georgia goes to bed early and wonders what she should wear the next day.



Georgia oversleeps, and her father takes her to Jas's. She does not have time for yoga or makeup. She vows to start the next day. Jas and Georgia run toward the school. Georgia is turning red and forgot to put on her beret. She sees Hawkeye so she slaps the beret on without worrying about the sausage style. At the gate, she collides with the Sex God who is with friends. He tells Georgia she is nice. She is embarrassed. Georgia hopes he either does not recognize her or likes the flustered look. In the bathroom mirror, she looks as bad as she thought and gives up. Georgia is glad for the bell, because she can go home and die. Later, she is in bed. She wonders why a higher power is against her.

She has no time for yoga but does apply some makeup and arranges the sausage beret. However, she feels it is too late to look good. Georgia and Jas are able to take their time going to school. They see Foxwood boys but no Tom or Sex God. Georgia is bored at school. At assembly, Slim reminds the girls they should wear their berets. Georgia does not care about this and wants to tell her life is more than berets. Georgia is ready for school to be over after it just started. She complains she cannot sit in the back of the classroom with her friends. She has to sit next to Nauseating Pamela Green who is so dull. To make matters worse, Hawkeye is the form teacher, and physics is the last class on Friday. Georgia is proud she can apply her mascara subtly. She still cannot find the two boys. After lunch, Allison Peters and Jackie Matthews come by smoking. Georgia does not like them but would not tell them that, because they would retaliate. Jackie wants Georgia's group to meet them in a classroom the next day after lunch. Georgia notes they are not supposed to be in the school then and thinks she will get in trouble. At home, Georgia is dissatisfied with her life. She hears her parents laughing downstairs and Libby talking with her dolls. She feels bad for Libby who is too young to understand how hard life is. She thinks Libby is saying "Poor Georgia."

Life is dull for Georgia at home and school. Jackie and Allison's plan had to be postponed, because Jackie was sick. Georgia thinks they take drugs like horse tranquilizers. Georgia has not seen Sex God but knows more about him, because Katie Steadman's parents play cards with his parents. His name is Robbie Jennings. His parents own the store. Georgia thinks about Herr Kamyers' class. He teaches German and physics, and Georgia thinks he is funny, because he is German and the only male teacher at an all-girls' school. She is ecstatic, because Jas just called to tell her they have been invited to Katie's party, and Tom and Robbie will be there. She wonders what to wear to the party, which is in a couple of weeks. Georgia does yoga and has a facial. Georgia wonders if she slept with a clothespin on her nose like Amy in Little Women if it would shrink her nose. She wishes her mother had married a man with a normal nose. Georgia asks her mother why she married her father who is out. Her mother says he makes her laugh.

Georgia notes that Bart Simpson makes her laugh, but she will not marry him. Georgia and Jas are happy to see Tom on the way to school. He asks how they are. Georgia jokes it is fun spending eight hours with crazy teachers. He laughs and asks Jas if she is going to the party. Jas blushes much to Georgia's dismay. She manages to say yes. Tom says he will be happy to see her there. After leaving him, an excited Jas keeps



going over their conversation, until Georgia shushes her. Jas does not stop talking however.

Georgia pushes Libby, who sings, "I am the queen," in her stroller. Georgia sings along with Libby, until she sees Robbie get out of a car. He sees her and says they have met before. Georgia tries to smile in way that will not enlarge her nose, and Robbie gives her a strange look. She reminds him they met over apples. He remembers meeting her and Jas in the shop. He looks at Libby who gives him her usual insane look. Libby tells him she is the queen. He goes along with her, and Georgia loves his way with children. Libby repeats she is the queen and tells him Georgia pooped that morning. Georgia and Robbie are shocked. Georgia says they should be leaving. He tells her he will see her later. Georgia thinks of Sharon Stone and tells him she will see him at the party. He says he will not be there, because he has other plans. At home, Georgia thinks about Libby's poop comment. She also thinks about what Robbie said about the party. Georgia thinks life cannot be more horrible.

Going home from school, Georgia is tired of Jas talking about the party. They see Jackie and Allison. Jackie is overly made up. She wants them to guard the park bathroom while she changes. While changing, she says she is going clubbing. She says she is going out with a thirty-year-old. After they leave, Georgia asks Jas if she thinks Jackie has had sex. Jas asks if the Queen Mother is old. She says Gemma told her a boy gives kissing lessons and asks if they should go to him before the party. Georgia asks Jas if she wants to go to a male hooker. Jas says it is only kissing, and there is no money involved. Georgia lists her classes and thinks they have no purpose. She says Jackie and Allison enacted their plan today after lunch. She thinks they get away with everything. It involved levitating a classmate who ended up falling hard on her butt. At school, Gemma says her friend, Peter Dyer the kissing teacher, will be home the next day at a certain time to give lessons. Georgia does not care. She has to talk with Jas about what Jas is going to wear Friday. Georgia does not care if Jas goes nude.

## September Chapter Analysis

Georgia battles her family and teachers as school starts. Her parents are still not helpful, but Georgia does find out her father is not a cross dresser. His apron is part of being with the Masons, a social club, but Georgia does not understand that. Libby, like many siblings, causes Georgia problems including embarrassing her in front of a boy she likes. The title of the chapter Operation Sausage comes from how the girls will wear their berets in school. They do not like wearing the required berets so they make a game of it to aggravate the teachers. The reader is introduced to some of Georgia's schoolmates including the "nerd" Pamela Green and the "bad girls" Allison and Jackie. Georgia does not care for Allison and Jackie but humors them for fear of being beaten up. A boy Jas likes named Tom is mentioned in the previous chapter, and Georgia and the girls take measures to check him out. While doing this, Georgia sees Tom's brother Robbie who she falls for. Her ensuing encounters with him are embarrassing. She is excited, because she thinks Robbie will be at a party but is disappointed to learn he will not be there. At the end of the chapter, she does not care about the party while Jas



does since Tom is supposed to be there. Georgia continues to talk about makeup and beauty treatments. She takes advice such as yoga from magazines. Angus is still bothering the neighbor, and Georgia is torn about what to do. Georgia still makes references to American popular culture, including actress Sharon Stone. She refers to Esther Rantzen, a British celebrity, who is explained in the glossary.





# October Chapter

## October Chapter Summary

Georgia cannot believe she is knocking on Peter the kissing teacher's door. Her friends are hiding in the bushes. She does not know if she should wear lipstick since it could rub off. Peter opens the door, and Georgia describes him as an okay-looking blond who is about seventeen. Her hidden friends laugh, but Peter is unconcerned. She tells him her name and then wishes she had given a fake one. They go into his room. Georgia sees it is neater than hers. She compares his posters to her posters. She does not like that Peter sits on his bed. He asks her to sit which scares her, but she does so. He turns her face towards him and tells her to relax. At home, Georgia thinks she must be a woman now. Lizzy does not seem to care as she makes Georgia wear antennas on her head. Lizzy wants her to be a bee. Georgia has to say "buzz buzz" and point the antennas at Lizzy's bed, before her little sister will leave. Georgia notes her parents do not notice her transformation. She knows her father is too oblivious to notice anything and realizes he is gaining weight. She intends to tell him about it nicely. She remembers how Peter starts her with a regular kiss, which is just lips staying still. He tells her she is good at this. He teaches her how to turn her head and where to put her hands. All of this takes thirty minutes. They do some tongue kissing, which Georgia dreads, but it is not as bad as she compares it to "lizard tongue." The alarm clock goes off, and their time is over. He shakes her hand and sees her out. One of her friends is going in as she goes out. Georgia is glad she was first. Her friends try to get her to talk about what happened, but she just says she needs time to process this. Later, Georgia is pleased she is good at kissing.

It is the day of the party. Georgia is excited but does not know why since Sex God will not be there. She thinks she can practice her new kissing techniques. Georgia is disgusted by the big hickey on Jackie's neck, which Jackie tries to cover with makeup and a scarf. The school day is boring. There are three hours left before the party. Georgia is going to meet her friends at the clock tower and go to the party as a group. Her father is adamant about picking her up at midnight. She does not argue with him, because she does not want to hear him talk about how things were done in ancient times or the 1970s. Georgia meets the girls and thinks they look like funeral directors since they are wearing black. Georgia describes Katie's house as nice. Thirty people are there including Tom. Jas is in a dither, and Tom leaves his group to join her. Georgia leaves them and dances for a while. She looks for kissable boys but does not find any. She sees Peter and waves him over. Katie does not look happy. Georgia thanks him for the kissing lesson. He tells her there is something he did not get to and leads her outside. They go behind the tree, and he starts kissing her. Peter seems more into it. He kisses her neck, and Georgia thinks they are branching out which almost cracks her up, because they are at a tree. She hears people coming. She walks backwards with Peter on her neck. She trips over a root and falls on her butt. Peter falls on her. From upside down, she sees a blond girl from school and Sex God who looks irritated. Sex God says they should go inside. Georgia remembers the girl's name is Lindsay who Georgia does





not like. Lindsay is looking at Georgia's legs, and Georgia realizes her underwear is showing and pulls down her skirt. Peter tells Robbie he thought he was busy that night. Robbie says he is, but he has to give Tom his key. He does not acknowledge Georgia. At midnight, Georgia curses Robbie and thinks he should not be snooping into her business.

Peter calls over the weekend, and Georgia thinks he must have gotten her number from Gemma. Her father answers the phone, and he teases Georgia about her young man. She and Peter are going to the movies next week, but Georgia is not that happy about it. Jas has been aggravating her with notes in class. In a note, Jas writes Tom is great after he walks her home and kisses her on the cheek. He gets her number, and she asks Georgia when he will call and wonders what day they should go out. After reading the note, Georgia gives her a bad look. She is tired of the Jennings family. Much to Georgia's dismay, Jas talks about Tom on the way home. Georgia knows she should not feel this way, but she thinks Jas should stay away from him. Jas thinks it is wonderful Tom wants to go into the fruit and vegetable business. Georgia says they will have many potatoes. After a while, Jas picks up on Georgia's negativity. Jas says she thought Georgia liked Tom. Georgia is quiet. She just thinks about Robbie's look at the party. Jas asks if Georgia thinks she should date him. Georgia acts indifferent. That night Georgia feels badly about her behavior and realizes she has a date with a professional kisser.

Slim announces at assembly that levitation is not allowed. She says she would not want to be in the punished girl's shoes. Georgia jokes to Ellen that Slim could not fit into anyone's shoes. Hawkeye shoots them a mean look for laughing. Georgia sees Lindsay on the way to class. She thinks she is pathetic. Georgia is not looking forward to her date in four hours. After the date, Georgia regrets learning how to kiss. She feels Peter is trying to kiss her to death. She does not want to go out with him anymore but does not know how to tell him. She decides Jas can do it. Jas tells Peter Georgia cannot see him anymore, because she thinks she is a lesbian. Georgia is not thrilled people at school say she is a lesbian. Tom invites Jas to see Robbie's band, the Stiff Dylans. Georgia is sure they are terrible.

When Georgia enters the kitchen at home, her parents stop talking. She does not mind they are quiet but wonders what is up. Mum asks her if she would like to travel. Later that night, Georgia worries about her big nose. She wonders if her mother can pay for plastic surgery or if she can convince the NHS it psychologically harms her, and they can pay for it. Georgia knows she has to be realistic when she has fat Dr. Wallace who hates to give out aspirin and not a cute George Clooney doctor from ER. Jas calls to say she had a good time with Tom who was a good dancer. Georgia tries to ask if he brought her vegetables, but Jas, ignoring her, says the band was good, and Robbie was a great singer. Georgia forces herself to ask if Lindsay was there. Jas says she was, and she was nice. Georgia feels betrayed and tells Jas it is good she is Lindsay's best friend and hangs up. She asks what the point is, in French. Georgia says she has been avoiding Jas.



Georgia and her friends have to go to Slim's office for a lecture. Georgia's group likes to mimic television shows, and they want to be a little boy named Jimmy in a show called Supercar. To be Jimmy, they have to have upturned noses with freckles. Therefore, they make egg cartons into noses and wear them in the school picture. Slim punishes them by making them pick up trash around the school. This should make Mr. Atwood, the caretaker, happy since they call him Elvis. He is old and ornery like Georgia's father.

## October Chapter Analysis

Although Georgia did not like the idea of kissing lessons in the previous chapter, she decides to take lessons anyway. Peter, the teacher, takes her as far as tongue kissing. It is not so bad for her. Georgia goes to the party with a positive attitude even though she thinks Robbie will not be there. She has another embarrassing encounter with him and a girl named Lindsay after falling down with Peter while kissing. She does not like the way he looks at her and is mad with him for the rest of the chapter. She is jealous of Jas and Tom's growing closeness and after learning Jas hung out with Lindsay at Robbie's concert, she takes her anger out on Jas. Jas breaks up with Peter for her by telling him Georgia might be a lesbian. This is spread around the school. In addition to this drama, Georgia continues to cope with her parents, Libby, and teachers. Her sense of humor gets her in trouble at school. The character of the school caretaker, Mr. Atwood or Elvis, is introduced. Angus is still a bother to her parents. Georgia is still worried about her nose and wants plastic surgery. She talks about the British health insurance system NHS that is explained in the glossary. She continues to talk about American celebrities such as George Clooney and mentions British celebrities who are also explained in the glossary. She also mentions British television shows.



# November Chapter

## November Chapter Summary

Georgia does not like Guy Fawkes night. Boys like to set off irritating fireworks. She says Peter is dating Katie. She wonders if he will be her first and last boyfriend. Georgia and Jas have made up, but Jas still goes on about Tom. She is upset, because he has to work during the weekend. Angus loves the fireworks while the dog next door does not. The neighborhood has a bonfire, but Georgia is not going. The firelight will highlight her nose. She will watch people through the window. Later, she thinks the bonfire is great. She meets a boy, who looks like Mick Jagger but not old. She knows he goes to the bad school, but she can deal with his "bit of rough." A singed Angus is on her bed. After school, Jas talks again about Tom working during the weekend. Georgia says it is a family business. Jas says she likes him, but she wants to go out. Georgia tells her she is a great girl and if she stays with Tom, she will have five children and argue about vegetables.

Georgia is wearing a bra and feels her breasts are growing. Jas breaks up with Tom. She is upset, and Georgia talks to her during the school break. Jas says he was upset too. Jas is about to cry, and Georgia wants to put her arm around her but does not want to start the lesbian rumors again. Georgia tells her there are other boys, and she does not need a grocery man with a terrible older brother. On the phone at home, Jas wants Georgia to assure her she was right to break up with Tom. A few days later, as Georgia and Jas go to the school gate, they see Robbie. Georgia is hopeful, but Robbie gives her a dismissive look as they walk by. Georgia wonders to Jas why he is acting that way. Jas blushes, and Georgia presses her to talk. Jas says she told Tom while breaking up that Georgia said Jas needs more than a grocery man. Georgia grabs Jas's tie and cannot believe Jas said that. At home that night, Georgia still cannot believe Jas betrayed her. She understands Robbie's behavior now.

Georgia has a bad day. She decides to call her parents the German names Vater and Mutter or Vati and Mutti. Jackie suggests during German class they should judge each other by appearance by making a list. Georgia does not care for the idea but does not say no to Jackie. Georgia gives everyone high marks even if they do not deserve it. She gets her paper and is appalled someone gave her a zero for her nose. She has the lowest marks in the group. Her teeth are her best feature. Jas got high marks, and Georgia thinks she is gloating. The two compare marks on the way home. Georgia wants to know why Jas gave her a bad mark on her mouth. Jas says she would give a higher score if her mouth were closed, and this only makes Georgia madder. Jas says Georgia's smile makes her nose bigger.

In front of the mirror at home, Georgia is trying to smile without making her nose bigger. She is unsuccessful and thinks she should never smile again. Georgia calls Jas and says she gave Jas a higher mark for her figure, because she is her friend. Jas says she did the same and was going to give Georgia a lower score for her figure. At midnight,



Georgia cannot believe Jas's score for her eyes. Georgia gave Jas a high score for her dull eyes. Georgia figures out who gave her a low mark for her nose and notes she gave that girl a higher mark that she deserved. Vati says he is going to visit New Zealand, because they might live there. Georgia is indifferent as her father tells her there have been layoffs at work. She tells him she hopes he does not have to go on welfare and that he can sell his apron.

Jas is still sad about Tom. Georgia and the boy she met at the bonfire sit on the wall. His name is Mark, and he is seventeen. She does not worry about her looks with him, because he has a large mouth. He wants to be a soccer player. As she leaves, he tells her he will "see her later." Georgia does not want to get stuck on "see you later," again. That night, Georgia looks out her window and sees Mark and his friends walking. He looks up at her window, and she ducks down, because she has on a facial peel and tape on her bangs. Georgia hears her parents fighting. She thinks they will divorce and fight for custody of her. Her mother is more flexible and will let her have more unlike her father. She says good-bye to her father.

## November Chapter Analysis

The chapter opens with a British holiday, and although Georgia does not like it at first, she meets a boy because of it. She calls him a "bit of rough" which is the chapter title. She encourages Jas to break up with Tom, but her snide remarks about their family business get her in trouble with Robbie. Jackie the bad girl starts the class list that judges appearances. Georgia is hurt by her scores and argues with Jas. Appearance judging is common in high school, and this list only fuels Georgia's insecurity about her looks. Georgia brings up incidents from previous chapters, such as the lesbian rumors and the analysis of "see you later." The chapter ends with the possibility of her father losing his job and going to New Zealand to search for work. Georgia thinks her parents might divorce and wants to stay with her mother since she is the easier parent. Georgia likes to speak French and in this chapter decides to apply her German to her parents' names.



# December Chapter

## December Chapter Summary

The girls are excited when Slim announces in assembly that there will be a Christmas dance at Foxwood School. She says the band will be the Stiff Dylans. At lunchtime, Jas and Georgia worry about going to the dance because of Lindsay and the possibility that Tom might have a date. Jas is at Georgia's for the night. They talk about the dance. Later, Georgia and Jas look out the window to see what kind of pajamas Mr. Next Door is wearing. They see Mark and a girl kissing under a light. The girls watch from the window ledge. Libby comes in dragging her mother's old bra and wants to look out the window too. Georgia says no at first but relents when Libby calls her "bad boy" and hits her with the bra. Georgia feels she is dominated by a three-year-old and a Scottish wildcat. When Mark seems to be looking at them, they bounce back on the bed. Libby asks for more bouncy. Georgia hopes he did not see them.

Running out of the house, Georgia and Jas almost run into Mark. Jas says she has to stop by her house. Georgia blushes as Mark walks with her. He asks if she has a boyfriend. Georgia does not give him a straight answer. Then he touches her breast and goes to school. Georgia wonders what the breast touch means. She asks herself if he is horny or if his hand is tired. Georgia tries not to think about the breast thing. She is glad Mark is not around when she gets home. However, she thinks a boy who touches her breast would be around. When the doorbell rings, Georgia answers the door and sees Mark. He asks her to the Stiff Dylans gig. She hesitantly accepts. He tells her he will see her later. Georgia tells Jas on the phone about Mark. Jas wonders what "see you later" means. Georgia wonders if he means tonight or at the gig. Jas asks if she likes him. Georgia says she is unsure and asks for Jas's reaction to him. Jas says he has a large mouth. Georgia agrees. Jas says Georgia does too. At midnight, Georgia wonders why life is so hard. She is ambivalent about Mark and wants Robbie to drop Lindsay.

Georgia gets a note from Mark that he is training and will see her on Saturday. She feels she has to go with him now. That night, Mum asks Georgia to join them for a talk. Georgia notes her father is growing a mustache, which looks silly. Her father shares he will be going to New Zealand after Christmas and stay a month or two trying a new job. When he is ready, he will send for Georgia, Libby, and their mother, and they can check out the place. Georgia says she knows what New Zealand is like, because she has watched *Neighbors*. Mum says that is in Australia. Georgia says she does not want to leave her friends. This sets off an argument, and even Libby gets into it. She has dressed Angus like a baby. Georgia does not know how she does it, because Georgia could never dress him without getting hurt. At midnight, Georgia says her father is going to New Zealand. She has to decide what to wear for the Stiff Dylans gig.

The girls get into the Christmas spirit at school by wearing silver antlers. At home, Georgia's parents are getting along. Libby sings "Dingle balls." Dad gets teary and hugs her. This makes Libby mad, and she calls him "bad, big uggy bad," and pokes his



eye, which really makes him cry. The next day, Georgia hates that she is up so early. She wants to do yoga, which she has been too busy for. Georgia gives up on yoga after the difficult "dog pose." She decides to read. After reading, Georgia does not like the Buddhist book, because she does not want to be reincarnated as a bug. Georgia notes Mum has the new Cosmo. She reads about how to understand men. "See you later" can mean the boy wants the relationship to end, or it could just mean "see you later." Georgia thinks she should be a writer for Cosmo, because she would not have to be understandable, or she could be a boy who is not understandable either. Georgia decides on a dress, but Jas calls often and cannot make up her mind about what to wear.

Rosie has invited her neighbor Sven, who is a foreign exchange student, to the gig. Rosie says he does not speak English, but he is funny, blond, tall, and possibly from Denmark. Georgia thinks about her lip-gloss, which enlarges lips and wonders if breasts are like lips in that they get bigger with use. She wonders what Mark has been doing if using lips makes them larger. Georgia wonders about the hand on the breast and does not know how she feels about him. She does not think he is smart, but she thinks he could be a famous soccer player who could support her if they married. The drawback is she would be in the papers with her big nose, and she could not smile. She would need plastic surgery. Georgia decides they cannot marry, and she will break up with him tonight. She thinks about having the fat from her nose put into her knees, but that makes her queasy. Georgia wishes she had gone with the girls, because everyone is going to think Mark is her boyfriend.

She meets Mark at the tower where he is smoking. He kisses her suddenly but does not touch her breast. Mark is quiet as they walk. When they arrive, Mark goes to friends, and Georgia sees Sven, who is really tall. Jas is pale, and she explains she wants to look like a model who has been partying so Tom will think she is too busy to worry about him. Georgia observes there are a lot of people there with boys on one side and girls on the other. Jas asks if she will talk to Mark. Tom and Robbie enter, and Robbie smiles at Georgia. Georgia remembers that he is a Sex God and smiles back. She is embarrassed when Lindsay comes from behind her and realizes who Robbie is smiling at. He kisses Lindsay on the cheek, and he goes onstage. Tom is by himself. Jas asks if she should talk to Tom. Georgia says no. A brunette girl approaches Tom. Georgia says it goes downhill from there. The Stiff Dylans perform, and Mark's dancing embarrasses Georgia. Sven's dancing is worse, and he lifts Rosie up. Georgia, Jas, and Jools are laughing. Georgia and Mark slow dance. She looks at Robbie and despite the bad times, she thinks she loves him.

The band takes a break, but Mark wants them to play more. Mark and his friends go onstage, and he takes the mike from Robbie. He tries to sing, and Robbie touches him. Then a fight happens. Sven gets into it. Ellen, Jas, Jools, and Georgia leave. In bed, Georgia realizes her boyfriend is a thug, and her previous boyfriend is a kissing teacher. The boy she likes does not like her and wants a pathetic girl. Angus spits at her, and she finds Libby's used diaper in her bed.





The next day, Georgia reads all day and is glad not to see Mark. Her parents are out, and she is looking after Libby. Georgia does not want to leave home again. Libby is entertaining acting like Angus. Georgia has to keep her from eating his food. Jas calls and says she will never have a boyfriend and will be a vet. Jas calls again and asks if she is ugly. Rosie calls to say she got Sven home before the police came. Jools calls and says it is rumored Lindsay wears an engagement ring. Depressed and hungry, Georgia does not answer the door when the doorbell rings.

Depressed and queasy, Georgia has eaten too much. Georgia goes to bed and hopes to never wake up. Georgia manages to avoid Mark on the way to school. Slim is angry about the dance and hopes her girls were not involved in the fiasco. Jas is not at school. Jackie and Allison have sent a note wanting to meet for Thursday lunch. At home, Georgia finds a note from Mark who wants to meet at the telephone booth tonight. Georgia thinks she has to go, because she will see him eventually. She tells her parents she is taking Angus for a walk. Her father tells her to keep him away from the poodle. Georgia notes Angus wants to eat the poodle, and he already eats four cans of food a day. Georgia ties Angus to a post and decides to break up with Mark. When she tries to speak to him, he kisses her. He uses tongue and touches her on the breast and butt. He stops kissing her, and Georgia wonders how she can break up with him. He tells her she is too young, and he is going back to Ella, because she lets him do things. He says he will see her later. Georgia cannot believe he broke up with her before she could break up with him. She wonders what Ella lets him do.

A couple of days later, Georgia tells her mother she is not going to school. Mum wants to know the reason. Georgia says she was dumped by someone she was going to dump. Her mother says that is bad, but Georgia did get what she wanted. Georgia does not wear makeup to school as she has given up boys and is concentrating on her studies. After school, Georgia sees Robbie at the gate and guesses he is waiting for his bride-to-be. He tells her she should get better friends. She is angry and wants to say the right thing back. She says he must think she cares what he says and leaves. Georgia rejoices over telling Robbie off. At home, Vati shows Georgia a map of where he is going. She learns they have things like earthquakes and volcanoes. She does not think her weak father will survive that. Her parents are physical with each other, and she hopes there is no little brother or sister in the future. Jas is still gone from school. Georgia visits her after school, but no one answers at Jas's house.

At home, Georgia calls Jas, but her mother says she does not feel well enough to talk. Her mother does not know what is wrong with her but says she is not eating. Georgia thinks there must be a problem. The next day, Georgia cannot believe Jas is still absent. Georgia says the meeting with Jackie and Allison was crazy. Jackie teaches them how to faint so they can get out of class. Jas is out all week. Georgia cannot get her on the phone even when she phoned Santa.

Georgia wishes everyone Happy St. Nicholas Day. Since money is tight, they get simple presents. Georgia gives her father a mustache holder and her mother homemade beauty treatments that give Mum a rash, but make her look better. Georgia regrets making Libby a fairy outfit, as Libby hits everyone with her wand and turns them into



things. Georgia has to be a pig for an hour. Jas calls but stays home. Angus eats his tinsel crown and sits in his special lunch. Georgia thinks things are boring except for her father getting his electric toothbrush caught in his mustache. The next day, Georgia frets, because she has to baby-sit Libby, so her parents can have a last night out together. Her father leaves for Whangamata in a few days. That night, Georgia is trying to sleep, when she hears her drunken parents come in laughing. Libby is sleeping upside down next to Georgia, and Mum takes her to her room. Georgia is appalled when her father touches her head and fakes sleep. The next morning, her parents are in bed, and Georgia decides to take Liberty in to talk to them. Later, Georgia is leaving, because her father gave her money to take Libby out. A couple of days later, her father has gone to Whangamata. Georgia has to admit she is emotional as he leaves.

## December Chapter Analysis

Robbie's band name is in the title of the chapter. It was mentioned in a previous chapter. Georgia gets a chance to see them when they play at her school. She goes to the dance with Mark, the boy she met at the bonfire. She is not that enthusiastic about him, and his touches just confuse her. He breaks up with her before she can break up with him, because she is not as loose as another girl. So far, Georgia has kissed Peter and Mark, but she still pines for Robbie. Although he makes a remark to her against Mark, she still likes him and is jealous of Lindsay. In a previous chapter, Jas tries to understand what "see you later" from a boy means.

In this chapter, Mark tells Georgia this, and Georgia learns what it means from the magazine *Cosmo* but is still confused. Her self-help regimen is falling apart, as she dislikes a book she reads and cannot do yoga. Christmas is toward the end of the chapter, and Georgia's Christmas is like any other crazy family Christmas. At the end of the last chapter, Georgia's father talks about going to New Zealand for work. Georgia does not want to move there because of a television show and earthquakes. He leaves for there at the end of this chapter. Although Georgia likes to be sarcastic about her father, she cries when he leaves. Libby, whose full name is Liberty, and Angus the cat are amusing with their antics. Jas sees Tom with another girl at the dance. She makes depressing calls to Georgia and misses school, but Georgia does not understand what is wrong. Comic relief is added with the character of Sven. Georgia continues to obsess about her body and Mark's lips. She compares him to British rock star Mick Jagger because of the lips and his dancing. Bad girl Jackie still causes Georgia grief.





# January Chapter

## January Chapter Summary

Georgia makes resolutions to be a better person and to think about her nice teeth instead of her nose. Georgia finds out Jas has glandular fever, which comes from kissing. Georgia thinks kissing is too much trouble and hopes Jas is not contagious. Georgia finds Jas in bed. She asks Jas what is wrong, but Jas will not talk. Georgia asks if Jas is upset, because she does not have a boyfriend. Jas says nothing. Georgia is getting tired of this and thinks about her own problems. She has to look after Libby more since her mother is alone. Jas has never had a little sister whose swimming knickers exploded at the pool. Georgia remembers that Libby had eaten baked beans and that poop was everywhere including on the other children.

Georgia asks Jas why glandular fever bothers her. Jas says she is not sick and that she will never have a boyfriend after Tom chose vegetables over her. Georgia decides she has to apply her mother's book *Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway*. Georgia gets a mirror and tells Jas to look in it and love herself. Jas looks and says she looks terrible. Georgia tells Jas to look at her pretty self and her pretty mouth, which got a high score. Jas looks better and asks if her mouth is good. Georgia says yes and tells her she has nice eyes and clear skin. Jas agrees and says she has been drinking lemon and hot water. A couple of days later, Georgia wakes up and is happy, until she realizes she has to go back to school.

Georgia does yoga at lunch as part of her plan to focus on school and not boys. Georgia does yoga outside even though it is difficult in winter clothes. Elvis asks what she is doing. Georgia tries to explain, but he tells her to stop. She tells him Elvis is dead. Georgia thinks her mother is going crazy without her father. Mum turns down her request for plastic surgery on her nose and says they can hardly afford to feed Angus. Georgia thinks Angus can catch his own food. Georgia notes she can afford to decorate the house. As they watch TV, Mum asks Georgia if she misses her father. Georgia asks who he is. Georgia gets a note from Rosie in class asking her to go downtown during their break Thursday. Georgia goes home with an improving Jas. Jas asks if the lip-gloss makes her look like Claudia Schiffer. Georgia is tired of this but humors her. Georgia appreciates Jas' normal household. The girls measure themselves. Georgia is worried, because one of her legs is shorter than the other. Thursday, the girls sneak out during the school break. They go to a shop and test hair dyes. Georgia likes the blond. She is going to ask her mother if she can dye her hair blond now that her father is gone. Georgia says the day was great and shares she sang "Respect" with Jas on the way home.



## January Chapter Analysis

Georgia makes New Year's resolutions to improve herself. She vows not to worry about her body but is concerned by her legs. She has to adjust to a household without her father. She tries to take advantage of his absence by asking her mother for her long hoped-for nose job, but she is rejected. Earlier in the book, she mentioned her parents especially her father would not let her dye her hair blond, but she hopes to dye it blond at the end of this chapter. In the previous chapter, Jas was missing school and acting depressed after seeing Tom with the girl at the dance. In this chapter, she confirms she is depressed because of her love life, and Georgia manages to cheer her up by talking about Jas's high score on the appearance list from a previous chapter. Georgia also uses her mother's self-help book to encourage Jas. Georgia relies on books and magazines for advice. Georgia tries her other self-improvement device yoga at school but has problems. Popular culture references are the song "Respect" by Aretha Franklin and model Claudia Schiffer. The chapter title comes from an incident with Libby at the pool.



# February Chapter

## February Chapter Summary

The doorbell rings. Mum is washing Libby, who sings "Three Bag Bears" instead of "Three Blind Mice." Mum tells Georgia that it is a builder, named Jem, who is looking at the house. She tells Georgia to answer the door. Georgia opens the door to blond hair and denims but hears noise from next door. Mrs. Next Door is running around with a broom. Georgia thinks Angus got the poodle, but Mrs. Next Door says he has her niece's guinea pig. Georgia finally gets Angus and guinea pig separated. Mrs. Next Door says she is going to report this. Georgia wonders if there is a cat police. Georgia invites Jem in and thinks he looks good for an older man. Mum comes in wearing old clothes and acts strange, when she sees Jem. She leaves the room. Jem thinks Georgia is older, and this thrills her. Mum comes back with makeup and good clothes. Georgia leaves.

After school, Georgia and Jas see Robbie standing by his car. Georgia tries to dislike him but has a hard time. He greets Jas, and Jas greets him. He asks Jas if they could talk over coffee next Wednesday after school. Jas says yes. Georgia is stunned and walks into Jas's bedroom in a fury. She asks Jas what Robbie wants. Jas says she does not know. Georgia says she cannot go, because he is her enemy. Jas says he is not her enemy, and he likes her. Georgia says if Jas is a friend, she will not go. Jas is quiet. Georgia leaves. The next day, Georgia leaves the house early for school so she will not have to walk with Jas. She avoids Jas at school, until they meet in the bathroom. Jas says they cannot fight over some guy. Georgia says he is more than some guy. Jas says it is only coffee for now. This bothers Georgia. Jas says if anything more happens, she will tell Georgia first. Georgia kicks her on the leg and vows never to speak to her again.

At home, Georgia counts how many friends she has from casual to close. She says Libby is not really a friend, but she is better than Jas. The doorbell rings. Mum asks Georgia to get it. It is Jem looking very nice. Georgia thinks she needs an older man. Mum comes out with Libby and asks Georgia to take her for a walk then she goes to Jem. They banter about his partying, and Georgia tries to hear, but Libby hits her with her monkey and says "Out now." Georgia leaves but wonders if her mother is falling for Jem and worries about her father. He sent a letter about the ground moving and pictures of his new friends who have beards like Rolf Harris. Georgia thinks she should help her father but later decides against it.

## February Chapter Analysis

Georgia is mad at Jas for going out with Robbie. She counts her friends. This is a typical teenage situation as they fight over boys and worry about having friends. Angus causes more trouble next door. In the previous chapter, Georgia mentions her mother



wanted to redecorate. The builder Jem shows up in this chapter, and Georgia and her mother like his good looks. Georgia worries this will cause problems for her parents' marriage then decides not to care. Georgia does not like the letter and pictures her father sends from New Zealand. She compares his friends to Rolf Harris, an Australian musician, whom she thinks is boring. Georgia is sarcastic about her parents but does not want them to break up.



# March Chapter

## March Chapter Summary

Georgia is still not talking to Jas but does not like that Jas is not talking to her either. Georgia notes this is the day Jas and Robbie meet. She wonders if Lindsay knows and if she should tell her. At school, Georgia follows Jas. Georgia cannot believe Rosie, Ellen, and Jools are neutral. She would quit talking to them, but then she would have no friends. After school, Georgia sees Robbie in his car and wonders where Lindsay is. She hopes for a fight. Georgia does not see Lindsay. Rosie tells her she is playing badminton. Georgia cannot believe she is playing that stupid sport while some hussy takes away her fiancy. She sees Jas leave with Robbie. At home, Georgia wonders where they are. She calls Rosie and asks if there is any news. Rosie says no. Georgia tells her to call her if there is. Georgia has called everyone, and they know nothing. She sees she has hairs on her armpits and wonders how they got there so fast. She sees hair on her legs too. She will get her Mum's razor.

After shaving, Georgia thinks she is bleeding to death from her legs. She wipes the blood with her mother's gown and knows she has to wash it. Georgia puts the gown and other things in the washing machine before her mother gets there. Mum calls to say she will be back later. When the phone rings, Georgia, in a rush, makes her legs bleed. It is Rosie, who says Robbie wanted to talk about Jas and Tom reuniting. Delighted, Georgia hangs up. Later, Mum's gown has shrunk, but Georgia is too happy to care. She pretends she is asleep, when Mum comes back. Georgia has hidden the gown in her wardrobe.

Jas is at her gate waiting for Georgia. Georgia tries to hide from her, but Jas catches up with her. They do not talk. Jas gives her a letter at school. Georgia is slow to read the letter, because she does not want Jas to think she is overeager. In the letter, Jas apologizes and wants to be her friend again and tells her Robbie is not engaged to Lindsay. Georgia will not let the letter sway her. Later, Jas approaches Georgia at the vending machine. Georgia ignores her. When Jas tries to talk, Georgia asks about Robbie and Lindsay not being engaged. In Georgia's room, Jas helps Georgia stretch Mum's gown. Jas has agreed to take the blame for the gown if Georgia will be her friend. Georgia notes Mum will not be mad with Jas. Jas says Robbie was stunned he was engaged and asked her where that came from. Jas told him she heard it from someone.

While plucking Georgia's eyebrows, Jas says the girl with Tom at the dance is a cousin and asks if she should reunite with Tom. Georgia feels like Dear Abby and tells her to act distant and do not kiss on the first date unless he wants to. That night, Georgia gets away with the gown plan. She notices Jem is slow to work and spends time with her mother. Libby calls him dad. Georgia thanks Baby Jesus Robbie is not engaged. At school, Georgia finds she is good at tennis. That night, Georgia has a sexual dream about winning Wimbledon. After winning, the crowd is wild, and Princess Margaret gives



her the trophy. Georgia goes into the dressing room and is in her D-cup bra and underwear. Leonardo DiCaprio starts kissing her then Brad Pitt joins them. The next week, Georgia cannot believe how happy Jas is. Georgia relates a funny incident at school about Jackie having a "love bite" on her nose.

## March Chapter Analysis

Georgia goes crazy as Jas goes out with Robbie. She is happy to learn he just wanted to talk about Tom and that Robbie and Lindsay are not engaged. Although Georgia tries to snub Jas, she cannot resist making up with her. Georgia discovers that she is getting body hair and then bleeds a lot after shaving. She uses her mother's gown to wipe the blood then blames it on Jas. Jas has make things up to Georgia. Jas writes a letter to make up with Georgia. She also wrote her a letter about Tom in a previous chapter. Since playing tennis successfully at school, Georgia dreams she wins Wimbledon, a tennis tournament in England, and meets Princess Margaret. Royalty is referred to throughout the book. However, her partners in the dream are American movie stars. Rennison shows how popular American celebrities are in England, while Georgia usually derides British celebrities. The chapter title is a sarcastic remark about her father in New Zealand and an Australian musician. Jem's presence is still bothering Georgia, and Jas's worrying about Tom bothers her too. Georgia does delight in bad girl Jackie's humiliation, since Jackie is usually the one humiliating.



# April Chapter

## April Chapter Summary

Georgia is happy at beating someone at tennis. Georgia calls Jas and notes how nice it is not to have her father telling her to get off the phone. She is forgetting how he looks which is fine. Georgia tells Jas she has a plan. Jas is dubious but agrees after Georgia reminds her she owes her. Georgia thinks Lindsay is wearing the engagement ring for show and likes Robbie more than he likes her back. Georgia's plan is to spy on Lindsay so she can know whether Robbie likes her or not. Jas asks why she is involved. Georgia says Jas is her friend, and it looks better if they are together. Plus, Mum and Libby are going away in several weeks, and Jas can come over to stay and bring Tom. Jas is ready. Georgia and Jas, dressed in black and hats like the French Resistance, wait for Lindsay to talk to Hawkeye and leave school. Jas and Georgia follow Lindsay as she leaves, and Georgia notices her ring flash. Georgia and Jas are at Lindsay's fancy house. Georgia notes they can look in her room, since the house is one-story. Georgia sees Lindsay has left the front room and thinks she is getting ready to go out with Robbie.

Georgia and Jas go to the back of the house. A baldhead pops up next door, and Jas tells him they are surprising Lindsay and winks. He leaves. Georgia looks in and sees frilly things all over the bedroom. Georgia says the room has bad feng shui. Lindsay is wearing a bra and thong. Georgia does not like thongs. She tried on her mother's thong and felt weird. She notes how thin Lindsay is. Then big things happen, when Lindsay takes off her ring and kisses it, and Lindsay put falsies in her bra. Georgia notices that Jas is looking at the bald man, who is back. Georgia and Jas act like they are interacting with Lindsay, and he leaves again. They hide by the bush next door to wait for Lindsay to leave.

Lindsay finally leaves. They give her some time before they follow. Georgia has doubts about this and worries she will see that Robbie likes Lindsay. She tells Jas they should leave, but Jas says she wants to continue. Georgia sees Robbie waiting outside a theater. Lindsay walks to him. Georgia wants to shout she stuffs her bra and wears a thong. Robbie and Lindsay kiss. On the way home, Georgia asks if the kiss was direct or to the side. Jas thinks it was to the side. Georgia says it could not have been full frontal snogging. Jas says it was not.

Georgia and Jas agree Lindsay tried full frontal but he went to the side and that he was not too excited. Georgia says Lindsay not wearing the ring with him means she is faking the engagement, and Robbie must not like her if he did no full frontal. Georgia's life would be perfect if she eliminates Lindsay, dates Robbie, prevents her mother from getting a divorce, develops a larger chest, and has a nose job. The next week at home, the phone rings, and Georgia answers. It is her father. He asks about school and everyone. She tells him Libby says tosser. He says she should prevent that, and they argue. He asks for her mother. She says Mum is out as usual. He asks Georgia to tell



her he called. Georgia agrees. After a pause, he says he misses them.. Georgia grunts. She wishes parents would not make you sad and angry at the same time.

## April Chapter Analysis

The title of the book becomes clear in this chapter. The reader already knows about Angus. Thanks to Georgia's spying plan, she finds out that Lindsay wears thongs and hopes Lindsay and Robbie did not do full-frontal snogging or a direct kiss on the mouth. The snogging report is the name of the chapter, as Georgia tries to find out how Robbie and Lindsay kiss. She gets Jas to agree it was not a direct kiss and that Robbie was not into it. Jas has to go along with the spying, as she still owes Georgia for going out with Robbie. In the last chapter, she had to help Georgia with the gown and eyebrow plucking. Georgia also bribes Jas with a sleepover and Tom. Although Georgia likes not having her father around when she is on the phone, his call makes her miss him. She feels if she has Robbie, the perfect body, and an intact family, all will be well. Georgia shows how she keeps up with the trends by commenting on Lindsay's room's feng shui, a practice of arranging a room for good luck.





# May Chapter

## May Chapter Summary

Georgia is a little depressed. She dreamed her father had a Rolf Harris beard that turned out to be Angus on his chin. She does not look forward to school. However, Georgia has a funny day at school even though she is in trouble. In physics, Georgia is cutting up by speaking German. Herr Kamyer is teaching about the vibration of atoms. To demonstrate, he has billiard balls on a towel. Georgia asks what the towel has to do with the lesson. Herr Kamyer says it keeps his balls still. Georgia finds this hilarious. She has to see Slim. It does not help when Slim tells her to come. Slim asks what is so funny about the atom experiment. Georgia manages to repeat the ball remark and starts laughing again. At midnight, she is still laughing. A few weeks later, Georgia has made it to the tennis semifinals. She thinks it is funny that she might have to play Lindsay in the final. Georgia is sure she can beat her, and if she wins, that means she gets Robbie. Georgia plays against Kristy in the semifinal. Georgia's group is cheering her on. The umpire Hawkeye tries to get them to be quiet. Georgia wins, falls to her knees like McEnroe, and throws her racket up into the air. It hits Hawkeye on the head and knocks her out. At home, Georgia is angry, because Hawkeye was only out for a minute, but she had to forfeit. Kristy and Lindsay played instead. Lindsay wins the tournament. Georgia is mad at God. Later, she decides she will believe in God, if something good happens to her.

## May Chapter Analysis

Georgia has dreams throughout the book, and in this chapter, she dreams about her father with Rolf Harris and Angus. Georgia's class antics provide the title for the chapter. She gets the only male teacher to talk about "his balls." Georgia thinks of this in sexual terms and gets in trouble with Slim. She also thinks in sexual terms, when Slim says, "come." She is a teenager who is giggly about dirty words. In previous chapters, Georgia discovers she has a knack for tennis. In this chapter, she wins the semifinal but has to forfeit after accidentally knocking Hawkeye out with the tennis racket. If this had not happened, she could have had the chance to beat Lindsay. She continues to talk about celebrities as she compares herself to the tennis player McEnroe. At the end of the chapter, Georgia feels she needs something good for once.



# June Chapter

## June Chapter Summary

Georgia wishes her mother would hurry up and leave with Libby. Mum looks for her tweezers, and Georgia does not want her to know that she has them, so she puts them in Angus's basket. After finding the tweezers, Mum is ready to go and picks up Libby who is resistant and calls her "bad Mummy" for taking her. As Mum leaves, she gives Georgia instructions and says she will be back late the next day. She tells Georgia to leave her hair alone. Rosie is the first guest to come. She says Sven will be by later. Georgia wants to know how high she is with him. She gives a score. The girls have a scoring system for kissing from one to ten that goes from holding hands to the full Monty.

All of the girls, including Jas, arrive and are in their pajamas. They watch Grease and do scenes from it. At eleven, Tom calls and wants to talk to Jas. Jas goes to talk to him where they cannot hear. She comes back flustered and says Tom is coming with his friend Leo. The girls are eating, when the boys come. Sven comes and goes off with Rosie. The boys and girls watch Grease. Georgia tries not to talk about Robbie. Tom and Jas are gone, and so are Leo and Ellen. The rest of the girls dare each other to do things such as dropping pants and underwear outside. When the couples return, Georgia hides behind the girls to get dressed after a dare. Tom says he should tell Robbie about this. Georgia begs him not to. Tom asks if he and Jas should reunite, and Georgia says yes. At two-thirty in the morning, the boys leave.

Georgia gets a note from Jackie that implies they are going to shoplift. Georgia hides from her in the bathroom in a cubicle, but Jackie finds her. When Jackie pressures her to go, Georgia says no and leaves the cubicle. Jackie gets close and says she should go. Allison is behind Jackie. Georgia goes into Xena Warrior Princess mode and says she is going to do her karate. Jackie goes to her, and Georgia yells and twists Jackie's arm behind her back. Georgia does not know where that came from but feels she had to do it for the nice people. Later, Jas calls to say she is the talk of the school, and how great it is. Georgia is proud of herself. A few days later, the Stiff Dylans are playing at the Market Place. All of her friends are going, and Georgia wonders if she should go. She is mad, because her mother will not let her dye her hair blond. Georgia says Marilyn Monroe would be nowhere if her mother had not allowed her to dye her hair. Mum just throws a slipper at her. Georgia thinks she will have to call Esther Rantzen's child line. Ellen calls and tells her where and when to meet.

Georgia is ecstatic, because Robbie kissed her. She says, "the Sex God has landed." At the gig, Georgia dances with her friends to the band. She is shy at first, but everyone imitates her dance moves like in a movie. When the band takes a break, Georgia goes outside to cool off. She is on the patio and sees Robbie. She begins to leave, when he touches her arm and asks to speak to her. Georgia agrees and seeing his sheepish look, she explains that Tom is nice, and Jas likes him. Robbie says that is good, but he



want to do something. Then he kisses her. Georgia thinks that it is a wonderful kiss that makes her go limp. She is not sure how long it lasts. He says he has wanted to do that for a while, but he knows he should not. Georgia just stammers. One of the boys from the band comes out, and Robbie moves away and says to tell Tom what he said. He also says see you later. Georgia asks Jas what "see you later" means and hates to have to go through that again. Jas cannot stop talking, until Georgia puts her hand on her mouth. After the show, Robbie says he will call Georgia. He goes to Lindsay, and she hugs him, which makes Georgia look away. She wonders when he will call.

A few days later, Georgia calls Jas to say Robbie has not called. Jas says she will talk to Tom. George tells her to be low-key about it. Jas says she can be then yells for her Mum to get Tom. Jas's mum says Tom is busy and wants to know what she wants. Jas yells Robbie kissed Georgia, and he promised to call her, but he has not. She wants to know what Tom knows about it. Georgia is shocked, and it gets worse when Jas's mum asks if Lindsay is Robbie's girlfriend. Jas says yes, but he is mixed up. Tom asks what kind of kiss. Jas rates it a six. Georgia is livid and tells Jas to be quiet. The next day, Lindsay approaches Georgia at lunch. Georgia observes she looks awful. Lindsay says she knows what went on Saturday and knows Georgia is after her boyfriend. Georgia asks what stupid person said that. Lindsay says Robbie told her and said that Georgia pushed herself on him. Georgia is speechless. Lindsay warns her to back off. Georgia cannot believe Robbie would be so mean. She hates him. At midnight, she still hates him. Thirty minutes later, she loves him.

## June Chapter Analysis

Georgia has the requisite pajama party or slumber party that teenage girls have. They do ordinary things like eat, invite boys, watch a movie, and dare each other. In the previous chapter, Georgia got Jas to help spy on Lindsay by promising to invite Tom to the party. Her mother and Libby are gone for the night, but before leaving, Mum warns Georgia not to touch her hair. Later in the chapter, her mother still refuses to let her dye it. This makes Georgia refer to Esther Rantzen, a British celebrity, again. In previous chapters, Georgia complained about not being able to dye her hair and thought she could get her mother to let her if her father were gone. She thought wrong. Georgia finally stands up to Jackie the bully by using the television show, Xena, Warrior Princess.

This is another popular culture influence on Georgia. In a previous chapter, Jackie made a list, where everyone rated each other's looks. The girls also have a list, where they rate how far they go, physically. Georgia has kissed Peter and Mark in the book, but she finally gets a kiss from Sex God Robbie in this chapter. Georgia is confused, when Robbie does not call as promised, and when Lindsay says he told her that Georgia made the first move. This makes Georgia dislike Lindsay more, and at the end of the chapter, she has mixed feelings about Robbie. Jas is no help as she gets started on the "see you later" question that has occurred throughout the book. She also embarrasses Georgia, when she talks about the kiss to her mother and Tom.



# July Chapter

## July Chapter Summary

At the canteen, Jackie and Allison irritate Georgia even though they are friendly after the confrontation. At home, Georgia is angry with Robbie but is too proud to talk to him. Georgia calls Robbie. When he answers, she gives her name. He hesitates then calls her Mike and says he will call her later. Georgia calls Jas and asks what he means by "Mike." Jas guesses Lindsay is there. Depressed, Georgia is in bed. Mum goes into Georgia's room and asks if she wants to talk. Georgia says she hates school and England. Mum says a trip to New Zealand might make her happy. Georgia is indifferent. Georgia thinks if men are like this, she wants to be a lesbian. She tries to kiss a British female sex symbol's picture but cannot do it. Georgia decides to be a nun. She worries a nun's habit will make her nose look big, but she supposes a nun does not worry about looks. According to Mum, Georgia has a phone call from a boy who turns out to be Robbie. She is going to meet him after school the next day at home. Georgia does not think he can explain this. She worries about what to wear and wonders if she should miss school so she will have time to get ready.

The next day, Georgia says bye to Mum and Libby, and walks to Jas' house. When she sees Jas, she explains she is not going to school, because she is seeing Robbie and says to use her period as an excuse. She waits for her mother and sister to leave, and then she goes back in the house. She is in her room cleaning, when she hears the door open. Georgia only has tweezers as a weapon. She has not seen Angus for a while and wants him for protection. Georgia is appalled that it is her mother and Jem. She thinks they must be having an affair. She puts her ear against the door to eavesdrop. He opens the door, and Georgia falls out. She pretends to faint and acts as if she got sick on the way to school. Mum puts her in bed. She explains that she took time off to talk about renovating the living room with Jem. Georgia says Jem is a slow worker, and Libby thinks he is their new father. Her mother says that she has to go back to work and asks if Georgia is fine. Georgia says yes and asks her mother how she is. Mum says she is not having an affair and that she misses Bob. She asks Georgia if she loves him. Georgia says he is okay. Mum says she knows Georgia loves him, but she wants to be contrary. Mum says they will see him soon. After she leaves, Georgia is tired of all this and wishes her father were home, so she could forget him.

Robbie arrives. They kiss for a while, before she asks about what Lindsay said. He says he did not say that, and he has not talked to anyone about it. She asks if he is engaged. He says no and asks why. She tells him about the engagement ring. He says this is tough. He tells her he is trying to break up with Lindsay gently. Georgia says she will tell her nicely that she is being dumped. He laughs and says he will figure it out, but he has to say something else. She thinks he is going to ask her to be his girlfriend. However, he says he likes her, but he is almost eighteen and too old for her. Georgia says that she is really fifteen and a half, but she flunked a grade. He laughs, kisses her and leaves.



Georgia cannot believe she is too young for him and wants Angus to hold, even if he will bite her.

Georgia is happy, because Robbie broke up with Lindsay. At school, Lindsay tells Georgia she hopes she is happy and calls her a horrible girl. Georgia wants to say she does not have to stuff her bra and put a string up her butt. At supper, Georgia wonders why Angus is not there, because he is usually there to eat. With food to entice him, Georgia searches the street for Angus. She runs into Mark who is kissing a girl. Since he is always kissing, she thinks kissing must make his lips bigger. Georgia cannot find Angus. She wants him to be home, but he is not. Later, Georgia reports no phone calls and no Angus. Libby gets into bed with her and asks about "big pussy tosser." Georgia gets emotional and hugs her, but Libby bites her on the chin. She dreams about being a blonde with Robbie.

The next day, Georgia thinks the dream is a sign she should put a blond streak in her hair so she can look older for Robbie. Angus is still not there. Mum suggests Angus might have had a run-in with a car, since he likes to fight cars. Georgia does not want to think about that. The next day, Georgia feels bad because of the missing Angus. Her mother misses him too. When Georgia asks Mrs. Next Door if she has seen him, she says she has not, and he has not been around her house, because everything is intact. Georgia is angry with her. Georgia cannot have fun at school. She hears Lindsay is anorexic but wonders how anyone can tell since she is so thin. It is almost summer vacation, and Georgia can leave this horrible place. A couple of days later, Georgia thinks Angus must have had an accident. She loves him and thinks she has to do without everything she loves. While Georgia and Jas look for Angus, Robbie comes up in his car. He asks if Angus has turned up, but Georgia says no. Things get a little better. At school in Elvis's hut, Georgia finds a magazine with married couples in the bedroom and is delighted to see Elvis and his wife in there naked. She shows the magazine around class, and everyone laughs. Elvis knows the magazine is gone but cannot talk about it. Georgia looks at his pants when she sees him.

Georgia is so happy, because Robbie found Angus. While looking for him, he hears dogs barking and goes to see what is going on. He finds Angus tied up. He hurt his paw, and the people who found him bandaged it and tied him up, until his owners claimed him. Robbie will bring him at five at home. Mum is gone. Georgia wants Robbie to think of her as older. She has no money, and her mother took her purse, but she has an idea. She is going to use peroxide to bleach a streak in her hair. The peroxide is in. Georgia wonders how long it should be on and notes the burning must mean it is working. She is irked, because it is somewhat orange. She will put more peroxide on. It is kind of yellow now, and she thinks she looks like a canary. She is happy it turns white. She likes the look and hopes the hair softens some. She thinks it makes her look older. Robbie is there with Angus. Georgia tries to hug Angus, but he fights. So, she gives him a rabbit leg which satisfies him. Robbie tells her she has a white streak in her hair. Georgia asks if he likes it. He is quiet, and Georgia wants him to kiss her. He says he does not want to go, but he has to. Georgia thanks him for Angus.



As he leaves, Georgia wants to appear mature so she runs her fingers through her hair. The streak breaks off in her hand. Robbie is stunned but laughs, tells her she is strange, and kisses her. She drops the hair on the couch, and Angus attacks it, because he thinks it is an animal. After kissing, Robbie says they can date in secret. Georgia is happy about almost being Robbie's girlfriend. Mum enters, and says she has tickets for New Zealand, and they are going next week. Georgia curses in French.

## July Chapter Analysis

The title of the chapter refers to what Georgia said in the last chapter. At the beginning of the chapter, Georgia is depressed over Robbie not calling. She contemplates becoming a lesbian, which has always fascinated her, and kisses a picture of a girl, who was mentioned in a previous chapter. She thinks about becoming a nun, but she worries about her nose as usual.

In her depression, she does not care if she goes to New Zealand. Robbie finally calls. When she stays home from school to meet him, she runs into her mother and Jem. Georgia finds out there is no affair and that her mother misses her father. The meeting with Robbie does not turn out well, as he feels she is too young for him. Another problem she has is the missing Angus who Mrs. Next Door does not miss. Robbie is the one who finds him, and not only does she get Angus back, she gets Robbie in a way. However, her mother announces they are going to New Zealand. Georgia, who likes to speak French, ends the chapter that way. Georgia has desired to dye her hair throughout the book. Because of one of her dreams, she uses peroxide to lighten a streak of her hair. However, her hair breaks off with Robbie. This is another of Georgia's schemes gone awry, such as accidentally shaving off her eyebrows. People that Georgia has had problems with like Jackie, Lindsay and Elvis get their comeuppance. The adventures of Georgia and the other characters continue in further books.





# Characters

## Georgia Nicolson

This book is fourteen-year-old Georgia's diary from August until July. Georgia lives in England with her parents and three-year-old sister, Libby. She also has a wildcat, named Angus, who she rescued from Scotland. She thinks her parents are old-fashioned and overprotective. Although she loves them, she struggles with controlling Libby and Angus. Her best friend, a classmate and neighbor, is Jas, and she has girlfriends, as well. She goes to an all-girl school and makes enemies of teachers by misbehaving. She worries about how to act with boys and about her body, especially her nose. She is briefly with Peter and Mark, but she has her heart set on Robbie, who she calls the Sex God.

However, Robbie appears to be serious with Lindsay. Most of the book has Georgia pining over Robbie and advising Jas who likes Robbie's brother, Tom. Georgia has a tendency to have mishaps such as falling down while kissing a boy in front of Robbie and accidentally shaving her eyebrows off. She sometimes enlists Jas in her schemes, such as spying on Lindsay. Georgia thinks she has a chance with Robbie, but he thinks he is too old for her as he is almost eighteen. Through Angus being missing and found, she finally gets Robbie. However, she is dismayed to learn that her family is going to New Zealand to visit her father, who is working there after being laid off in England. Georgia is a typical teenager, but as a British teen, she uses British words and slang, which is explained in the glossary in the back of the book. She also likes to speak French. She likes American celebrities but is not too crazy about British ones. Georgia's diary continues in further books.

## Dad (Vati)

Vati is Georgia's much put-upon father. Georgia calls him Dad at the beginning but decides to also call him the German name, Vati. His name is Bob as the reader learns from Georgia's mother. He lives in England with his wife and two daughters. He belongs to the Masons but when Georgia finds his Masonic apron, she thinks he is a cross dresser. As a typical teenager, Georgia thinks he is unreasonable, and he thinks she can be exasperating. He hangs around with a minor character, Uncle Eddie. After he is laid off from work, he finds a job in New Zealand and moves there. He misses his family, and his wife and even Georgia misses him. His family plans to visit him at the end of the book.

## Mum (Mutti)

The reader never learns her name. Georgia refers to her as Mum or the German, Mutti. She lives with her husband and two daughters in England. She is a hospital administrator. According to daughter Georgia, she is the more flexible parent. Georgia



gets along a little better with her than her father but thinks her mother tries to be younger than she is. Georgia worries that after her father goes to New Zealand, her mother is too close to a builder. However, her mother assures her that she is devoted to her husband. She even surprises Georgia at the end of the book with tickets to New Zealand.

## Libby

Libby is Georgia's three-year-old sister. As younger siblings tend to do, she embarrasses Georgia in front of a potential boyfriend. She is able to handle wildcat Angus, and she gets into Georgia's things. Georgia tries to humor her, because Libby is bossy and can be temperamental. Libby likes to use the word "tosser," which is not nice, and calls Georgia "bad boy."

## Jas

Jas is Georgia's best friend, who lives nearby. They go to the same all-girl school and hang out with other girls. Georgia likes to boss Jas around, but Jas can drive Georgia crazy with her comments and questions. Figuring out what a boy means when he says, "See you later" obsesses Jas. Jas likes Tom who is the brother of Robbie who Georgia likes. After breaking up with Tom, Jas goes into a depression, and it is Georgia who helps her. At the end, she and Tom seem to be reconciling.

## Robbie

Robbie, or as Georgia calls him, the Sex God, is almost eighteen. He has a brother, named Tom, and their family runs a supermarket/deli. While having embarrassing encounters with Georgia, he dates Lindsay. He is the singer of a band called the Stiff Dylans. During a break in one of his concerts, he kisses Georgia. He finally tells her he likes her but thinks she is too young. He does break up with Lindsay and tells Georgia at the end that they can date in secret.

## Angus

Angus is a stray wildcat from Scotland that Georgia brings home to England. His name is in the book's title. Georgia wants him to be a pet, but he obeys the "call of the wild" by stalking prey, such as the neighbors' poodle, and attacking things, such as Georgia's clothes. He goes missing toward the end, and when Robbie returns him, Robbie and Georgia get together.





## Tom

Tom works in his family's supermarket/deli and has a brother named Robbie. He has an on-again/off again relationship with Georgia's best friend, Jas. He gets Georgia in trouble with Robbie, who she likes, by repeating her disparaging remarks about their family business.

## Jackie

Jackie is the bully at an all-girl school. She has a friend named Allison who follows her. She dates older boys, wears too much makeup, and displays hickeys. At first, Georgia puts up with her weird ideas for fear of being beaten up, but when Jackie wants to shoplift, Georgia says no and twists Jackie's arm. Georgia has Jackie's and her classmates' respect after that.

## Lindsay

She dates Robbie while Georgia pines for him. Georgia does not like her and calls her wet, which means drippy and idiotic. While Georgia spies on her with Jas, Lindsay shows she stuffs her bra and wears a fake engagement ring and thongs. She is the reason "thongs" is in the book title. She is also responsible for "full-frontal snogging" in the title, as Georgia worries she does it with Robbie. She wins the tennis tournament Georgia is disqualified from. Robbie breaks up with her, and she takes it out on Georgia. The school rumor is she has anorexia.



## **Objects/Places**

### **Georgia's Home**

This is where Georgia and her family live. Her family arguments, beauty mishaps, and one of her kisses with Robbie happens there.

### **Stalag 14 (School)**

Georgia compares her all-girl school to a prisoner of war camp. She does not like the teachers who she has given nicknames such as Slim and Hawkeye.

### **Grocery/Deli**

This is the shop brothers Robbie and Tom's parents owns. This is where Georgia meets Robbie, and Jas flirts with Tom.

### **Next Door**

Georgia's neighbors live here with their poodle who Angus terrorizes.

### **Jas's House**

Georgia's best friend Jas lives there with her parents.

### **Lindsay's House**

Georgia and Jas go there to spy on Georgia's rival Lindsay, and they learn new things about her.

### **New Zealand**

Georgia's father leaves England to go there to work. At the end of the book, Mum announces the family is going to join him.

### **Stiff Dylans**

This is the name of Robbie's band who performs a couple of times in the book.



## **Poodle**

This is Georgia's neighbors' pet, who Angus bothers.

## **Clock Tower**

Georgia meets her girlfriends and Mark there.

# Setting

Contemporary small town or suburban England seems both strange and familiar in Angus, Thongs, and Full-Frontal Snogging and On the Bright Side, I'm Now the Girlfriend of a Sex God. On the one hand, daily life in an all girls' school, different terms like "loo" for restroom and expressions like getting "their knickers in a twist," and observing a regular tea time take some getting used to. The inside look at adolescent life in England is intriguing, just different enough to broaden a reader's horizons. On the other hand, life in this unspecified locale seems familiar, too. Students ride their bikes downtown, converse on their walk to school, hang out at one another's houses, and watch TV.

Although the setting is not the focus of Georgia's diaries and not much description of setting is included, the British flavor of the setting is appealing. Rennison makes the world of British teens both accessible and interesting.



## Social Sensitivity

Angus, Thongs, and Full-Frontal Snogging and On the Bright Side, I'm Now the Girlfriend of a Sex God are not books aimed at large, or even small, social issues. Rennison avoids serious issues like teen pregnancy and drugs in her writing. The books are written to entertain, and in the process Georgia and other characters examine all the personal and sometimes petty issues that teens obsess about—appearance, clothes, various aspects of the facts of life, gossip, the absurdity of adults (especially teachers and parents), being amusing, pet peeves, and favorite snack foods. No reader can expect to gain any great insight into British society or the deep philosophical issues of the times.

Still, the diaries are realistic in revealing normal adolescent development with humor and tolerance. The books remind us that it is fine that teens are not adults, and we cannot expect them to be other than they are.



## Literary Qualities

A key part of the fun in reading *Angus, Thongs, and Full-Frontal Snogging* and *On the Bright Side, I'm Now the Girlfriend of a Sex God* is the language. The use of slang, description, and dialogue engages the reader and adds to the humor. Rennison has made British slang popular with American readers, and each book offers a glossary (by Georgia) at the end to explain such terms as "fringe" (bangs) and "gorgey" (gorgeous).

Some terms are common British terms and some have been created by British teens or Georgia herself. Adolescents love to create their own language, declaring their growing independence from the adult world while using pop culture for their, own purposes. Such language also enables teens to be part of the group and to entertain one another with their wit. An example from both books is "wet—A drippy, useless, nerdy idiot. Lindsay. [the sex god's former girlfriend]." A few terms refer to TV shows or other aspects of British culture, like "Reeves and Mortimer—Are a comedy double act. They are very mad indeed. But I like them." Some of the slang is just silly like "geoggers" for geography. Even older readers will remember how much adolescent *Angus, Thongs, and Full-Frontal Snogging; On the Bright Side* . . .

energy goes into getting the slang right, however. Such slang is both amusing and adds to the realism of the characters and their situations.

Georgia is not given to lengthy descriptions; she is too busy recounting who said what to whom or what she is thinking.

However, when description is used, it adds to the humor and the realism. For example, in one diary entry, Georgia depicts her little sister: "Libby came in all sleepy. She said, 'Move.' And climbed in with the usual accoutrements—Barbie, Charlie Horse, etc.

I've got about half a centimeter of bed.

Marvelous." Description is generally short and to the point but vivid. Georgia experiences everything in extremes, like helpless teenage laughing, "that laughing that makes your tummy hurt and makes you cry and gulp and choke." The descriptions fit an adolescent's diary.

Dialogue is another device used by Rennison. True to life and humorous, Georgia captures the way people really talk. For example, in her conversation as well as in her observations, Georgia is given to adolescent self-dramatization. At one point in *On the Bright Side, I'm Now the Girlfriend of a Sex God*, when Georgia's parents are planning to take her off to New Zealand and Georgia's mom threatens to get rid of Angus, Georgia replies sarcastically, "O h yes, perfect, just take everything that I love and destroy it. Just think of your own self and make me go halfway round the universe and lose the only boy I love." Even the foolishness of human conversation as humans



attempt to have the last word is captured well. For instance, there is this bit when Jas says something Georgia does not like: "Jas."

"What?"

"Shut up."

"Well, I was just saying."

"Well don't."

"Well I won't, then."

"Well don't."

"I won't" "Well don't."

Similarly, the dialogue recorded by Georgia demonstrates the nonsense teens often talk on dates, their anxious preoccupation with the opposite sex, and their uncensored honesty when with friends—all laden with slang. Jas tells Georgia, who is trying on clothes, "Erlack!! The front of your legs are quite hairy but the backs are all baldy." A great deal of entertaining dialogue shows up in the diaries. After all, teens do talk a lot, about many subjects, but especially sex, and with a great deal of show and flair without reflecting too long before speaking. Talking is a way to try on new roles and ideas, to assert oneself.

Another literary device used to humorous advantage by Rennison is hyperbole, of course. Georgia thinks to herself one day, "I am a facsimile of a sham of a fax of [a] person." All events, feelings, and ideas are extreme to this 14-year-old. Georgia is also a list maker, and the lists provide more humor and realism in their portrayal of what adolescents worry about. The following is part of a typical day plan Georgia creates: 1) Steam face.

2) Apply face mask.

3) Sort out clothes to wear.

4) Put some interesting books near my bed (hide comics and boy mags).

5) Make sure Libby has not peed or pooped in any secret corner.

List making is another way to exert some control over life. Ultimately, the point of view in Rennison's books is most effective since the reader experiences life as filtered through the hopes, dreams, and contagious goofiness of Georgia.



# Themes

## Teen Issues

Although the book is set in England, the teen theme is universal. There is Georgia, the suffering teenage main character, her infuriating parents, and her annoying little sister. Like any teen, Georgia battles with her parents for more freedom and tries not to lose control of her sister. She has her best friend Jas and other girlfriends. Georgia laughs with and gets mad at her friends. They play pranks in school and get in trouble. They have a sleepover. They talk about boys, sex, and fashion. Then there is the school, which has the mean teachers and the bully. Georgia does not care for school and tries to be funny which gets her in trouble with the teachers. The bully Jackie gets her way, until Georgia stands up to her. Schoolmate Lindsay is her rival for Robbie's affection. Then there is Georgia's obsession with her body. She has insecurities like any teen. She thinks her nose is too big, and she wants to dye her hair blond. An appearance list at school upsets her. She practices beauty treatments and yoga. Georgia, like any teen, is obsessed with kissing and sex. She and her friends have a list of how far they can go physically. Georgia reads magazines for advice on boys. She likes American celebrities and dreams about them. No matter where they are located, teens have the same issues.

## Friendship

School friends are important to a teen, and so Georgia's friends are important to her. Her best friend is Jas, and her other friends are Rosie, Jools and Ellen. Georgia and Jas live close to each other so they visit each other and walk to school together. Georgia is the dominant one in the relationship, and Jas is the more subservient one. When Jas makes Georgia mad by going out with Robbie, Jas has to do things to make it up to her. While Georgia is angry with Jas, she makes a list of her close and casual friends. Jas infuriates Georgia by making remarks about Georgia's body and obsessing over Tom. Georgia does not admit it, but she is jealous of Jas and Tom when she does not have a boyfriend. She is also jealous of Jas when she attracts boys at a party. Jealousy between friends, especially teen ones, is common. However, Georgia does help Jas during Jas's depression. Of her other friends, Rosie is closer. She gets Georgia to participate in school pranks and introduces the Sven character. Georgia and Rosie talk about boys. Jools and Ellen are more casual friends, but Ellen does make Georgia jealous when talking about kissing an older boy. Jools lets Georgia know about the engagement rumor. Georgia cannot believe it, when they will not take sides while she and Jas are not speaking. Although Georgia does not want to go to New Zealand because of Robbie, she also does not want to leave her friends.





## Humor

According to her biography, Rennison has worked as a comedy writer, and it shows in this book. Georgia copes with her problems with her sense of humor, much to her parents' and teachers' dismay. She dresses as an olive for a costume party, and she has a poster of a comedy team showing their bottoms. After Georgia and Jas reunite, Georgia thinks Jas must have missed her "hilarious and witty conversation." Robbie appreciates Georgia's "weirdness." She and her friends play pranks in school. Georgia thinks dirty words are funny. Georgia's friend Rosie's boyfriend Sven is comic relief especially in his dancing. Although it may not be funny to Georgia, her antics such as accidentally shaving off her eyebrows are funny to the reader. Toddler Libby is funny with her speaking and actions. Georgia trying to turn the wild Angus into a pet is funny. Georgia talking French is funnier than it would be if she were saying the words in English. Georgia gives people funny nicknames. Like any comedic character, Georgia gets through all her schemes intact. British Rennison proves laughter is universal.



## Themes/Characters

The character of Georgia, the 14-year-old narrator and protagonist, provides the focus of both books. Georgia is honest, energetic, sarcastic, funny, and thoroughly believable. Readers currently in their teens would probably like to be friends with Georgia, and older readers will find her familiar, perhaps like themselves or their friends in their own teen years. Georgia is refreshingly normal, given to mood swings, and skeptical of the adult world, self-absorbed but well-meaning, and totally concerned with her social life. Georgia comes from an average, loving family with two parents, who refuse to empathize with her ongoing problems, and a three-year-old sister, Libby, who often embarrasses her. While Georgia finds her own challenges traumatic, she is a generally happy, well-behaved teenager with none of the problems the media so often associates with teenagers. No drugs, no violence, no sex (beyond kissing or "snogging"), no deep psychological problems. Georgia reminds the reader that adolescence need not be all "Sturm und Drang"; it can be fun.

Georgia is a self-centered teen as revealed in the thoughts and incidents she pours into her diaries, but self-consciousness is a developmentally appropriate characteristic. As adolescents achieve identity, they become the major protagonists in their own dramas. They are naturally worried about their changing bodies; concerned about attracting the opposite sex; growing in their independence from parents, teachers, and other adults; and struggling to find a place in teen society. Growing up is a serious challenge, but it also has its lighter side. Georgia, for instance, worries about her physical development, but she frames her concerns in comical observations. She notes, for example, in *Angus, Thongs, and Full-Frontal Snogging*: "I'm worried that I may end up like the rest of the women in my family, with just the one bust, like a sort of shelf affair. Mum can balance things on hers when her hands are full—at parties, and so on... . It's very unattractive." Nothing is too deadly serious for Georgia for long; her natural curiosity, energy, and resilience carry her through the regular fights with her parents, her friends' occasional lack of sympathy, and her break-up with the "sex god." She enjoys her daily victories: beating an older student in tennis, making lists of favorite people, or annoying her teachers. Georgia may be self-centered, but she is witty and bright as well, more so in the second book, *On the Bright Side, I'm Now the Girlfriend of a Sex God*. Her play with ideas and language, her enthusiasm, her freshness, even her silliness are also characteristic of adolescence.

Georgia's diaries accurately reflect the thinking of a 14-year-old. Georgia can swing from ecstasy to tragedy in moments. She is willing to make fun of anyone, even her best friend, Jas, but she is not really malicious. Georgia has pet names for others like Nauseating P. Green, a fellow student, and she is hypercritical of everyone. Such behaviors are typical, however, for a teen trying to differentiate herself as a person.

Georgia can make fun of herself, too. School learning is fodder for her own entertainment; she makes French toast for Jas—they have to eat it while using a French accent and throwing in some French words. Everything is seen as an opportunity to be amusing. In the midst of a reflection on her neighbors, Georgia wonders if the Dalai



Lama's father is called the Daddy Lama. A substitute teacher can make her and her friends break into uncontrollable giggles.

The sheer exuberance of being a young teen discovering the world and her place in it is captured well in the character of Georgia.

Other characters are only known through Georgia, so they are all amusing, even the school bullies, the "Bummer Twins." Jas, Georgia's best friend, is a bit dim but vitally important to Georgia. Her other friends, Rosie, Jools, and Ellen all blend together in a giggling group. Georgia's parents, whom she calls Mutti and Vati, are portrayed by Georgia as hopelessly out of touch, and yet readers can sense that these are parents trying to do their best. Libby, Georgia's three-year-old sister, is a toddler preoccupied with saying bathroom words and demanding attention. Still, Georgia makes it clear that she loves her little sister, allowing Libby to cuddle with her and tolerating her messiness. Other characters float in and out like bald Uncle Eddie and various befuddled teachers. Robbie, the "sex god" who is a couple of years older than Georgia, is more of an idea than an actual three-dimensional person, but young love—or the idea of young love—is more important than real love interests at fourteen. Finally, the large and unruly cat Angus wanders in and out of the diaries; he is ornery and unique with a personality something like Georgia's.

While Georgia is in many ways a typical adolescent, her creativity, sense of humor, and basic good nature also make her a special and highly entertaining character.

Although the aim of Rennison's books is to entertain and not be too profound, one main theme does emerge—today's teens are okay. So often adolescents in our time are portrayed as troubled, rebellious, and even dangerous. Rennison shows that adolescents are nice, normal, and even amusing. Most teens, like Georgia, go to school and learn, may act foolishly but not harmfully, enjoy hanging out with their friends, and love their families. Georgia may seem shallow but she is also honest, clever, observant, and irrepressible. Georgia and her friends are simply going through normal stages of life, and they are doing so with great enthusiasm if not with unusual grace or altruism. No one needs to be afraid of or worried about Georgia. She is not self-destructive, anti-social, abused, or shiftless.

Georgia is dramatic and self-centered, and she finds adults absurd. However, she is also happy, open, and basically decent. She will turn out fine. In the meantime, she takes the reader on a hilarious roller coaster ride of daily teen life. The major theme is that teenagers are human beings! In addition, Rennison's portrayal of Georgia and her troubles demonstrates that life need not be all serious. Thus, another theme seems to be that life can be joyful, especially if we do not take ourselves too earnestly. The comic touch keeps Georgia from being completely self-important; she sees the funny side of her own life even when she is trying to dramatize her problems. She is capable of self-irony as well as satire of others; she never makes herself look better, smarter, or more sophisticated in her diary. Georgia and her pals also have fun. They simply enjoy being alive and doing everyday things from shopping to gossiping. A little silliness is healthy.



# Style

## Point of View

This book is written in the first person with Georgia Nicolson as the narrator. Georgia uses a diary to communicate her thoughts and feelings. Georgia has a unique perspective, and this point of view allows the reader to enjoy it. However, the reader only gets Georgia's view and can only experience the other characters through Georgia's eyes. Georgia's perspective is limited, as she is a fairly superficial teenager. However, the book is meant to be funny, so her limited view is not a problem.

Since Georgia is British, she gives non-British readers a look at British culture. The reader sees her view common teenage problems through British eyes. Through Georgia's view, the reader can see her ups and downs, as she deals with family, school and friends. A diary is supposed to be a secret journal one keeps. Although Georgia's narration could have been a straight first-person point of view, the diary entries allow Georgia to keep a record of her days and to report on certain events. Through the diary first person view, the reader is reading the private thoughts of a teenaged girl and can understand when the events take place.

## Setting

The setting of the book is England. It is never clear where exactly in England Georgia is. This allows the author leeway in describing the setting. Cities like Liverpool are mentioned. Georgia's house is in a neighborhood. Her house is close to Jas's house, and they can walk to school together. There is a business area with stores that they can walk to. The clock tower is a meeting place for Georgia and her friends. Georgia does go to Katie's and Lindsay's houses, and she describes them as posh or fancy.

Most of Georgia's adventures happen at home or school. Her struggles with her family and Angus happen at home. She has a sleepover at home. The average teenager is usually at home or school with visits to stores and friends' houses. Georgia is no different, as she visits Jas's house, and she thinks Jas's household is more normal than hers is. The grocery/deli is important as Jas flirts with Tom there, and Georgia meets Robbie there. Georgia's community must be small as she can walk everywhere although her father does drive her to the costume party. There is no mention of public transportation. Georgia's neighborhood even celebrates Guy Fawkes night together. Living in a small community allows Georgia more freedom to roam.

## Language and Meaning

Language is a big part of the book as Georgia speaks British English while American readers usually speak American English. In an introductory note, Georgia explains she has added a glossary to explain words non-British readers might not understand. The



glossary is as entertaining as the main book, as Georgia gives her own definitions of words like "prat" and "bloke." Her definitions are not formal like those in the dictionary.

Georgia's British words give the book a different tone than a book that is written by an American teenager. She is able to use words like "bloody" and "tosser" to great effect. She phrases words that mark her as British by saying "I looked a bit hurt." The title has the British words "full-frontal snogging" which adds more zing than the word "kissing." Georgia also uses abbreviations like TTFN or ta ta for now, and nicknames for characters. She uses French for cursing or to be dramatic. Certain words are italicized or are in all capital letters. Through the British words, the reader can hear Georgia's British accent clearly.

## Structure

At the beginning of the book, Georgia has an introductory note, which refers to the glossary at the end of the book. Georgia's Glossary is a list of alphabetized British words and their definitions. There is Georgia's diary, which goes from Sunday, August 23rd to Saturday, July 17th. She notes times in a.m. or p.m. Sometimes, she notes the location, weather, or event, such as "tennis tournament." There are twelve chapters, titled by month, and a heading that describes an event related to the chapter. She writes "the end," but there is another diary entry.

The reader gets a month-by-month telling of Georgia's life. Activities correspond to the month such Georgia being out of school in August, Christmas in December, and getting out of school in July. Days of the week and times can indicate where Georgia would be or what would be happening. Georgia does employ other methods besides paragraphs. She makes lists and shows scoring systems for appearance and physical contact. She includes letters from people in her diary. Through various methods, Georgia makes the diary her own.



## Quotes

"I didn't realize that he would grow to the size of a small Labrador, only mad." August Chapter, pg. 7

"I think I've got a right to know if my dad is a transvestite." September Chapter, pg. 34

"I was just about to tell him (even though in our plan it wasn't really his turn)...when a Sex God came out of the back room." September Chapter, pg. 48

"Phew, I suppose I am a woman now." October Chapter, pg. 75

"Well, it sort of splits your face in half and it, well, it spreads your nose out more." November Chapter, pg. 102

"Honestly, I'm bullied by a three-year-old and a Scottish wildcat." December Chapter, pg. 111

"Watching TV Mum said 'Do you miss your dad?' and I said, 'Who?'" January Chapter, pg. 148

"She said, "Nnnnghhhh!" and then just left the room." February Chapter, pg. 155

"Robbie is not engaged!!! Thank you, Baby Jesus." March Chapter, pg. 173

"It wasn't full-frontal snogging though, was it?" April Chapter, pg. 187

"Then when I was putting her knickknacks on she was stroking my hair, going, 'Prr prr. Nice pussycat. Do you want some milk, tosser?'" June Chapter, pg. 198

"Sacre bloody bleu and merde!!!" July Chapter, pg. 234



## Topics for Discussion

1. What did you first think when you read the titles of the novels? How important are titles and what functions do they serve?

2. How would the events of Georgia's life look different from the point of view of her parents? Of Jas? Of an outside observer? Is Georgia a reliable narrator?

What is the effect of point of view in a story?

3. Is the dialogue reported by Georgia realistic? Why or why not? How does the dialogue add to these novels? Give some of your favorite examples.

4. What kinds of things do you think will happen next to Georgia? Why? Have you ever had experiences like hers?

Especially embarrassing experiences?

Explain.

5. What role does Angus the cat play in the stories?

6. What elements add to the humor of the books? Characterizations? Language?

Plot? What else?

7. How would you characterize Georgia?

Is she a realistic teenager? What are her faults? Her good points? Do Georgia's diaries portray teens accurately?

8. Georgia is clearly frustrated with her parents much of the time. How would you describe her parents? Are they good parents? How about Libby, the little sister? Describe her character. Is she a typical little sister?

9. Georgia's friends are very important to her. Do her friends seem real, like people you might know? Why are friends so important in a teen's life?

10. What affect does the fact that this book claims to be a diary have on its contents and point of view? How would the book be different if the author wrote it in the third person?





## Essay Topics

There is American English and British English. Georgia obviously uses British English. Discuss how the tone of the book would change, if she spoke "American."

Discuss how Georgia is influenced by American popular culture.

Discuss how Georgia's parents approach her. Why does she think her mother is the easier parent?

Why do you think Georgia likes to speak French?

Compare the differences between Georgia's school and an American school.

How does Georgia use magazines and books to help her?

Do you think Georgia is jealous of Jas and Tom?



# Ideas for Reports and Papers

1. What are British public schools (equivalent to our private schools) like today?

Who attends them and why? What are the advantages and disadvantages of all girls or all boys schools? How do these schools compare to private schools in the United States? To our public schools?

2. Study the history of slang. Where does it come from, and how does it spread?

What does it contribute to language?

Interview several of your peers, and find out what their favorite slang expressions are and why.

Angus, Thongs, and Full-Frontal Snogging; On the Bright Side...

3. Why does Rennison use the diary form?

Compare her novels to one or two other novels which use this form.

4. What impact do popular TV shows and movies have on Georgia? How do these media affect American teens? How do American teens relate to popular culture?

5. Historically, British radio and television have been state supported, not dependent on advertising. Find out what current British TV shows are like.

How are they different from or similar to American shows? What kinds of shows do British teenagers like?

6. Robbie plays in a rock band, like many adolescents. What kinds of music do British teens listen to? Are their tastes similar to or different from those of American teens today? How have American and British pop music interacted in the past?

## Further Study

Jones, Nicolette. "Children's Book of the Week." Sunday London Times (July 16, 2000): Features Section. One of a number of reviews in British newspapers. Easily accessible online through Lexis-Nexis.

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Hall, Sally. "Fabbity Fab Fab Confessions of Author Lady Who Giggled at Nunga-Nunga Trauma Years." <http://www.thisisbrightonandhove.co.uk/brighton> September 4, 2001. An interview with Rennison in the style of Georgia's diaries for British news readers.



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