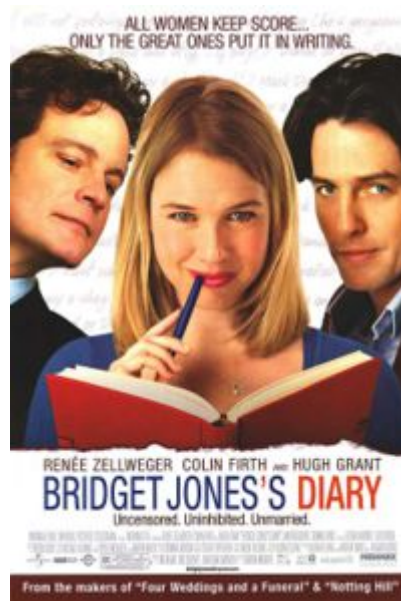


BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY



Bridget Jones's Diary is a 1996 novel by Helen Fielding. It's about the life of Bridget Jones, a thirty single woman living in London.

The point of view in **Bridget Jones's Diary** is all first person. Bridget is writing her thoughts, feelings and happenings as she sees them. The first person point of view is the most common and, in some respects, the most limiting point of view. In this work, the first person point of view prevents us from ever knowing what Bridget looks like. We only hear her distorted view of herself and the concern of her friends when she gets too thin.

However, writing the book in first person feeds right into the characterization of Bridget.

To her, no other view really matters.

She is the typical modern woman who lives in a big city: she wants to lose weight to stop smoking and to stop drinking. She decides to buy a diary in which she'd like to write things she eats, cigarettes smoked and everything happens in her life.



In the movie Bridget has always a cigarette in her hand



A 2001 film adaptation of the original novel was an international success, and a second film followed in 2004 (director, Sharon Maguire).

We can find the big success of this movie/book in

the figure of Bridget Jones who is the mirror of the modern woman: she is insecure, she always tries to lose weight and she wants a man. She doesn't understand why she can't have a man as others girls. (The use of songs like All by Myself by Jamie O'Neal make us understand in which kind of depression is Bridget).



She is employed in the publishing industry and she starts a relation with his boss, Daniel Cleaver (Hugh Grant): but he isn't the only man in Bridget's life. And she will discover that maybe the man of her dreams is next to her...

Bridget Jones is a sort of model for modern girls: everyone can have a little story with a boss like Hugh Grant and everyone can have a boyfriend as Mark Darcy. Bridget is often plagued with that perennial question "How's your love life?" and exposed to the eccentricities of mid-to-upper class British society, manifested in Turkey Curry Buffets and Tarts and Vicars parties. But she always contests in a funny way and this shows the ironism of protagonist.



Mark Darcy and Daniel Cleaver

BRIDGET AND MARK



And the book and the movie are full of female considerations. I've preferred to analyze the book because is clearer than the movie.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS. "I will not"

-fall for any of following: alcoholics, workaholics, commitment phobics, people with girlfriends or wives, misogynists, megalomaniacs, chauvinists, emotional fuckwits or freeloaders, perverts" –

These are all Bridget resolutions for New Year: it's a typical women idea that to star a new year promising to change lots of things. She won't realize any of them.

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Sunday 15 January 11p.m

-Humph. He might have bloody well rung again, thought. Is probably out with someone thinner-

In this sentence we discover one of most important Bridget's problem: the weight. She wants to lose weight (as all women) but she can't so she thinks that her life goes so bad just because she's fat. And she thinks that her man is run away for this reason.

PAGE 27

Sunday 8 January

8P.M.

-Tom has a theory that homosexuals and single women in their thirties have natural bonding: both being accustomed to disappointing their parents and being treated as freaks by society-

In this case we can find lots of aspects of Bridget's feelings: she is thirty and she has no man and, in modern society who is not married at thirty nor has no man is not well seen.

And Bridget feels the weight of her mum's pressure to find a man.

Everyone asks her "Why haven't you got a man? Think about biological clock, Tic tack tic"...

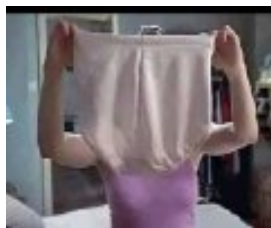
PAGE 30

Sunday 15 January

6 P.M.

-Being a woman is worse than being a farmer- there is so much harvesting and crop spraying to be done: legs to be waxed, underarms shaved, eyebrows plucked, feet pumiced, skin exfoliated and moisturized, spots cleansed, roots dyed, eyelashes tinted, nails filed, cellulite massaged, stomach muscles exercised-

This is a long sequence of things to do before a date: and this is the natural female universe in which all modern women can enter in. This scene in the movie is really funny especially when she has to decide which kind of underwear she should wear.



PAGE 33-34

Valentine's Day massacre

This short sentence in one of biggest problems of single persons during Valentine's Day. And Bridget as well feels the weight to be alone during this date.

And She says: "It's just a commercial day" but she suffers when sees flowers brought by woman in London....

PAGE 53

Saturday 18 February

-I had spent thirty-five years without a break running his home and bringing up his children-

In this case the person analyzed is Bridget's mum who is the mirror of the modern woman married. She is tired to live at home and to clear it so she decides to leave her husband trying to have a

career. And this is very important because the writer wants to show us what a normal woman searches in her life.

And these elements are important for cultural society as well, telling us how society is changed in few decades.

Daniel- mum-Mark and Bridget



The movie is opened with first day of the year lunch in which is invited Mark Darcy (Colin Firth), a childhood friend. Many parallels can be found between this book and **Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice**, most noticeably in the male protagonists' last names as well as character traits (compare Fitzwilliam Darcy to Mark Darcy).



Colin Firth in Pride and Prejudice

It's book writer (Helen Fielding) who insists to use Colin Firth as Bridget love: in fact he acted in "Pride and Prejudice" in BBC version with the role of Elisabeth's love. The relationship of Daniel Cleaver to Mark Darcy parallels the relationship of George Wickham to Fitzwilliam Darcy. Also noticeable are the similarities in personality between Bridget's and Elizabeth Bennet's mothers and fathers...



Elizabeth's parents. We can compare two mum's personalities: in fact they are very nervous, a little bit crazy and, on the other hand, their husbands are very calm and they bear their wives.

I think we should compare Elisabeth and Bridget as well because they are two special women in the meaning that they are very different from other girls: Elisabeth doesn't care about the ballet, she prefers to sit alone while all the world dances. Bridget cares about other's opinion but at the same time she doesn't change: she makes a big smile if something bad happens to her but it's rare to see her angry.



We find lots of similar things in the first scene where Bridget is introduced to Mark Darcy: they speak for a while but Mark is very rude with her. We find the same situation in "Pride and Prejudice" with the first meeting Elisabeth- Mr. Darcy. And Bridget, like Elisabeth, hears from her future's love, rude considerations about her... At work she starts to chat with her boss, Bridget and Daniel begin to flirt heavily at work and eventually start dating, despite the fact that he is a notorious womanizer with a questionable personality. Bridget learns from Daniel that Mark and he have a history and as a result, hate each other dearly. Daniel informs Bridget of their fallout, telling her that Mark broke their friendship by sleeping with his girlfriend.

After Daniel's dubious character becomes clearer and clearer to Bridget, she breaks off their relationship when she catches him with another woman, a colleague of his from work in New York. (The scene is very funny because she is dressed like a bunny).



In the meantime, she gets to know Mark and finds him to be a sincere man who she enjoys spending time with.

Just as Bridget and Mark's attraction for each other comes together at a birthday dinner party hosted by Bridget, Daniel comes back into the picture claiming Bridget's attention.

Mark leaves the party, but comes back to face Daniel. Mark punches Daniel and the two fight, resulting in Daniel passing out. Bridget, still thinking that Daniel had been the wronged one, chastises Mark. Afterwards, she tells Daniel that she doesn't want to be with him.

Bridget learns the truth about Mark and Daniel's fallout, in which Daniel had seduced Mark's ex-wife when they were still married. At a dinner party the same day, Bridget confesses her feelings for Mark, only to find out that he is engaged to his colleague.

Bridget is further disheartened once Mark's parents announce at the party that Mark is going to New York. Just as Bridget starts to embark on a trip to Paris with her friends to forget her broken heart, Mark returns to stay with her.

As they're about to sleep together, Bridget exits to her bedroom to change her underwear. While Bridget is changing, Mark spies her diary, in which she has written many insults about him. Bridget returns to find that he has left. Realizing that he had read her diary and that she might potentially lose him again, Bridget runs outside after him in a thin coat and her underwear. She can't find him so returns home when Mark appears holding a new diary. They kiss in the snow-covered streets and the movie concludes.

"Pride and Prejudice" and "Bridget Jones's Diary" are two very similar movies: it's necessary to underline the fact that they are situated in two different contexts. But in both the female universe is well described.

Elements that make us understood different age are very clear: the language is totally formal in Pride and Prejudice. On the other side in Bridget Jones's diary dialogues are full of bad words and slangs.

This show how society is changes.

Differences are also about dresses and habits.



"Pride and Prejudice"



Bridget Jones's Diary