

## CHAPTER 2 VOCABULARY GLOSSARY

*Britt-Marie Was Here* by Fredrik Backman

**adjust** (verb) /ə'dʒʌst/ uh-JUST: "'Oh, right. I suppose it's important?' says Britt-Marie, adjusting a crease in her skirt that only she can see" (p. 10).

Definition: If you adjust something, you change it slightly so that it is more suitable or effective.

**announce** (verb) /ə'naʊns/ uh-NOWNCE: "'You were supposed to contact me today,' she announces, not at all pigheadedly, when the girl opens her office door" (p. 10).

Definition: If you announce something, you tell people about it publicly or officially.

**bent on** (phrase) /bɛnt ɒn/ bent on: "She's quite clearly bent on trying to get Britt-Marie out of there" (p. 12).

Definition: If you are bent on doing something, you are determined to do it.

**booked** (adjective) /bʊkt/ bookt: "'I'm fully booked today—'" (p. 13).

Definition: If you are fully booked, you have no free time because your time is already arranged or planned.

**brighten** (verb) /'braɪtn/ BRY-tun: "The girl brightens. 'Yes. You too?'" (p. 12).

Definition: If someone brightens or if their face brightens, they suddenly look happier.

**brush** (verb) /brʌʃ/ brush: "Britt-Marie stands up and brushes some invisible crumbs from her skirt" (p. 12).

Definition: If you brush something somewhere, you remove it with quick light movements of your hands.

**cause a scene** (phrase) /kɔːz ə siːn/ kawz uh seen: "'I don't want to cause a scene here. Not at all'" (p. 14).

Definition: If you cause a scene, you create a public disturbance by behaving badly or by arguing with someone.

**championship** (noun) /'tʃæmpiənʃɪp/ CHAM-pee-un-ship: "During the big soccer championships, the crossword supplements are replaced by special soccer sections" (p. 11).

Definition: A championship is a competition to find the best player or team in a particular sport.

**clear one's throat** (phrase) /kliə wʌnz θrəʊt/ kleeer wunz throht: "The girl clears her throat. 'Look, I'd love to talk further, but as I keep trying to tell you I just don't have time at the moment'" (p. 13).

Definition: When you clear your throat, you cough once in order to make it easier to speak or to attract people's attention.

**clutch** (verb) /klʌtʃ/ kluch: "She is surrounded by similarly dressed people clutching plastic mugs" (p. 10).

Definition: If you clutch something, you hold it tightly, usually because you are afraid or anxious.

**complaint** (noun) /kəm'pleɪnt/ kum-PLAYNT: "The article described how the woman had lain dead for several weeks before she was found, after the neighbors made a complaint about a bad smell from her flat" (p. 11).

Definition: A complaint is a statement in which you express your dissatisfaction with a particular situation.

**confer** (verb) /kən'fɜːr/ kun-FUR: "'I could also manage four or even five o'clock,' Britt-Marie offers, conferring with herself" (p. 13).

Definition: When you confer with someone, you discuss something with them in order to make a decision.

**contort** (verb) /kən'tɔːrt/ kun-TORT: "The girl contorts herself as if her clothes have suddenly changed size" (p. 10).

Definition: If someone's face or body contorts, it moves into an unnatural and unattractive shape or position.

**crease** (noun) /kriːs/ krees: "'Oh, right. I suppose it's important?' says Britt-Marie, adjusting a crease in her skirt that only she can see" (p. 10).

Definition: A crease is a line that is made in cloth or paper when it is crushed or folded.

**crossword** (noun) /'krɒswɜːrd/ KROSS-wurd: "During the big soccer championships, the crossword supplements are replaced by special soccer sections, and after that it's hardly possible to get a sensible word out of Kent" (p. 11).

Definition: A crossword or a crossword puzzle is a word game in which you work out the answers to clues and write them in the white squares of a pattern of black and white squares.

**crumb** (noun) /krʌm/ krum: "Britt-Marie stands up and brushes some invisible crumbs from her skirt" (p. 12).

Definition: Crumbs are tiny pieces that fall from bread, biscuits, or cake when you cut it or eat it.

**deprive** (verb) /dɪ'praɪv/ dih-PRYV: "Britt-Marie has never forgiven soccer for that. For taking Kent away from her, and for depriving her of her crossword supplement" (p. 11).

Definition: If you deprive someone of something that they want or need, you take it away from them, or you prevent them from having it.

**determinedly** (adverb) /dɪ'tɜːrɪndli/ dih-TUR-mind-lee: "But I've put it on the list,' says Britt-Marie, producing her notebook and pointing at it determinedly" (p. 10).

Definition: If you do something determinedly, you do it in a way that shows you have made a firm decision to do it and will not let anything stop you.

**emerge** (verb) /ɪ'mɜːrdʒ/ ih-MURJ: "People emerge; the girl says good-bye and smiles enthusiastically, until she notices Britt-Marie" (p. 12).

Definition: To emerge means to come out from a place where you could not be seen.

**enthusiastically** (adverb) /ɪnθuːzi'æstɪkli/ in-thoo-zee-AS-tik-lee: "People emerge; the girl says good-bye and smiles enthusiastically, until she notices Britt-Marie" (p. 12).

Definition: If you do something enthusiastically, you do it in a way that shows you are very interested in it or excited by it.

**exclaim** (verb) /ɪk'skleɪm/ ik-SKLAYM: "'What?' the girl exclaims, her face entirely liberated from any kind of positive emotion" (p. 10).

Definition: If you exclaim, you say something suddenly, loudly, or with emphasis.

**fetch** (verb) /fɛtʃ/ fech: "Britt-Marie fetched his shirt from the bedroom floor and put it in the washing machine, as usual" (p. 12).

Definition: If you fetch something or someone, you go and get them from the place where they are.

**forgive** (verb) /fər'gɪv/ fur-GIV: "Britt-Marie has never forgiven soccer for that" (p. 11).

Definition: If you forgive someone for doing something wrong or bad, you stop being angry with them.

**get out of one's head** (phrase) /gɛt aʊt əv wʌnz hɛd/ get owt uv wunz hed: "Britt-Marie can't get it out of her head" (p. 11).

Definition: If you cannot get something out of your head, you cannot stop thinking about it.

**handle** (noun) /'hændl/ HAN-dul: "She notes there are two stickers on the girl's door, just under the handle" (p. 11).

Definition: A handle is a part of a door or drawer that is used for opening or closing it.

**have enough** (phrase) /hæv ɪ'nʌf/ hav ih-NUF: "Kent always used to spill his drink when he was having vodka and orange juice during his soccer matches, until one day Britt-Marie had enough and moved the rug to the guest room" (p. 13).

Definition: If you have had enough of something, you are no longer willing to accept it or do it any longer.

**hidden** (adjective) /'hɪdn/ HID-un: "She read the newspaper four times in the hope of finding a small, hidden crossword somewhere" (p. 11).

Definition: If something is hidden, it is not easy to find or see.

**ink** (noun) /ɪŋk/ ingk: "'I wouldn't have put it on the list if you hadn't said it, you must understand that. And you made me write it in ink!'" (p. 10).

Definition: Ink is the coloured liquid used for writing or printing.

**invisible** (adjective) /ɪn'vɪzɪbl/ in-VIZ-ih-bul: "Britt-Marie stands up and brushes some invisible crumbs from her skirt" (p. 12).

Definition: If you describe something as invisible, you mean that it cannot be seen, for example because it is very small or hidden.

**landlord** (noun) /'lændlɔːrd/ LAND-lord: "A neighbor said that 'the woman's dinner was still on the table when the landlord walked into the flat'" (p. 11).

Definition: Someone's landlord is the person from whom they rent a flat or house.

**liberate** (verb) /'lɪbəreɪt/ LIB-uh-rayt: "'What?' the girl exclaims, her face entirely liberated from any kind of positive emotion" (p. 10).

Definition: To liberate someone or something means to free them.

**live up to** (phrasal verb) /lɪv ʌp tuː/ liv up too: "He loves soccer in a way that nothing else in his life can live up to" (p. 11).

Definition: If someone or something lives up to what they were expected to be, they are as good as they were expected to be.

**maintain** (verb) /meɪn'teɪn/ mayn-TAYN: "Kent often maintained that she has 'hidden' his shaver, when he stood there in the mornings yelling 'Briitt-Mariiiiie' because he couldn't find it" (p. 12).

Definition: If you maintain that something is true, you state your opinion strongly.

**methodically** (adverb) /mə'θɒdɪkli/ muh-THOD-ik-lee: "'When do you have time?' Britt-Marie asks, getting out her notebook and methodically going through a list" (p. 13).

Definition: If you do something methodically, you do it in a careful, well-organized way.

**misunderstanding** (noun) /ˌmɪsʌndər'stændɪŋ/ mis-un-dur-STAN-ding: "'Look, I'm very sorry if there's been a misunderstanding, but I have to go back to my meeting'" (p. 10).

Definition: A misunderstanding is a failure to understand something properly, or a disagreement or argument.

**modern** (adjective) /'mɒdərn/ MOD-urn: "'It's modern, I suppose'" (p. 13).

Definition: Modern means relating to the present time.

**mumble** (verb) /'mʌmbəl/ MUM-bul: "If Britt-Marie asks what he wants for dinner, he just mumbles that it doesn't matter, without even taking his eyes off the page" (p. 11).

Definition: If you mumble, you speak very quietly and not at all clearly with the result that the words are difficult to understand.

**natural** (adjective) /'nætʃərəl/ NACH-ur-ul: "It said in the article that the cause of death had been 'natural'" (p. 11).

Definition: If someone dies of natural causes, they die because they are ill or old rather than because of an accident or violence.

**observe** (verb) /əb'zɜ:v/ ub-ZURV: "'Maybe you'd have more time to find people jobs if you didn't spend your days in meetings?' observes Britt-Marie as the girl shuts the door" (p. 11).

Definition: If you observe that something is the case, you make a comment or remark about it.

**on the late side** (phrase) /ɒn ðə leɪt saɪd/ on tuh layt syd: "But my dear girl, civilized people have their dinner at six, so any later than five is surely a bit on the late side for a meeting, wouldn't you agree?" (p. 14).

Definition: If something is on the late side, it is later than is usual or suitable.

**patiently** (adverb) /'peɪʃəntli/ PAY-shunt-lee: "She's quite clearly bent on trying to get Britt-Marie out of there, so Britt-Marie smiles patiently and decides to say something sociable" (p. 12).

Definition: If you do something patiently, you do it without becoming annoyed or anxious.

**peer** (verb) /piə/ peer: "The girl peers at her watch and then at another clock on the wall" (p. 12).

Definition: If you peer at something, you look at it very hard, usually because it is difficult to see clearly.

**pigheaded** (adjective) /,pɪg'hɛdɪd/ pig-HED-id: "The unemployment office opens at 9:00. Britt-Marie waits until 9:02 before going in, because she doesn't want to seem pigheaded" (p. 10).

Definition: If you describe someone as pigheaded, you are critical of them because they refuse to change their mind about something even though there are good reasons for them to do so.

**practical** (adjective) /'præktɪkəl/ PRAK-tih-kul: "'Not that there's anything wrong with that, of course. In fact it looks very practical'" (p. 13).

Definition: A practical plan, idea, or method is likely to be effective or suitable.

**produce** (verb) /prə'dju:z/ pruh-DOOSE: "'But I've put it on the list,' says Britt-Marie, producing her notebook and pointing at it determinedly" (p. 10).

Definition: If you produce something from somewhere, you take it out or get it so that it can be seen.

**protest** (verb) /prə'test/ pruh-TEST: "'We certainly can't have a meeting later than five,' Britt-Marie protests" (p. 13).

Definition: If you protest, you say or show publicly that you object to something.

**reorganize** (verb) /ri:'ɔ:rgənəɪz/ ree-OR-guh-nyz: "Then she washed it and reorganized his electric shaver in the bathroom" (p. 12).

Definition: To reorganize something means to change the way in which it is organized or arranged.

**replace** (verb) /rɪ'pleɪs/ rih-PLAYS: "During the big soccer championships, the crossword supplements are replaced by special soccer sections" (p. 11).

Definition: If one thing or person replaces another, the first is used or acts instead of the second.

**rub** (verb) /rʌb/ rub: "She rubs the white mark on her ring finger" (p. 11).

Definition: If you rub a part of your body, you move your hand or fingers backwards and forwards over it while pressing firmly.

**sensible** (adjective) /'sɛnsɪbl/ SEN-sih-bul: "During the big soccer championships, the crossword supplements are replaced by special soccer sections, and after that it's hardly possible to get a sensible word out of Kent" (p. 11).

Definition: A sensible statement or action is reasonable and practical.

**shagpile** (adjective) /'ʃægpɑɪl/ SHAG-pyl: "In actual fact it mainly looks short and spiky, like when someone has spilled orange juice on a shagpile rug" (p. 13).

Definition: A shagpile carpet or rug has a long thick pile.

**shaver** (noun) /'ʃeɪvər/ SHAY-vur: "Then she washed it and reorganized his electric shaver in the bathroom" (p. 12).

Definition: A shaver is an electric device that you use for shaving hair from your face or body.

**similarly** (adverb) /'sɪmɪləli/ SIM-ih-lur-lee: "She is surrounded by similarly dressed people clutching plastic mugs" (p. 10).

Definition: You use similarly to say that something is similar to something else.

**sociable** (adjective) /'səʊfəbl/ SOH-shuh-bul: "She's quite clearly bent on trying to get Britt-Marie out of there, so Britt-Marie smiles patiently and decides to say something sociable" (p. 12).

Definition: Sociable people are friendly and enjoy talking to other people.

**spill** (verb) /spɪl/ spil: "Kent always used to spill his drink when he was having vodka and orange juice during his soccer matches" (p. 13).

Definition: If you spill a liquid, you accidentally make it flow over the edge of a container.

**spiky** (adjective) /ˈspaɪki/ SPY-kee: "In actual fact it mainly looks short and spiky, like when someone has spilled orange juice on a shagpile rug" (p. 13).

Definition: Something that is spiky has one or more sharp points.

**sticker** (noun) /ˈstɪkər/ STIK-ur: "She notes there are two stickers on the girl's door, just under the handle" (p. 11).

Definition: A sticker is a small piece of paper or plastic with writing or a picture on one side, that you can stick onto a surface.

**supplement** (noun) /ˈsʌplɪmənt/ SUP-lih-munt: "During the big soccer championships, the crossword supplements are replaced by special soccer sections" (p. 11).

Definition: A supplement is a separate part of a magazine or newspaper that is sold with it but can be removed from it.

**turn up** (phrasal verb) /tɜːrn ʌp/ turn up: "'You know, I told you yesterday I'd be in touch if something turned up" (p. 10).

Definition: If you say that something has turned up, you mean that it has appeared or become available.

**turn up the volume** (phrase) /tɜːrn ʌp ðə ˈvɒljʊm/ turn up tuh VOL-yoom: "Kent mumbled that it hardly made any difference, and turned up the volume on the TV" (p. 12).

Definition: If you turn up the volume on a television, radio, or other piece of equipment, you turn a knob or press a button to make the sound louder.

**unemployment office** (noun) /ˌʌnɪmˈplɔɪmənt ˈɒfɪs/ un-im-PLOY-munt OFF-iss: "The unemployment office opens at 9:00" (p. 10).

Definition: An unemployment office is a government office where people who are unemployed can get advice about finding work and can apply for financial help.

**vexatious** (adjective) /vɛkˈseɪʃəs/ vek-SAY-shus: "Britt-Marie can't stop thinking about that article, can't stop thinking about how vexatious it would be if the neighbors started complaining about bad smells" (p. 11).

Definition: If something is vexatious, it is annoying or worrying.

**washing machine** (noun) /ˈwɒʃɪŋ məˈʃiːn/ WOSH-ing muh-SHEEN: "Britt-Marie fetched his shirt from the bedroom floor and put it in the washing machine, as usual" (p. 12).

Definition: A washing machine is a machine that you use to wash clothes in.

**yell** (verb) /jɛl/ yel: "Kent often maintained that she has 'hidden' his shaver, when he stood there in the mornings yelling 'Briitt-Mariie' because he couldn't find it" (p. 12).

Definition: If you yell, you shout loudly, usually because you are excited, angry, or in pain.