# Bridgerton Season 3 Introduces Queer Storylines... With Mixed Reactions



Netflix's popular period drama **Bridgerton** has introduced its first significant queer storylines, sparking strong reactions from its diverse fanbase. The second half of its third season was released over the weekend, prompting discussions among viewers.

The television adaptation of Julia Quinn's romance novels has famously utilized colour-conscious casting, diversifying its originally all-white characters. The third season builds on this by introducing queer representation through two characters.

**Benedict Bridgerton** (played by Luke Thompson) explores his sexuality, marking a significant departure from the books, where his storyline is a loose retelling of Cinderella. Benedict's exploration begins with his involvement in London's sexually liberated underground scene and leads to a discovery of his queer identity.

**Francesca Bridgerton** (portrayed by Hannah Dodd) also takes a prominent role this season after sorting out previous casting issues. Initially depicted as having a non-traditional, asexual-spectrum romance with John Stirling (Victor Alli), Francesca's storyline takes a twist when she meets John’s cousin, Michaela (Masali Baduza), a character who was originally male in the novels.

The portrayal of these relationships has divided viewers. Some fans have praised the inclusive representation, while others, particularly book purists, have expressed dissatisfaction. Reactions have ranged from positive support for diverse storytelling to significant backlash, including a petition against the casting changes.

Despite the mixed reactions, **Bridgerton** continues to captivate its audience with its evolving narrative, signaling more inclusive storylines in future seasons.