

One Day

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Part One

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 - 1 The two young people, Dexter and Emma, were together in Edinburgh. It was the last night of their university life. Earlier in the day they both graduated after four years studying for their degrees. They were about to go in separate directions and start their new adult life.
 - 2 They had planned to sleep with each other but they had not. They were lying in bed talking about themselves and their thoughts about the future. Each one thought the other was attractive, but they were a bit annoyed with each other and were almost arguing. Dexter decided to leave while Emma was asleep, but she woke up and they agreed to spend the next day together.
 - 3 Emma was from Yorkshire in the north of England and spoke with a northern accent. She was interested in politics and had socialist ideas. Dexter was a posh boy from the south of England. He was happy to be thought of as bourgeois. Emma was thinking seriously about the future but we do not learn what she wanted to do. Dexter wanted to be successful, have fun and never be sad.
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 - 1 Emma had made a lot of mistakes in the past year. She had tried doing a number of different things, for example, playing in a band, writing novels, working in a shop and nothing had worked out. She had moved back to live with her parents and had had a difficult time with her mother. Now she was in a Theatre-in-Education group and she did not enjoy this either.
 - 2 She had written a play and wanted to stage it in London. She made a decision to leave the theatre group and go to live with her friend Tilly in London.
 - 3 She had been thinking about him and wanted to be more than friends with him, but she was afraid that they were only friends now – Dexter just wanted to tell her about other girls he had gone out with, not to go out with her.
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 - 1 He was a new waiter at the restaurant where Emma was working. He was a large man with curly blonde hair and was quite nice-looking. He said he was working at the restaurant only because he needed to earn some money. Really he was a stand-up comedian who did gigs in small comedy clubs. He liked Emma and invited her out on a date.
 - 2 She did not like it; she was not proud that she had been working there longer than all the other staff. She asked herself why she was there and what she was doing with her life.
 - 3 He told her that she was clever, beautiful and loveable. He told her that she needed to leave her job at the restaurant and that he wanted to take her away from boring people like Tilly and Callum. He asked her to live with him in London as a flatmate. He also invited her to come to India to be with him.
 - 4 Dexter left the letter in a bar by accident. A German girl found the letter and read it; she wanted to send it on to Emma but there was no address so she could not. This was sad because Emma and Dexter's lives might have changed if Emma had received the letter.
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 - 1 There were two reasons. One was that it was the 15th July, which was the day that she and Dexter were together in Edinburgh for the first time, and she still cared about him. The other was that she didn't want to work at the restaurant but needed to take the job because she needed the money.

- 2 He brought a girlfriend to the restaurant, which was something that he had done before. She was attractive and Dexter showed he was enjoying himself with her. Emma still cared about Dexter so she was both angry and upset. She also felt that he was laughing at her job.
- 3 He thought that Emma was the best person he had ever known. Perhaps he didn't tell her because he was still immature and did not want a serious relationship.
- 5 1 Dexter was working as an interviewer for a television company and he had a flat in an expensive part of London. Emma had left her job at the restaurant and was going to train to be a schoolteacher.
- 2 One: separate bedrooms. Dexter pretended he could not find anywhere to stay with two separate bedrooms, so they had to share one.
- Two: no flirting. Dexter flirted with the girl on the ferry who recognized him from his television programme.
- Four: no nudity. Dexter and then Emma swam naked in the sea.
- 3 He told her that he wanted her and Emma felt wonderful because she and Dexter were finally going to get together. But then he told her that he wanted nearly every woman he met. Emma was angry with herself because she had, for a short time, believed that Dexter really loved her.

Part Two

- 6 1 Dexter loved his mother very much and she was very ill. Dexter knew she was dying and would not live much longer. He was very unhappy and worried about her and did not want to see her because she was so ill.
- 2 Dexter was very drunk. His mother was looking forward to his visit and she was very upset because he was so drunk. Dexter slept all afternoon because he was so drunk and did not spend any time with his parents. Dexter's father was telling him that he would not let Dexter into the house if he arrived drunk again.
- 3 Emma was not at home because she had gone to meet Ian Whitehead for dinner at an Italian restaurant. After the meal, she went to Ian's flat and spent the night with him.
- 4 No, she did not enjoy it. Ian tried much too hard to make her laugh. His jokes were not funny. She could not have a conversation with him.
- 7 1 It was the first night of a new live television show which he was going to present and he wanted her support. He especially wanted her to be there because he no longer saw his other friends from university.
- 2 Emma had a big night too. She was in charge of a show, *Oliver!*, at the school where she taught and this was the night of the performance.
- 3 Yes, it is true. Emma's show went really well and everyone, parents and the headteacher, were really happy with it. Dexter's show was a failure for him because his co-presenter, Suki Meadows, had to help him through it. He took vodka onto the set in a water bottle because he was so nervous. Suki accidentally drank from his bottle and there was nearly a complete disaster.
- 8 1 She was living with Ian Whitehead but she had realized that she did not love him. And life was difficult with him because her career as a teacher was a success and his career as a comedian was a failure. Also, she was not enjoying her job because she still wanted to be a writer. She got tired and she did not have much time to write.

- 2 The girl was beautiful and dressed only in black underwear and stockings. Dexter said the girl had power over men when she was dressed like that. Emma was angry because she knew the girl only dressed like that because she had to in order to earn money. Dexter called Emma an 'angry, socialist feminist' because of what she said. Dexter went to the toilet many times so that he could talk to the girl and Emma saw him give her his phone number. Emma got angry because of this.
- 3 Emma decided that she had had enough of Dexter's behaviour. She ran out the restaurant. He followed her and she told him that he was now 'totally obnoxious'. She said that she did not want to meet him any more and walked away, leaving him standing in the street.

Part Three

- 9 1 At the beginning of the chapter, she ended her relationship with Phil Godalming, the headteacher of the school where she taught. She lived alone now because her relationship with Ian Whitehead had ended. And she had not had any contact with Dexter for the last year.
- 10 1 Her job had been difficult for the past year because she had ended her relationship with Phil Godalming. She had stopped caring about her job and when Phil shouted at her on the phone, she finally resigned. But the main reason she resigned was that she now knew that she was a good writer and she was confident that a publisher would publish her first novel – a novel for young readers.
- 11 1 Dexter was in love with her; it was the first time that he had been in love with a girlfriend. Also, Dexter liked Sylvie more than she liked him. This made her different from his other girlfriends; usually they had liked him more than he had liked them.
- 12 1 Emma thought the best thing about these weddings was that she and Dexter had met at several of them. They were now talking to each other again after three years.
 - 2 Callum had sold his successful computer business and started a new business, a successful chain of sandwich shops. He now dressed well in comparison to the way he dressed at university. Callum had gone up in the world and Dexter had come down. Callum was able to offer Dexter a job. He did not want to introduce Dexter to his girlfriend because he was going to get rid of her.
 - 3 Dexter had just told Emma that he and Sylvie were going to get married and that Sylvie was expecting a baby. Emma and Dexter looked at each other and they both knew that they actually loved each other.
- 13 1 He was going to look after his daughter, Jasmine, while Sylvie went out with some friends. She was going to leave Jasmine with him for the first time and stay overnight in London. Dexter was going to prove to Sylvie that he could look after his daughter and that he did not need to drink any alcohol.
 - 2 She was having a relationship with Callum O'Neill, Dexter's friend and employer.
- 14 1 Emma was living in Paris and was now a successful writer. She had a French boyfriend, Jean-Pierre. Dexter was getting divorced from Sylvie and she and Jasmine were living with Callum. The end of his marriage had hurt him very much and he missed Jasmine.
 - 2 Emma meant that she had decided to get rid of her French boyfriend and finally start a proper relationship with Dexter. She was telling him that he must not have any other women in his life.

Part Four

- 15 1 Emma and Dexter were living together most of the time. Emma was a successful author of books for young readers and Dexter now owned a delicatessen which he enjoyed running. Jasmine often spent time with them and the three of them were happy together.
- 16 1 He did not want to: watch birds; move to live in the country; cuddle in bed; call each other 'darling'; go to the shops together; or listen to classical music. Emma did not want Dexter to play golf.
- 2 Playing board games is something else which is middle-aged and Dexter did not really mean that he wanted to play. But he was joking about how old they now were and reminding us and Emma of Rule 5 in *The Rules* from their Greek island holiday when they were much younger.
- 17 1 They argued about their different opinions of a newspaper story. But really they were arguing because they were worried about Emma. She was thirty-nine and they both wanted a baby. It is clear that every month for a long time they had been disappointed when she had not become pregnant.

Part Five

- 18 1 On the first anniversary, Dexter got very, very drunk and he felt like he wanted to die. On the second anniversary, he stayed at home on his own and went through Emma's photos. He got very sad and felt terrible, but he rang Maddy and then started to feel calmer. On the third anniversary, Dexter was in Edinburgh with Maddy and Jasmine. He visited the places he had known with Emma, but he was quite calm and happy to be with his daughter.
- 19 1 She was saying goodbye in this way because she did not think she would ever see Dexter again.
- 2 We know that they are going to have a difficult relationship over many years before they finally get together as a couple. Dexter is going to hurt Emma very much and hurt himself too before this happens. They are going to be sad because they have not got any children of their own and Dexter is going to suffer very much because of Emma's early death. So it is probably true. The kiss after their first day together is the sweetest one either of them ever knew because they are very young and they do not know what their lives will bring.