# As if 'Bridgerton' Wasn't Woke Enough, Fans Disagree Over Gender-Swapped Plot Change in Season 3



The popular Netflix series "Bridgerton" has sparked debate among fans following a significant plot change in its third season. Based on Julia Quinn’s novels, the show features Francesca Bridgerton, portrayed by Hannah Dodd, who marries John Stirling. In the season finale, Francesca meets John's cousin Michaela, originally named Michael in the books, and the two form a relationship after John's death.

Showrunner Jess Brownell explained that the gender swap was made to introduce a queer storyline centered on "queer joy" rather than trauma. Brownell also hinted at further developments involving Francesca and Michaela in future episodes.

Part Two of Season 3 was released last Thursday, prompting mixed reactions on social media. While some fans expressed disappointment, particularly those who were anticipating the original heterosexual storyline involving Michael, others supported the adaptation choices.

The show's focus on LGBTQIA+ representation and its diversions from the source material have both supporters and detractors among the audience. Critics of the change lamented the loss of the book’s narrative on issues like infertility, while supporters appreciated the fresh perspective and adaptation liberties.