



The other Bridget

By Rachael, Johns

First published in 2024

Genre and Subject

Women librarians — Fiction

Books and reading — Fiction

Book clubs (Discussion groups) — Fiction

Baristas — fiction

Australian fiction

Romance fiction

Synopsis

Named after a famous fictional character, librarian Bridget Jones was raised on a remote cattle station, with only her mother's romance novels for company. Now living alone in Fremantle, Bridget is a hopeless romantic. She also believes that anyone who doesn't like reading just hasn't met the right book yet, and that connecting books to their readers is her superpower. If only her love life was that easy.

When handsome Italian barista Fabio progresses from flirting with love hearts on her coffee foam to joining the book club she runs at her library, Bridget prays her romance 'curse' won't ruin things. But it's the attention of her cranky neighbour Sully that seems to be the major obstacle in her life. Why is he going to so much effort to get under her skin?

Author Biography

Once upon a time (briefly) Rachael was an English teacher, then her dreams of becoming a novelist came true. Now she spends her days writing romance and women's fiction in the Swan Valley, Western Australia. Her book *The Patterson Girls* won the ABIA Award in 2016 for General Fiction and she has also won the prestigious Romance Writers of Australia RUBY Award twice.

When she's not writing, you'll find Rachael reading, occasionally sewing, hanging with her adorable Sheepadoodle or listening to audiobooks while driving around or cleaning up after her three sons. The only TV show she watches is *The Farmer Wants a Wife* and every year she says she'll read more non-fiction but fails because there are too many good novels waiting to be devoured.

Rachael loves to hear from her readers and can be contacted on Facebook, Instagram and Substack. She also runs the Rachael Johns' Online Book Club, which you can join on Facebook.

For more information visit www.rachaeljohns.com

Discussion Starters

1. Bridget believes that, due to her name, she has been placed under a romance 'curse'. Do you think her view is justified?
2. 'Love happens when you're least expecting it.' Discuss.
3. Are dating apps a blessing or a curse for singles?
4. What's the best meet-cute you have ever heard of or experienced yourself?
5. Do you think the romance genre gets a bad rap?
6. Who was your favourite Bookstar member and why?
7. Do you agree with Bridget that books have the power to change lives? Is there a book that has changed yours?
8. What do you think is the greatest romance novel of all time?
9. Have you ever seen a film adaptation that's better than the book?
10. Discuss the importance of friendship in the novel. Which friendship was your favourite?
11. Are little white lies ever okay if they're told with good intent?
12. What do you think Janine means when she says, 'You can decide to be the hero of your own story rather than the victim'?
13. Do you agree with Bridget's friends when they tell her 'No one deserves a happy ever after more than you do'?
14. Have you read any other Rachael Johns novels? Which is your preferred genre of hers, and why?

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- The accident by Fiona Lowe.

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