

Detailed Outline

Thesis: **By utilizing a variety of strategic effects such as narration, characters, and music , along with certain camera angles, the film conveys the theme of an unlikely female character who happens to luckily win her ideal man through such comical tribulations.**

I. Introduction

- A. Attention-grabber: "130 lbs. (how is it possible to put on 4 pounds overnight? Could flesh have somehow solidified becoming denser and heavier (repulsive, horrifying notion)); alcohol units 2 (excellent) cigarettes 21 (poor but will give up totally tomorrow); number of correct lottery numbers 2 (better, but nevertheless useless)...". (Fielding)
 - 1. These humorous, somewhat relatable statements, portraying anxiety, in terms of the physical and economical worries for women, are just a few of the lines that compose the journal entries of Bridget Jones.
- B. Bridget's journal entries can range from: her mundane vexations that arise due to her negative body image, fiascos in terms of her love life, and occasional optimism under special circumstances.
- C. Bridget's diary entries are appealing because it identifies strongly with the struggling mindset of many young women in the 21st century in a lighthearted manner.
- D. Based upon the Bridget Jones series by Helen Fielding, *Bridget Jones* (2001) is a film directed by Sharon Maguire.
- E. The film, being a romantic-comedy, is about a young woman, Bridget Jones, struggling to find love in London.

II. Body Paragraph 1

- A. **The narration of the film is predominantly first person narrative. As Bridget writes in her diary or when the audience is aware of her inner thoughts, it is evident that first person narration takes action.**
- B. First person narration primarily occurs during a close up as Bridget is recording in her journal about any goals or any sentimental feelings that she has on a certain day.
- C. One humorous, yet relatable part of Bridget's journal entry, such as the one in the introduction, is when she writes down her weight, alcohol and cigarette consumptions.
 - 1. As Bridget writes down her weight, she gives an implicit meaning of the standards and specifications that women should meet in order to be considered beautiful in a society that adorns outer beauty.
 - 2. To an extent, Bridget herself states that she possess the traits of a single woman who has the potential to end up as a spinster.
 - 3. Her frustration and anxiety can be revealed when the camera zooms in on her face and shows an expression of grimace and worry as she reflects upon the fact that she may end up alone.

- D. Other examples in which first person narration takes place is when Bridget's inner thoughts are heard.
- E. The scene in which Bridget dresses up in a Bunny Costume opens up with her inner thoughts, hoping that she won't see her family members in her ridiculous outfit just as they will be in theirs.
 - 1. Bridget states, "Here we go, trying to fight off the vision of mummy and Auntie Una in fishnet tights, seems unnatural, for 60 years olds to dress up as prostitutes and priests on a sunday afternoon, Oh Holy Jesus!"
 - 2. As Bridget arrives at the party, she becomes the center of attention as she is the only one dressed like a tart.
 - a. Unfortunately, there has a been a miscommunication that the party theme "vicars and tarts" has been cancelled, and Bridget never receiving the message, ends up being ridiculed by friends and family.
- F. Moreover, when Bridget writes journal entries relating to her success in trying to attract men, the usage of first person narration creates an impression as if she is directly engaging with audience members to give love advice.
- G. **In general, the first person narrative of the film, helps the audience understand Bridget's true emotions as well as her humorous personality.**

III. Body Paragraph 2

- A. **The characters also play a crucial role in effecting the essence of the film's genre of romantic-comedy.**
- B. The protagonist, Bridget Jones, played by Renée Zellweger, is a hopeless romantic that happens to attract two handsome men.
 - 1. Because Bridget has a diffident yet accident-prone characteristic, it makes the film particularly engaging by giving audiences the suspense whether she would end up with her Prince Charming.
- C. The two leading male roles are given to Hugh Grant, as Daniel Cleaver, and Colin Firth, as Mark Darcy.
 - 1. Daniel Cleaver, is Bridget's boss and is a charming yet, flirtatious character, whose motives are very sexual and childish. Throughout the film, it is evident that Bridget's feelings for Cleaver are more of a sexual fantasy.
 - 2. On the contrary, Mark Darcy, a human-rights lawyer, is a more reserved character, who initially observes Bridget from afar and soon begins to approach her as the film progresses.
 - 3. By juxtaposing Daniel and Mark, it is explicit that Mark is Bridget's Prince Charming.
 - a. Daniel's "love" for Bridget is much more of a fling, as he constantly tries to make his love more physical and rather less conversational.
 - b. Daniel offers Bridget a fun-time but his unwillingness to compromise and get serious about his relationship with Bridget makes him lesser of her Prince Charming.

- c. Meanwhile, Mark's ability to fall for Bridget, despite her apparent flaws, makes Mark the ultimate Prince Charming, who has fell in love with a playful and genuine hearted woman.
 - d. Mark, courts Bridget like a true gentleman. Though he seems like an unapproachable know it all, Mark tries to understand his lover before making any physical relationships.
- D. By incorporating the roles of the hopeless romantic, playboy boss, and a determined lover, the characters' unique persona allows them to portray their own attitudes on the notion of love and romance.**

IV. Body Paragraph 3

- A. Furthermore, the film's appreciation for music makes certain scenes comical and romantic.**
- B. The film's opening scene begins with Celine Dion's "All By Myself".
 - 1. The fact that the Bridget is home alone drinking wine in her pajamas makes the song perfect for this scene.
 - 2. The song introduces the situation of her being a complete loner, then as the song progresses, Bridget begins to lip sync to the song to show that the song is currently the story of her life.
 - 3. Instead of a close up showing her saddening facial expression, the scene is a Medium Shot, to show her ridiculous dance moves as trying to portray that her life is chaotic and that she needs a get a hold of her life.
- C. Moreover, the ending scene occurs just as Mark reads Bridget's diary and leaves without saying anything.
- D. As Bridget realizes that Mark had read negative comments about him, she rushes out without wearing any underwear and searches for him.
 - 1. As she does so, "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" by Diana Ross plays in the background and gives a sense of comicality in depicting the extent that love can make someone do such crazy things.
 - 2. Additionally, the song confirms Bridget's realization that her Prince Charming is Mark Darcy.
 - 3. Just as the song ends Bridget stops running and Mark walks out of a store. When the two gaze upon each other and exchange a few words, Bridget was overreacting the whole situation, meanwhile Mark had only left Bridget's home to buy her a new diary since he had forgiven Bridget.
- E. When Mark states that he is not mad at her but simply want a new beginning with her, the song "Someone Like You" by Van Morrison starts.
 - 1. The song stands for the realization that the two are meant to be. "Someone Like You" had also played during an earlier scene when Mark and Bridget were at a staircase during a dinner party, in which, Mark first confessed to Bridget his true feelings for her by stating "I like you very much, just as you are", until he becomes interrupted by Natasha.
 - 2. As he must leave urgently, Bridget does not have time to give him a response.

3. By ending that scene with such an overpowering song, it illustrates that Bridget is just as bewildered by Mark's statement.
- F. **Thus, it can be seen that music plays a crucial role in conveying a character's true emotions, whether it be for comicality or adoration purposes.**

V. Conclusion

- A. **Overall, by watching this romantic-comedy, it gives many female viewers a chance to let go of reality and fantasize about finding their own Prince Charming.**
- B. The film pervades the inner thoughts of a single woman's fantasies and anxieties on love.
 1. More importantly, the first person narration that was used in order to convey Bridget's personality and thoughts to make the film very engaging.
 2. With Renée Zellweger playing the role of an ordinary girl hoping to fall in love and Hugh Grant and Colin Firth playing the potential Prince Charmings, the iconic archetypes of characters depicted in a romance-comedy are incorporated perfectly throughout this film.
 3. In addition to the well-integrated music covering the background of important scenes, the film leaves audience members with memorable scenes that they can reminisce over after watching the film.