

# **Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy Study Guide**

## **Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy**

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



# Contents

<a href="#">Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy Study Guide.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Plot Summary.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Prologue - Part 1.....</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">Part 2.....</a>	<a href="#">10</a>
<a href="#">Part 3.....</a>	<a href="#">16</a>
<a href="#">Part 4.....</a>	<a href="#">21</a>
<a href="#">Outcome.....</a>	<a href="#">24</a>
<a href="#">Characters.....</a>	<a href="#">25</a>
<a href="#">Symbols and Symbolism.....</a>	<a href="#">27</a>
<a href="#">Settings.....</a>	<a href="#">28</a>
<a href="#">Themes and Motifs.....</a>	<a href="#">29</a>
<a href="#">Styles.....</a>	<a href="#">31</a>
<a href="#">Quotes.....</a>	<a href="#">32</a>

## Plot Summary

Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy is a novel by Helen Fielding. It is the third installment in her Bridget Jones series. When the story begins, thirty-five year old Bridget is dating twenty-nine year old Roxster. Roxster is her first serious relationship years after the death of her husband Mark. Bridget does not want to be alone anymore. However, she wants to be a good mother and have a career. Over the course of a year, she struggles to balance a dating life, a home life, and a career. Ultimately, things do not work out with Roxster because of the age difference. Bridget ends up dating Scott Wallaker, a military veteran-turned-teacher, who has two kids of his own.

# Prologue - Part 1

## Summary

### Prologue - Part 1

Talitha calls Bridget on Thursday, April 18, 2013, to tell her that her sixtieth birthday is on May 24 and that Bridget should keep the date open. Bridget explains it is Roxster's thirtieth that same day, but Talitha tells Bridget to bring him along. Bridget considers whether bringing Roxster along would be a good idea or a bad idea. Talitha and Bridget have been friends since they worked together on the show "Sit Up Britain" (Talitha a newsreader and Bridget a reporter). She thinks it would be nice to have a date for the party, but then she considers that perhaps being surrounded by old people will make Bridget, at thirty-five, seem older as well. Bridget later gets a call from Brian Katzenberg. She says that she will call him back later as she heads out to pick up her daughter Mabel from school.

They then head to Billy's Junior Branch to see Nicolette (whom Bridget calls Perfect Nicolette), the Class Mother, and various other Junior Branch mothers. They are all checking out the new soccer coach, Mr. Wallaker, who is married with kids. Bridget's son Billy arrives and says that he was not chosen for chess. Bridget says it doesn't matter. Mr. Wallaker, who is passing by, says it does matter. Mr. Wallaker says things must be earned and that the sense of entitlement among the mothers of the school is incredible. Billy also reveals he has nits and they need to be removed with a nit-comb. This makes Bridget realize that she and Mabel both probably have nits—and so does Roxster. Roxster texts Bridget and says he can't come over that night, as he has to work. Bridget then gets a call from Brian Katzenberg. Brian says there is a meeting on Monday at noon to discuss some things in her script. Brian tells her that she needs to be agreeable because she is a first-time writer. Bridget then nit-combs the nits out of Billy's hair and discovers that neither she, nor Mabel, have nits. By 9:15, the kids are in bed. Bridget ponders what she will wear for the meeting. She cannot find her silk, navy dress. The doorbell rings at 10:01.

### Plenty of Fuckwits

Tom (who is gay) and Jude (a divorced woman) come into Bridget's place drunk, wanting to use Bridget's laptop to create a fake Plenty of Fish account to torture Vile Richard, Jude's ex. As they create the account, Bridget explains that Greenlight Productions is going to make her film. After they make the profile, they leave. Bridget texts Roxster to tell him about the nits. He asks to come by as he is in Camden.

### The Art of Concentration

Bridget wants to get down to work on her script presentation for the meeting. Her script is a modern adaptation of the Norwegian tragedy Hedda Gabbler by Anton Chekhov. It



is Friday morning. She finds it difficult to concentrate. Instead, she reflects on Roxster bringing over food the night before and making love to her. Chloe, the nanny, brings the kids to school while Roxster waits in the bedroom, for he has not met the kids yet at this stage in the relationship. He finds weevils in the cereal he has. Bridget texts him after noon to tell him she will have the place fumigated. She asks him if he is all right, but he does not respond. Bridget checks her e-mail. Nicolette Martinez has e-mailed everyone saying that her son Atticus came home with the wrong shoes. She would appreciate having the correct shoes returned. She humorously sends an e-mail out saying that her son returned without an ear, but this causes Nicolette to become unhappy, especially when Bridget accidentally spells her name as “Nicorette,” causing Nicolette to want to have a meeting with the head of Pastoral Care. Jude tells Bridget that Vile Richard has fallen for made-up Isabella and that Isabella has a date with him the next day. Grazina, the cleaner, has scrubbed and cleaned everything in the house, spraying and putting mothballs all over. Roxster still has not sent a text. This makes her think about Mark.

### Dark Night of the Soul

Bridget remembers her husband, Mark Darcy, who died in 2008. He had been strong, sure, and competent. He had made sure that she and their children would be financially taken care of with him gone.

### Part 1

One year before, Bridget was forty-some pounds heavier and didn't care about having sex. Talitha, Tom, and Jude say she is a “born-again virgin.” Talitha suggests losing weight and getting some Botox. She explains that Bridget has lost her sexual self and they must help her regain it. Bridget is wary of a sexual relationship, especially because she has children. She doesn't believe it would be fair to Mark, either. Tom tells Bridget that Mark would have wanted her to find someone. That night, Mabel is sick with diarrhea and vomiting. It makes her remember how caring Mark was with raising the kids. Being military-like, he kept everything organized. She realizes he is missing everything with them now, including all of the little things. Bridget gets some wine to steady herself, but she ends up throwing up.

### A New Start – A New Line

Bridget resolves to change her life. She is determined to lose 30 pounds, get involved with social media and networking, use the TV, clear out her life and house, and write a screenplay. She will not call Nicolette “Nicorette”, will not eat more than three Big Macs or Starbucks ham-and-cheese paninis a week, and so on.

### Social Media Virgin

One day into her new life, Bridget has not kept any of her resolutions. She resolves to begin with Twitter. She finds it to be full of gibberish and half-conversations. A few days later, she has no followers. Bridget considers Facebook. Jude tells her to wait a bit.

### The Flabby Diaphragm



It is now May. Bridget weighs an additional pound. Bridget's back goes out. The osteopath says this is from years of lifting children and bending from the back instead of the legs. Her diaphragm is flabby, as is her stomach, and she needs to lose weight. The doctor recommends an obesity clinic. Bridget is floored at the obesity clinic because everyone thinks she is completing her program, rather than just beginning it. She is instructed to go to the gym.

Makeover!

By the end of May, Bridget weighs 179 pounds and still has zero followers on Twitter. Bridget feels incredibly lonely. Within two weeks, Bridget has lost 8 pounds. By June 14, Bridget weighs 167 pounds. On June 27, Bridget begins her screenplay. On June 28, she weighs 159 pounds. By July 12, she weighs 155 pounds and is very lonely. Tom explains that Bridget has to follow people to have followers. By July 30, Bridget is 148 pounds and has two followers, Tom and a spam bot. Soon, Bridget has seven followers when Tom re-tweets Bridget's tweet about the spam bot. Bridget is thrilled when she learns she is ahead of schedule at the obesity clinic and that she now wears a size 12 at H&M. By Friday, August 3, Bridget weighs 145 pounds. She goes on an eating binge and gains 7 pounds. By August 16, Bridget weighs 137 pounds, has written 45 pages of her screenplay, and has 97 followers on Twitter. By Thursday, August 23, Bridget has lost 40 pounds, and now weighs 135.

Smug Married Hell

Bridget goes to Magda and Jeremy's joint-annual birthday drinks celebration. Bridget reflects sadly on how things used to be different with Mark. Everyone at the party talks about women of a certain age not being married and having no prospects. Magda apologizes to Bridget on behalf of the guests Cosmo and Woney who have been rude. Bridget's Mom calls to ask about Christmas plans. Bridget's mom and Aunt Una live in a retirement community near Kettering. They are considering going on a cruise and wondering if Bridget and the kids might like to go along. Bridget's mom pushes her to do the over-fifties cruise.

A Plan

Talitha, Jude, and Tom bring Bridget to the Stornghold in Hoxton. Bridget cannot find a babysitter. Then, she remembers Daniel.

A Daniel in Shining Armor

Daniel Cleaver is a former Emotional Fuckwit "boyfriend" who, though he hated and competed with Mark, stepped in to help however he could once Mark died. Daniel agrees to do so.

The Perfect Babysitter



Billy is excited that Daniel is coming. He arrives, and then Bridget departs for Talitha's. They give her a makeover and put a little black silk tunic on her. They check in with Daniel and go to the Stronghold.

### The Stronghold

The Stronghold is in an old warehouse that requires a code to enter. After a while, a man in jeans and a leather jacket dances with Bridget, and she begins to think that Talitha and Tom are right, that sex is just sex. He asks to take her somewhere else, and she announces she has to go. Bridget goes home and almost sleeps with Daniel because she is a little drunk. Then, Daniel leaves.

### Aftermath

Bridget wakes up on Friday morning, listening to the routine of Chloe getting the kids out to school. Bridget feels guilty about being hungover. She gets a text from the Infants Branch, reminding her to bring the Zoo Trip permission slip in the afternoon.

### Women Change Their Minds

Bridget wakes up Saturday morning feeling sensual, womanly, and guilty because of it. Yet then she stops feeling guilty when she realizes she can be both a good mom, and a sensual woman. She then attempts to help her kids get the Xbox and the TV going. She succeeds, and the kids are happy/ Bridget feels accomplished and believes she will ask Talitha for the leather jacket man's number.

### Crashing Wave

Bridget learns that Talitha gave the leather jacket man her number, as well as taking his own for Bridget. Bridget wonders why he hasn't sent a text or called yet. Talitha comes to visit after the kids are in bed. She explains that she told the man that Bridget was widowed and tells Bridget she should make the first move because times have changed.

### How Not to Do Dating

Bridget has a date with Andy, the leather jacket man. He is divorced with two kids, and is about Bridget's age. She allows him to pay for their first date. She reminds herself to respond to what is going on, rather than what she wishes were happening. She wishes Andy would kiss her; he only smiles and agrees to a second date. But, he does not text her, yet.

### The Number One Key Dating Rule

The number one dating rule, according to Bridget, is to not text while drunk. Bridget's mom calls to inquire about Christmas. While waiting for Andy to text, Bridget drinks wine. After getting drunk, she texts Andy.



### Continuing Dating Incompetence

The text Bridget sends to Andy reads “So great to see you Wednesday. Let’s get together again soon!” Andy texts her back and asks about the following Saturday night.

### Escalating Dating Incompetence

Bridget asks Andy for dinner instead of a movie and if they could see each other on Friday night instead because of babysitter problems. They put the date off another week. Bridget goes to the wrong place and rushes to ENO in Notting Hill, forty minutes late. They end up at a party where they get stoned, and Bridget becomes insecure and paranoid, second-guessing the sex they are now preparing to have. Andy puts her in a cab to go home instead and says he will call her. He does not. He responds to some of her texts, but then stops talking to her, saying he will be in Zurich. He tells her to have a good Christmas.

### Intensive Dating Study

Bridget begins to study up on dating, reading books like “Men Are From Mars, Women are From Venus” and “What Men Want.” She even buys contemporary books off Amazon. Most writers agree on major things, such as not to text while drunk.

### Wallowing In It

Unhappy and lonely, Bridget explains her psychological meltdown to Jude, who tells Bridget to get online. She signs up to Single Parent Mix. She also goes through old scrap boxes, full of cuttings of her husband’s death. Mark Darcy is a human rights lawyer who was killed in Darfur when his armored vehicle went over a landmine. It breaks Bridget’s heart all over again. Mabel wakes up, and Bridget brings her back to bed. They see a white owl in the tree outside the building, and it reminds Bridget of her husband.

### Christmas

Bridget makes a list of Christmas resolutions. The resolutions include making a new start. Also, she will not order plastic things from Amazon or go on the Saint Oswald’s Christmas cruise. Bridget and her kids go down to Rebecca’s house to play with her kids. Magda tells Bridget to bring her kids to their place. It is a wonderful Christmas, and Rebecca and Bridget become friends.

## Analysis

Sordid, petulantly, immaculate, aghast, supercilious, gallantry, imperative, furtively, paroxysms, existential, bereavement, melodramatically, elucidated, flippant, bewildered, euphoric, portent, blustering, rebelliously, ostensibly, perfunctory, plethora It has been fourteen years since the last Bridget Jones installment, and “Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy” by Helen Fielding picks things up as Bridget is 35 years old. Things seem to be





going relatively well, as her burgeoning career as a screenwriter is underway, while her kids are happy, and Bridget is dating a younger man. But not everything is as bright or wonderful as it seems. The largest issue Bridget seems to face is her relationship with Roxster, which make her reflect on her own past marriage to Mark, who has tragically died years before. Bridget thus transports the reader back over the past year to explain how it was that she came to be in her present position.

Overweight, in the midst of a parenting and career crisis, as well as being undeniably and unbearably lonely, Bridget's friends Tom, Jude, and Talitha, decide that she must come out of her shell and get her life back in order. Bridget thus commits to getting fit by losing weight, brushing up on modern dating, and getting onto social media sites, such as Twitter. She also attempts to use dating sites such as SingleParentMix.

Although her love life does not appear to have gone anywhere, Bridget's connection with neighbors –including Rebecca and her family –mean a wonderful Christmas for Rebecca and her family, and Bridget and her two kids.

## Discussion Question 1

Why was Bridget not dating, and otherwise unconcerned with her life apart from her children? How does she reason this?

## Discussion Question 2

Why do Bridget's friends want to get her back out into the dating world? How does Bridget respond? Why?

## Discussion Question 3

As Bridget attempts to get back into the dating world, do things appear to improve or grow worse for her? Why do you believe this is?

## Vocabulary

Sordid, petulantly, immaculate, aghast, supercilious, gallantry, imperative, furtively, paroxysms, existential, bereavement, melodramatically, elucidated, flippant, bewildered, euphoric, portent, blustering, rebelliously, ostensibly, perfunctory, plethora.



## Part 2

### Summary

#### Part 2

Bridget decides she will not make any resolutions, but will focus on things like changing for the better.

#### Perfect Mother

After a wonderful morning on January 5, 2013, Bridget's kids break out crying because they each want to do different things with her. They fight, and Bridget tells them it is not okay to hit. They go out. Billy and Mabel climb and get stuck in a tree. Bridget climbs up after them and gets stuck. Mr. Wallaker happens to come jogging by and helps them down. Bridget thanks him and asks him to follow her on Twitter, but he refuses and continues jogging.

#### A Needle in a Twitterstack

Bridget and Rebecca get together again, along with their kids. She gets a tweet from “\_Roxster” following her Tweets about Britain's Got Talent.

#### Do Not Tweet When Drunk

While drunk, Bridget begins Tweet-arguing with a woman “\_Sunnysmile”. Bridget's texts cause 85 people to stop following her.

#### Twunken Aftermath

Bridget loses a total of 551 followers. She Tweets out an apology for her drunken rants. Roxster begins flirting with her about them. He asks for her age, but she quotes Oscar Wilde instead: “Never trust a woman who will tell you her age. If she tells you that she will tell you anything.” Roxster is 29.

#### Screenwriter

Bridget gains more Twitter followers because of her twunken rant. Bridget endeavors to do work on her screenplay but ends up preoccupied with the news. Talitha tells Bridget to send her the script because she has connections. Bridget's mom calls about the Hard-Hats-Offing for the completion of the new Gatehouse Lodges. Bridget contemplates how men and women change over time. In their 20s, women have the upper hand because they are young, beautiful, and attractive, while men are getting their feet on the ground. In their 30s, men have the upper hand, since their biological clocks are ticking, while men are in their careers, getting things steady. In their 40s, things are about equal. In their 50s, women used to be invisible, but thanks to fashion,



personal-care, culture, and other things, women are making a comeback. In their 60s, men have gone as far as they can in their careers, have few friends, while women, who take better care of themselves, and have friends, have the upper hand. By their 70s, women still have the upper hand. Bridget spends the rest of Tuesday, January 15, writing, and sends her script “The Leaves in His Hair” to Talitha. The next day, Brian Katzenberg calls, incredibly impressed with the script. She calls Talitha to tell her to tell Sergei.

#### Let It Snow!

Snow is anticipated the following day, but no snow comes, though it is snowing in Somerset. At 10:30 a.m., the snow begins. Roxster asks Bridget to go sledding. However, the school also texts to let Bridget know that the school will be closing early and the children must be picked up. Roxster, however, cannot get out of work, and so he cannot go sledding with Bridget. Bridget sees Mr. Wallaker as she picks her kids up, who want to go sledding. She takes them. Bridget and her kids enjoy it very much. Roxster and Bridget agree to go sledding on Tuesday.

#### Do Not Tweet About Date During Date

Bridget now has 873 followers on Twitter. She Tweets about her upcoming date and begins losing some followers. Bridget and Roxster agree to meet at Leicester Square at 7:30. However, since it is freezing outside, they decide to make it Dean Street Townhouse bar, instead. Bridget tries on twelve outfits. In person, Roxster is every bit as handsome and kind.

#### Date with Toy Boy

Roxster takes Bridget’s phone so she can’t Tweet during the date. They get wine and get a table. Roxby McDuff does work for an eco-charity. He met Talitha on her show and jumped across from her Twitter to Bridget’s Twitter. Roxster says he prefers older women.

#### Joy Mixed with Sick

Bridget gives Roxster her number, and they kiss. They flirt through text messaging. They both sleep through the alarm.

#### Getting to Second Date

It has been two days since Roxster has sent a text. Bridget texts him, and he reveals that he is out of town at a meeting. They agree on a date for next Friday night.

#### Hard-Hats-Offing

Bridget speaks about the Hard-Hats-Offing to celebrate the completion of the new section of St. Oswald’s House with her mom. Her mom wants her to meet Paul, the pastry chef.



### The Barnacle's Penis

Bridget, Mabel, and Billy arrive at Saint Oswald's. Roxster texts Bridget, telling her that he is at the Natural History Museum and that the barnacle has the largest penis in relation to its body of any creature in the world. Bridget tells her mother she is talking to the fishmonger. Bridget and Roxster text throughout the day. Kenneth Garside, an elderly resident, hits on Bridget. A slideshow of the Christmas cruise is put on and run by Bridget's mom. But, Billy goes over to use the computer, causing the slideshow screen to become a shot of Bridget's e-mail inbox. Later, Bridget calls Daniel, who agrees to babysit on Friday.

### To Sleep or Not to Sleep With?

Tom tells Bridget to sleep with Roxster. Talitha tells her it is too soon, though she tells Bridget to trust her gut. Brian Katzenberg e-mails Bridget, saying three companies have passed, but he is going to keep trying. Bridget gets a new slip and has a leg and bikini wax. Rather than a full-Brazilian, Bridget opts for a landing strip. After dropping her kids off at school on Friday, February 1, Bridget goes into Boots for condoms, where she runs into Mr. Wallaker. They exchange hellos. Bridget later drops off the kids at Daniel's for an overnight. She then cleans the house and takes a bath.

### Second Date with Toy Boy

Bridget and Roxster go to see *Les Miserables*. Bridget feels horny all through the movie because Roxster is so close. After the movie, they kiss, get drinks, and go to eat. They hold hands. They take a public bus, and a woman throws up on Bridget's foot. Roxster cleans it up. They go back to Bridget's place and have sex.

### Deflowered

Roxster leaves twenty minutes before the kids get home. Bridget plays the song "Mad About the Boy" by Dinah Washington. Bridget is very happy.

### Dark Night of the Soul

Back in the present day (April 2013), Bridget continues to reflect on the past with Mark and on her relationship with Roxster. Bridget is happy that she can see Roxster in an adult life apart from her kids. Bridget's weight goes back up to 136 pounds. Billy interrupts Bridget's thoughts the following day, asking her about the fifth element. Bridget explains there are four elements –air, earth, water, and fire. Billy insists that technology is the fifth element, according to the Wii game *Skylanders*. Roxster finally texts her. He says that he was in Cardiff for the weekend, but he forgot his phone. So, he has been Tweeting and e-mailing her like crazy. That night, they have make-up sex.

### Power Mother

At Greenlight's reception area, Bridget wonders why she was up having sex all night – especially when Mabel almost walked in on them. Bridget instead tries to focus on her



script. Bridget meets Imogene and Damien who bring them to George's office. George is the head of Greenlight Productions. George announces that they like her script. The meeting gets underway. Roxster texts Bridget repeatedly. George explains that they want to set the movie in Hawaii instead of England. They also want to use a yacht. They discuss which actors could play which characters. They also don't want a suicide in the movie. Kate Hudson as Gedda can't kill herself. They give her a few days to work out the script.

### Nits in the Woods

Bridget struggles with rewriting parts of the script, especially that it is now to be set on a yacht in Hawaii. Jude tells Bridget that Vile Richard has blocked Isabella, saying that he has met someone else. This hurts Jude. Bridget tries to remind Jude that Isabella is made-up. Another lice outbreak is found. This time it's at Briar Rose, Mabel's school. Nit combing is required. Talitha also reports her head being itchy after having borrowed Bridget's comb. Bridget tries to get to work on her script, reminding herself that the setting should be irrelevant to the themes.

### Nit-Infestered Power Meeting

Bridget begins another meeting with George, Imogene, and Damien a few days later. Talitha texts Bridget to let her know that her hair salon will not take out her hair extensions because of the nits. Bridget emphasizes that it doesn't matter where the characters go on their honeymoon because it is not something that will be shown. The themes are what matter. A break is made for lunch. Later, Bridget helps Talitha take out her hair extensions and apologizes for the nits, but Talitha doesn't care. Bridget brings herself and her kids to have the nits professionally removed.

### Fire! Fire!

Roxster decides to have breakfast with Bridget and the kids so that he can meet the children. Bridget makes a full English breakfast, Bridget accidentally burn the sausages. The kids get along well with him. He agrees to go to Talitha's sixtieth birthday.

### The Trouble With Summer

At 136 pounds, Bridget does not feel ready for summer. She still has more things to fix up with the script. The early spring is also a mix of needing winter and summer outfits. Bridget begins researching for suitable spring outfits. Billy comes in second-to-last in a spelling test, which prompts Mr. Wallaker to explain that he needs more organization at home. Wallaker explains his kids are at boarding school. Bridget insists that they are missing out on a core, emotional element. Wallaker tells her that she needs to stay away from the hairdresser. Bridget tells him she is having a movie made out of Hedda Gabbler, by Anton Chekhov,. Wallaker tells her that the play is actually by Henrik Ibsen and Gabbler is spelled and pronounced with just one "b." Bridget resolves that she will have more organization. Jude comes over later, saddened that the guy she has been seeing for three weeks is into extreme sexual humiliation.



Direction!

Bridget continues investigating spring outfits and Red Carpet fashion. She heads to another meeting with George, Imogene, and Damien. It is revealed that Ambergris Gilk is interested in the script. George, meanwhile, seems distracted by a pending trip.

The Trouble With Outfits

On a conference call with George, Imogene, and Damien, it is mentioned that a meeting between Bridget and Ambergris Bilk should be set up. George wants Bridget to be nice about Hawaii because Ambergris likes Hawaii.

Heady Glamorous Times

Bridget is prepared to go and meet Ambergris Bilk. Bridget is let down because Ambergris shows up in a baseball cap and gray sweats. Ambergris and Bridget bond, and Ambergris tells Bridget she is humbled by the script. Bridget calls Greenlight to tell them about the success, only to discover that Ambergris has already called to tell them that Bridget is intelligent and empathetic.

Talitha's Party

Bridget and Roxster go to Talitha's party. Bridget is happy that Roxster is with her. Talitha asks Bridget to hold her little dog Petula while she goes to talk to the band. The little dog nips Bridget's hand and jumps into the pool. Roxster jumps in the pool to save the dog. Roxster is given a change of clothes. He and Bridget dance. Roxster loves the party and tells Bridget that he hearts her; Bridget, in turn, thanks God for taking His mind off other troubles that night. Drunk and in bed, Roxster says he wishes he had a time machine. The age issue is suddenly on the table.

## Analysis

Bridget's attempts to get back out in the world have had some major successes thus far. In terms of motherhood, her dedication to her children has always been beyond question (especially given things like the diarrhea episode of the first part of the novel). Yet, it is in her social and romantic life that things improve for the better, some places in strides and some in steps. Her romantic life moves in strides in terms of her weight loss and in her burgeoning relationship with Roxster. Her social life moves forward in steps in terms of her friendship with Rebecca and an apparent increase in communication and visitation with her mother. Bridget also attempts to get caught up with fashion and to dress better. She is sometimes successful and sometimes unsuccessful in these endeavors.

Indeed, even Bridget's career as a newly-minted screenwriter appears on a trajectory of success –until the meetings begin. Between the film company and Ambergris, one change after another comes to Bridget's script. The changes include the location and some major points in the plot. Nevertheless, Bridget deals with these things as they



come her way. Yet, there is one particular moment with Rockster that changes everything. Though Bridget is six years older than Rockster, the age difference does not seem to matter to either one, until the night that Roxster mentions that he wishes he had a time machine. Though things seem to continue as normal, Bridget is unable to get over Roxster's remark.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Why do Bridget and Roxster begin dating? Describe their relationship.

## **Discussion Question 2**

How does Bridget handle the ongoing changes to her script and her plot?

## **Discussion Question 3**

What is the seemingly intractable issue that arises between Bridget and Roxster? Who brings it up? Why? How does the other respond?

## **Vocabulary**

Cadre, exasperating, inauthentic, treacherous, impertinent, callow, charlatan, bereft, cataclysmically, delirious, reverie, presumptuousness, psychosomatic, fraudulently, morbidly, piously, indoctrinated.



## Part 3

### Summary

#### Part 3

##### Horrible No-Good Very Bad Day

Bridget has a wonderful night with Roxster, but he doesn't seem overly thrilled when Mabel and Billy fight the next morning. Ambergris sends Bridget an e-mail, telling her she is a proper screenwriter and that Dougie is on board. Bridget thinks about how more and more middle-aged women are going for younger guys.

##### Overstuffed Lives

Bridget now weighs 134 pounds. She puts together a list of things to do in an hour, which includes everything from laundry to calling her mom. She realizes she will not be able to do them all. She then categorizes them by importance and urgency. Rebecca comes across the street to visit Bridget. They decide to have a drink, and then Rebecca remembers she's supposed to be on a school run. Bridget waits late into the evening for a call from Roxster, after receiving a text from him that he will call. Instead, Bridget first gets a call from her mom, who talks about Penny Husbands-Bosworth lying about her age; and then a text from Chloe, who is sorting out her schedule for the weekend. Finally, Bridget sends a text to Roxster, asking him if he wants to go away for the weekend or not; he replies that he is afraid of what would happen next. Bridget tells Roxster to suck it up and go; he agrees.

The next morning, Bridget learns from Brian Katzenberg that she has been fired as a writer for the movie project, and a new writer has been hired. Roxster also texts Bridget, saying he can't find a place for them to stay for the weekend. Bridget finds that the Chewton Glen Hotel on the river in Oxfordshire has a treehouse room –the Bridal Suite. Roxster tells her to book it.

##### Mini-Break or Break-Up?

The mini-break is wonderful for Bridget and Roxster seems to be very much enjoying it. They pretend they are married all weekend. Back home in London, Bridget and Roxster joke around about being married through text messages.

##### Is It Snow or is it Blossom?

It has been two days since Bridget has heard from Roxster. She is panicked about it. Even though it is now nearly mid-June, it snows. Bridget decides to text Roxster. An e-mail arrives from Nicolette as she coordinates which parents will bring wood food and supplies to the coming Sports Day picnic. Bridget joking says she will bring the vodka; Nicolette says vodka and cigarettes are not a good idea, and asks her to bring sliced





red and yellow peppers. Bridget gets an e-mail from Imogen, asking her if she has the notes from Ambergris on the script for the next day's meeting with Saffron. Bridget has no idea who Saffron is, what the meeting is, or what the notes are. Bridget then has to pick up Mabel and Billy from school, who are arguing over whether a sporting event with five sports is called a Pentathlon or a Quintathlon.

### Frantic

Bridget has serious objectives ahead of her on Wednesday, June 12, 2013. She must get to her Greenlight meeting, get the kids from school, cut up a mountain of red and yellow peppers, and has to wash her hair. Overnight, Bridget has found Ambergris Bilk's notes on "The Leaves In His Hair" who now seems to want to set the movie in Stockholm. It turns out that Saffron is the new writer, twenty-six years old. Saffron asks about Gabbler being spelled with an b, not two, and asking about it being by Ibsen and not Chekhov. Bridget scrambles and covers for it, saying it is anti-intellectualist irony. Bridget agrees to a date with Roxter at her place for chicken pie in the evening. Bridget rushes from the meeting to buy red and green peppers, since there are no yellow peppers available, as well as chicken pie, and picks up the kids from school. On the way home, the kids announce they have made Father's Day cards. At home, Bridget breaks out old photos of Mark for them. George calls as Bridget gets ready for her dinner date, and George explains that once Saffron is through with the script, Bridget must put back in all the Hedda lines that they love so much. Roxter texts saying he is running late.

### Farting Sports Day

In the morning, Roxter tells Bridget that she is the best woman that he's ever met and that he seriously hearts her. If it weren't for the age difference, he would be down on one knee. He tells her he needs to find someone his own age and says he can't do that with her. He asks if they can still be friends. Bridget does her best to sound happy and convincing when she tells him "of course they can be." Bridget then goes to Sports Day. She sends a text to Roxter telling him about how cruel he had been to her. She shrouds the message in humor. Mr. Wallaker is disapproving that Bridget is paying more attention to her phone than supporting Sports Day. The starter pistol goes off for the first race, and Wallaker freezes, his hand going to his hip as if reaching for a gun of his own. He then heads off to supervise. A lady whom Bridget believes to be Mr. Wallaker's wife arrives. She is beautiful and well-dressed. She looks very out of place. Bridget wonders if Roxter dumped her because she is wrinkly.

### The Deep Freeze

Bridget goes with Talitha to get Botox. Bridget's face tightens and swells afterward. Talitha tells her it is probably an allergic reaction and that she should go back. But, Bridget must pick up the kids from school. Mabel and Billy can't understand why Bridget looks and sounds funny. She wraps a scarf around her face when she picks up Billy. She tells Mr. Wallaker it has to do with the dentist. He asks if she is okay, and Bridget's



eyes begin filling with tears. Mr. Wallaker tells Billy and Mabel to be very good to their mother. Bridget burns the spaghetti dinner she makes that night.

#### That's What Friends Are For

Bridget now weighs 136 pounds. Tom, Talitha, and Jude rally around Bridget to support her in the aftermath of her breakup. Talitha tells Bridget that taking a man back after he has dumped a woman is a sign of weakness. Bridget says that Mark took her back. Tom reminds Bridget that Roxster is not Mark. Bridget drinks and falls asleep. When she wakes up, she is tucked in and a note has been left behind by her friends saying they will always love her. The friends have also left some stuffed animals and a copy of "Thelma and Louise." Jude sends Bridget a text with an OK Cupid login and password.

#### The Yawning Void

Bridget misses Roxster terribly and realizes how much he meant to her. Bridget deletes him from her contacts. Bridget is so lonely that she sends a text to Leatherjacketman. He reveals that he is getting married in two weeks. Bridget texts Daniel, but he does not respond. Billy comes in to sleep with Bridget, and they snuggle up.

#### Just the Way They Are

Bridget is worried because Daniel has not replied to her. Reeling from a breakup, Daniel has gone into alcohol treatment, according to Talitha. Bridget goes to visit Daniel. Daniel is in a bad state. Talitha shows up to visit as well, and Bridget leaves.

#### Let's Face the Music and Tea-Dance

The end of the school year approaches. Bridget goes to Zumba classes.

#### Getting Online

Bridget goes down to 133 pounds. Jude visits. She has been dating a wildlife photographer, and it is her longest running relationship so far. Jude's trail of men (the sexual humiliation deviant, the one who is married and has a baby, and the skydiving graphic designer who was not a graphic designer but a devout Muslim) seems to have ended. Bridget and Jude sign Bridget up for a free trial on SingleParentMix.com.

#### KBO

It is Wednesday, July 3, 2013. Billy's school concert is the following day. Bridget watches news of the royal baby frenzy. Billy asks Bridget if daddy will know he is doing the concert; Bridget replies that she thinks so.

#### The Summer Concert

Bridget arrives for the concert. Mr. Wallaker is in a suit and looks very good. Wallaker offers to help her carry her things, but Bridget says she is fine. She tells him not to order



her around like a schoolboy. She feels as if she has been reduced to a sex object by Wallaker, a married man. Nicolette, who heads up the program, introduces Wallaker. Wallaker then proceeds to conduct the concert. Billy performs a piece with wrong notes and wobbles, but Wallaker does not lecture him. When Billy finishes, Wallaker whispers in his ear, and Billy beams with pride. Later, Bridget runs into Wallaker again. They end up kissing. They are seen by Billy, Bikram, and Jeremiah. Nicolette also stumbles upon them and tells Wallaker that he is very musically talented and he must go and give a speech. Bridget is horrified because Wallaker is married, but he tells her that lives are not always as perfect as they appear.

#### The Horror, The Horror

Bridget is angry because Wallaker believes she is foundering. Meanwhile, Bridget has no success online. She looks at Match.com and finds Roxster's profile.

#### Mid-Match Collision

Bridget sees that not only is Roxster on the dating site, but he is actually online. They end up talking to each other. Roxster asks if Bridget wants to do lunch, dinner, or both. He also says they could meet without food involved. Bridget tells him she'd like it.

#### Rekindling

Bridget texts Roxster, who seems to be absolutely lovely. Bridget texts Roxster despite Talitha's warnings. Roxster explains he wasn't eating curry the one night with workmates, but sitting alone, trying to sort things out for himself.

#### Blimey

Bridget goes out with Roxster, but it is for closure, not to get things going again. Wallaker happens to be around, and sees them.

#### Giving In

Bridget is sad following the end of things with Roxster. She wonders if anything good will come from it. She realizes that she has mental clarity and needs peace. Bridget's mom comes home having taken out the kids –both in tears –and Chloe shows up a short time after, saying her boyfriend Graham has left her. Bridget hugs Chloe and comforts her. Bridget then begins crying in front of her mother, who also begins crying. Chloe, Bridget, and Bridget's mom all sit down together and talk. Daniel shows up, having just been released, and they invite him in.

## Analysis

The age difference between Bridget and Roxster finally catches up to them. Roxster ends up breaking up with Bridget because he wants to find someone his own age. Though Roxster certainly has some kind of feelings for Bridget, it is obvious that



Bridget's feelings for Roxster go much deeper and are much stronger than those returned for her. Bridget's friends, Talitha, Jude, and Tom, all rally around her to lift her spirits. Talitha even goes so far as to caution Bridget never to take Roxster back. If she takes him back, it will be a sign of weakness..

Bridget decides that, as a result of her breakup, she will redouble her efforts as a mother. She reorients herself toward her children (though again, her motherhood has been beyond question), turning her attention to school functions and activities. Ironically, she begins to become endeared toward Mr. Wallaker, with whom she has had a tense acquaintanceship for the past year. She also reestablishes a sound relationship with her mother, and her friendship with Rebecca from across the street deepens. Bridget becomes a rock for others around her, including Chloe and Daniel. There is something undeniably warm and inviting about Bridget. Her friendship and kindness are unmatched.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Why does the relationship with Roxster not work out? How does Bridget respond to the breakup?

## **Discussion Question 2**

How does Bridget reconnect with her mother? Why is this important for her?

## **Discussion Question 3**

After the breakup with Roxster, Bridget decides to focus on what areas of her life? What are the results of this refocusing? Does this mean anything for a potential future relationship with anyone? Why?

## **Vocabulary**

Gesticulated, vigorous, irony, simultaneously, trussed, undignified, exuberant, sententiously, exquisitely, indigenous, matrix, sycophantic, foundering, lecherous.



## Part 4

### Summary

#### Summer of Fun

It is the end of August. Bridge has thoroughly enjoyed the summer. Bridget has asked to be removed from the rewriting process of her screenplay. Bridget and her mother have grown much closer, and her mother is now a frequent visitor. Billy and Mabel are thrilled because of it. Bridget worries about going back to school because of Wallaker. Rebecca explains that Scott Wallaker went to school with her husband Jake and was in the SAS –the Special Air Service. Wallaker had been in Afghanistan and had gone through some serious troubles. But, he is not married –he is divorced. His wife was a horrible person and spent too much money.

#### Back to School

The school year begins again, and Bridget discovers that everyone is trying to fix Wallaker up with a single friend. Wallaker is now in charge of more and more at the school, including sports, chess, music, and pastoral care. Tom encourages Bridget to date Wallaker. Rebecca tells Bridget to just let things unfold.

#### The Mighty Jungle

Billy has choir auditions, and Bridget goes to pick him up. Wallaker tells Billy he did well, and he kept trying. He made it into choir. Bridget finds Wallaker more handsome than before.

#### Parent's Evening

Bridget shows up late for Parents' Evening where she meets with Mr. Wallaker. Wallaker tells Bridget that Billy needs help with spelling and his homework is pretty disorganized. While speaking with Mr. Pitlochry-Howard about one such example of Billy's work concerning Uranus, both Bridge and Wallaker suppress giggles. Later, Bridget hears the teachers telling Nicolette and her husband that their son Atticus might be overextended. Nicolette disagrees. Wallaker tells her that children need some affection and self-worth, as well as being well-rounded. Nicolette disagrees. Wallaker says how kids deal with failure is also important. He explains that there is always someone greater and less than oneself at anything, for anyone.

#### Fifty Shades of Old

It is now Friday, November 22, 2013. Bridget is up to 137 pounds. As she heads out from getting her hair done, Bridget runs into Wallaker. Bridget apologizes for being so rude to him at the school concert and explains that she thought he was married. She also explains she knows about him being in the SAS from Jake and Rebecca. As they



talk, a beautiful, dark-haired girl emerges from Starbucks with a coffee for him. Bridget feels embarrassed, and even more so when the hairdresser tells her she forgot her wallet, and that there will be no more shades of gray for her for Christmas. Bridget believes nobody will ever want her again.

#### The Sound of Shells Cracking

Bridget is unhappy that Wallaker is dating a beautiful, young girl. Bridget bumps into George who is meditating at Yoga. Bridget runs into Nicolette, who is clearly distressed. Her husband has purchased a handbag for her at the airport in Frankfurt –but the receipt is for two handbags. Nicolette has discovered her husband has been cheating on her for eight months. Nicolette later sends out an email saying that she doesn't care who does what for the school concert. Bridget invites Nicolette and her boys over.

#### A Hero Will Rise

Billy has an away soccer game at East Finchley. Three of the boys, including Billy, are trapped under a fence when a car accidentally hits it. Wallaker directs the rescue as the children are pulled to safety. It is Bridget herself who helps extract Billy. Wallaker orders the boys to stand up and congratulates them on their courage under fire. Bridget, in a state of shock, is driven home by Wallaker. Rebecca, Jake, and their kids come over, having heard what happened. Scott and Jake are happy to see each other. Bridget thanks Wallaker and calls him a superhero. He calls her a super heroine.

#### Tis the Season

It is now December, 2013. Wallaker and Bridget have become friendly. Bridget dislikes Miranda intensely.

#### The Carol Concert

Bridget goes to church for Christmas. Wallaker is there. Miranda is nowhere in sight. Wallaker and Bridget talk. They decide to hit the pub. Wallaker explains that Miranda is twenty-two. She is his brother's stepdaughter. Bridget comes clean about Roxster. Wallaker is in love with Bridget, and the two end up having sex.

#### The Owl

When Bridget puts Mabel to bed, she sees the snowy white owl outside. She watches him fly away.

#### The Year's Progress

Bridget makes a list of things done in 2013, such as losing 17 pounds and gaining eighteen. She also notes that she now has four children.



## Analysis

Despite her reeling from the loss of Roxster, Bridget is able to take comfort in her family and in her friends. Eventually, she is able to move on. She is still incredibly lonely, but she is not being dragged down by the failed relationship any longer. In a particularly intense moment, Bridget and Wallaker end up kissing, with Bridget under the mistaken assumption he is married. However, Rebecca and Jake confirm that this is not the case, so the Jane Eyre-like twist in the story is gone. It is revealed that Wallaker is divorced and he is not dating his step-niece.

Ironically, it is Bridget's re-dedication to her children and their school activities that brings her closer to Wallaker, who it turns out, is really not a bad guy at all. Indeed, a school function turns into a romantic evening for both Bridget and Wallaker. It is apparent that Wallaker has had feelings for Bridget for a long time. He is a man of action and commitment, and this is exactly what Bridget appears to need.

## Discussion Question 1

By the end of the novel, what has Bridget gained, and what has Bridget lost? How does this suit her?

## Discussion Question 2

What ends up happening between Wallaker and Bridget? What consequences does this have for her?

## Discussion Question 3

Why is Wallaker a better match for Bridget than Roxster?

## Vocabulary

Consternation, delirious, coquettishly, retorted.



# Outcome

## Summary

Outcome

Though Bridget and Scott Wallaker do not get married, they become a committed couple. They have their four children christened, even though Bridget and Wallaker are both slightly Buddhist. Bridget knows that Mark would be glad that things have turned out all right. The new family lives in a big house near Hampstead Heath. At the end of the novel, they all have head lice.

## Analysis

Bridget and Wallaker end up in a committed relationship that stops one step short of marriage. They share many of the same beliefs, from wanting their children christened to being slightly Buddhist in their approach to raising children. It is their commitment to their children that seems to be one of the strongest points shared between them. Since both are so dedicated to their families, they appear to be a good match.

## Discussion Question 1

What similarities are there between Bridget and Wallaker? Why does this matter to Bridget?

## Discussion Question 2

Why do Bridget and Wallaker get a home in Hampstead Heath? Why do they decide to raise their children there?

## Discussion Question 3

Why do Bridget and Wallaker not get married, but only agree to live together? Will this benefit them both, or ultimately harm them both? Why?

## Vocabulary

Tantrum, outrageously.





# Characters

## Bridget Jones

Bridget Jones is the narrator and principal protagonist in the novel *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy* by Helen Fielding. At thirty-five years old, Bridget is a widow with two children, Billy and Mabel. Her husband Mark, a high-profile human rights attorney, was killed several years before. Since that time, Bridget has focused on her family rather than herself. She has gained considerable weight and has had no romantic life. Bridget's best friends, Talitha, Tom, and Jude, try to change this by encouraging her to get in shape and get online.

Over the course of a year, Bridget gets in shape and gets back out into the dating world. She ends up dating twenty-nine year-old Roxster, but the relationship doesn't work out. Bridget also becomes a screenwriter, though the job doesn't work out the way she wants it to. Additionally, Bridget expands her circle of friends, reestablishes a relationship with her mother, and becomes romantically involved with Mr. Wallaker, a teacher at Billy's school.

## Scott Wallaker

Scott Wallaker is a military veteran in his late thirties, who has become a teacher at the school Billy attends. He handles sports, chess, and music. Wallaker is a no-nonsense, strict, and straightforward man, but he has a soft side that is ultimately seen by Bridget. Wallaker is divorced and has two children of his own, and he and Bridget end up dating at the end of the novel.

## Roxster

Roxster is a twenty-nine year-old professional who ends up dating Bridget after they meet on Twitter. Roxster breaks up with Bridget because of the age gap, but they remain friends.

## Talitha

A newsreader on the show *Sit Up Britain*, Talitha is sixty years old and very up-to-date in culture and fashion. She is a good friend of Bridget's. The two had met while Bridget worked on the show. Talitha gives Bridget great dating advice and confidence boosts.



## **Tom**

Tom is one of Bridget's best friends. He is gay, and he is very savvy about modern times. He is a source of encouragement and wisdom for Bridget throughout the novel.

## **Jude**

Jude is divorced. She is one of Bridget's best friends. She goes through a series of relationships before she finally finds the right guy, who happens to be a wildlife photographer.

## **Bridget's Mother**

Bridget's mother is a very kind, traditional woman who is always trying to set Bridget up with a man. Bridget's mother disapproves of certain aspects of the way Bridget handles her life, but the two still love each other. Their relationship grows closer in the novel.

## **Mark**

Mark is Bridget's deceased husband. A famous human rights attorney, he is killed by a landmine overseas. Bridget likens him to a snowy white owl that appears outside of Mabel's window, arriving when Bridget's life is desperate and departing when things are under control.

## **Mabel**

Mabel is the daughter of Bridget and Mark. She is their youngest child. She is sweet, kind, and very curious. When she discovers that Billy has nits, she also wants some.

## **Billy**

Billy is the son of Bridget and Mark. He is their eldest child. Billy is attentive, kind, and very goal-oriented. His failure in chess hits hard, but his success in music makes him proud.



# Symbols and Symbolism

## Mobile Phone

Bridget uses a mobile smart phone throughout the novel as a quick way to check email, keep in touch through calls and texts, and use Twitter. She increases use of her phone when she begins communicating with Roxster.

## Wine

Wine appears to be a staple drink for Bridget, who consumes it throughout the novel. Often, she becomes drunk quickly; at other times, she has a glass to unwind or get through dinner.

## Script

Bridget's script "The Leaves in His Hair", based on "Hedda Gabler" by Henrik Ibsen, is represented by agent Brian Katzenberg and optioned by Greenlight Productions. Bridget's script is read by George and the other higher-ups at Greenlight, as well as by Ambergris Bilk. All of them have rewrites for Bridget. The rewrites change the script from what Bridget had originally intended.

## Laptop

Bridget uses her laptop to write, to surf the internet, to work on her screenplay, and to correspond by Twitter. Bridget brings along her laptop during meetings at Greenlight Productions.

## Nit Comb

Bridget uses a nit comb throughout the novel in order to remove nits and nit eggs from Billy and Mabel. She does this on several occasions.

# Settings

## London

London is the main setting of the novel *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy* by Helen Fielding. London, the capital of England, is where Bridget, her family, Wallaker, Roxby, Talitha, Jude, and Tom live and work.

## Hampstead Heath

Hampstead Heath is a beautiful place to live. It is where Bridget and Wallaker end up purchasing a house and blending their families together.

## St. Oswalds House

St. Oswald's House is a retirement community. It is the home of Bridget's mother and Aunt Una. Bridget sometimes visits her mother at St. Oswald's House. She visits during the opening ceremony of the Gatehouse Lodges section.

## The Seaside

During the summer, Bridget, her mother, and her two children go and to the seaside for a vacation. Bridget reflects fondly on this following their return.

## Junior Branch

Junior Branch is where Billy attends school and Mr. Wallaker teaches. It is located in London and visited daily by Bridget as she picks up Billy.



# Themes and Motifs

## Family

Family is a major, dominant, and overarching theme found consistently throughout the novel *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy* by Helen Fielding. Family, thematically, includes moral, emotional, and physical support, as well as love, compassion, encouragement, loyalty, and devotion to individuals who may or may not be blood-related, but still act in accordance with the traditional family structure. Family appears primarily through Bridget's relationship with her children, and additionally, between Wallaker and his children, and Bridget and her mother.

Bridget's children are very young, so she dedicates a considerable amount of time to their rearing and well-being. She loves them, cares for them, and encourages them, especially when things don't go their way. This is true, for example, when Bridget encourages Billy following his failure to make the chess team. Bridget's devotion to her children is strikingly clear through even the most disgusting episodes, such as when she tends to her sick children covered in their diarrhea and vomit. That sort of action can only be classified under familial love.

Family also is present between Bridget and her mother. At the beginning of the novel they do not get along. However, they eventually have it out and have a heart-to-heart talk, during which time both mother and daughter end up crying. They are able to repair their rocky relationship. It becomes a wonderful, warm, and necessary part of Bridget's life.

Meanwhile, Wallaker is also dedicated to his children, wanting to make sure they are strong and independent. He is aware of the importance of emotion and compassion when it comes to raising them.

## Friendship

Friendship is a major theme throughout the novel *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy* by Helen Fielding. Friendship involves mutual feelings of platonic affection, love, compassion, care, and emotional, physical, and moral support between one or more individuals. Friendship in the novel is primarily focused around Bridget, with glimpses into friendship among other characters as well.

Bridget's three best friends are Talitha, Tom, and Jude. All three friends intervene and decide that Bridget must lose weight and get back on the dating circuit toward the beginning of the novel. They give her advice on dating and fashion. When Roxster breaks up with Bridget, all three friends descend on Bridget to comfort her and support her. In turn, when Jude ends up dating a series of men who turn out to be bad, Bridget comforts her. Chloe, the beautiful young nanny, goes through her own relationship breakup, and Bridget is there for her, too. Bridget also becomes good friends with



Rebecca and Jake, neighbors across the street, who also have children. When Daniel is released from rehab, Bridget welcomes him with open arms. Bridget also begins a new relationship – a good friendship –with her mother.

Friendship also occurs between the other characters. Tom and Jude are frequently seen together, as well as seen conspiring together (such as when they make a fake dating profile to get back at Jude's ex-husband). Jake and Wallaker have a lasting friendship that thrives throughout the novel.

## Love

Love is a dominant theme in the novel *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy* by Helen Fielding. Familial, platonic, and romantic love appear in the novel. However, it is romantic love that is predominant.

Bridget, once married, is now widowed. She is incredibly lonely and wants to be loved again. She was deeply in love with her deceased husband, Mark, to a point that she is unable to move on with her life years after his death. Bridget's relationship with Roxster very nearly turns into love for her, but not for him. The two separate. Bridget ends up dating Scott Wallaker, and the two end up hitting it off. He explains that he has been in love with her for a long time, and Bridget falls in love with him as well.

Jude, once married, is now divorced. Jude creates a fake online profile to get back at her ex-husband. She ends up using dating sites to begin seeing a series of men. None of the relationships work out until she meets a wildlife photographer. This relationship ends up lasting throughout the remainder of the novel.

# Styles

## Point of View

Helen Fielding tells her novel *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy* using the first-person, limited-omniscient point of view from the perspective of main character and principal protagonist Bridget Jones. This is done for at least two primary reasons. First, the events of the novel directly relate to Bridget. Therefore, there is no one better to tell Bridget's story than Bridget. The second reason is that the first-person perspective allows the reader to develop a personal relationship with Bridget. The reader is able to experience firsthand the things that Bridget feels and experiences, making her story the reader's story as well.

## Language and Meaning

Helen Fielding tells her novel *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy* in language that is simple, quick, and straight-to-the-point. In keeping with Bridget's characterization as a working mom-on-the-go and combined with the advent of modern technology in ways never before seen for communication, the simple, fast-paced language does two things. First, it makes Bridget's character more believable. Her words ring true to contemporary readers. Second, it is a reflection of modern times and the way that modern people use the English language.

## Structure

Helen Field divides her novel *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy* into six general parts, with each part subdivided into unnumbered, but named chapters. The parts consist of a prologue and outcome, as well as four linear parts between. Each of the parts deals with a massive transition or set of circumstances in Bridget's life. For example, Part 1 returns the reader to events a year before the prologue. The subsequent chapters within each part deal with situations, circumstances, and events that are intrinsic to the larger situations, circumstances, and events which make up the parts.



## Quotes

You see, Hedda Gabbler is really very relevant to the modern woman because it is about the perils of trying to live through men.

-- Bridget (The Art of Concentration paragraph 15)

**Importance:** Bridget Jones, working on her screenplay adaptation of Hedda Gabler, argues that trying to live through men is dangerous. This is ironic, since she will attempt to relive part of her youth through Roxster. Ironically, she believes that the only way she can be happy is with a man.

Am perfect mother and sensual woman with sensual possibilities.

-- Bridget (Women Change Their Minds paragraph 4)

**Importance:** As Bridget loses weight and steps back out into the dating world, she realizes that she is an attractive woman and an incredibly good mother. She realizes she can be both a sexually appealing woman and a devoted mother at the same time.

Has technology become another element now? Is that it?

-- Bridget (Dark Night of the Soul paragraph 27)

**Importance:** Social media, especially its use through platforms like smart phones and laptops, has made technology necessary for everyday life. In fact, it is so common that the children –and Bridget –wonder whether or not it is crucial and necessary for the makeup of the world, like the elements.

133lb, days since any communication from Roxster 2, amount of day spent worrying about lack of communication from Roxster 95%.

-- Bridget (Is It Snow or is it Blossom paragraph 1)

**Importance:** As Bridget's relationship with Roxster hits a snag, Bridget begins to realize how much he means to her. In a world of constant, instant communication, no communication is a dangerous thing. Bridget panics that Roxster is deliberately not speaking to her.

I mean, lots of people do Botox, don't they? It's not like having a facelift.

-- Bridget (The Deep Freeze paragraph 1)

**Importance:** After the age issue comes up with Roxster, Bridget decides to go along with Talitha to get Botox. Bridget is concerned that she looks too old. So, a dose of Botox will help to tighten her face.

OH GOD, I'M SO LONELY. I miss Roxster. Now that the bubble has burst and I have realized Mark is still gone, the children still have no father, and all the other complicated, unfixable things, I just quite simply and straightforwardly miss Roxster.

-- Bridget (The Yawning Void paragraph 2)





**Importance:** Following the breakup with Roxster, Bridget spirals into a panic-driven depression. She is lonely without either Roxster or Mark, and she feels a failure for she has been unable to find the children a new father. The biggest immediate concern Bridget has, though, is how much she misses Roxster.

But just for the record, other people's lives are not always as perfect as they appear, once you crack the shell.

-- Wallaker (The Summer Concert paragraph 60)

**Importance:** As Bridget gets closer to Wallaker and the two become friends, they end up kissing. Bridget, horrified, berates Wallaker, who responds that not everyone has a perfect life, especially once one cracks the exterior shell.

But I sensed a sort of mental clarity emerging. A sense that what I needed to do now was find some peace.

-- Bridget (Giving In paragraph 3)

**Importance:** After Bridget has had no hope of love, she decides that what she really needs is not a boyfriend, but peace with herself and her life. Through this, she strengthens and grows her relationships that are not romantic with her mother, her friends, and her children. She also comes to realize that her current screenwriting project is not for her and lets it go.

Was sunk into gloom, realizing that now he was officially single, he feared that all single women, including me, were going to nibble at him like piranhas.

-- Bridget (The Mighty Jungle paragraph 9)

**Importance:** Bridget, who grows to have feelings for Wallaker once she realizes he is single, realizes that he is now open for other women to go after as well. Wallaker dismisses the other women as if they are piranhas, and Bridget fears he may view her in the same light.

And somewhere up above it all, I knew in my heart that Mark would be glad. That he really, really would not have wanted us to be alone and in a confused state.

-- Bridget (Outcome paragraph 3)

**Importance:** As the book concludes, Bridget and Scott Wallaker become an item. They bring their families together, and Bridget realizes that Mark would be happy that she and the kids will be happy.