

## CHAPTER 13 VOCABULARY GLOSSARY

*Britt-Marie Was Here* by Fredrik Backman

**accidentally** (adverb) /ˌæksɪ'dɛntəli/ ak-sih-DENT-uh-lee: "She fetches it. Britt-Marie takes it with both hands and accidentally turns it on and, as a result of this, happens to drill Somebody's hand just a little" (p. 106).

Definition: If something happens accidentally, it happens by chance or by mistake.

**acidly** (adverb) /ˈæsɪdli/ AS-id-lee: "'Why? Are you here to give someone the sack?' Vega answers acidly" (p. 114).

Definition: If you say something acidly, you say it in an unkind or critical way.

**activity** (noun) /æk'tɪvɪti/ ak-TIV-ih-tee: "Somebody grudgingly opens up and informs Britt-Marie that the pizzeria and all its other financial activities are closed at this time of day" (p. 105).

Definition: An activity is something that you spend time doing.

**alight** (verb) /ə'laɪt/ uh-LYT: "Instead, his gaze alights on what is clearly a foreign carton of cigarettes, left on the counter next to the register" (p. 113).

Definition: If someone's eyes alight on something, they notice it. [This is not a common word in conversational American English. The phrase "his gaze alights on" is normally expressed as "he notices."]

**allergies** (noun) /ˈælərdʒɪz/ AL-ur-jeez: "'Maybe you wouldn't develop so many allergies if you kept things a little more hygienic in here,' she explains considerately to Somebody" (p. 110).

Definition: If you have an allergy to something, you become ill or get a rash when you eat it, smell it, or touch it.

**announce** (verb) /ə'naʊns/ uh-NOWNSS: "Somebody then takes back the drill and demands to know what Britt-Marie was intending to do with the drill. Britt-Marie announces that she plans to put up a picture" (p. 106).

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

**apologetically** (adverb) /əˌpɒlə'dʒɛtɪkli/ uh-pol-uh-JET-ik-lee: "'Nah, you know, Britt-Marie. These, huh, they fall off a truck,' says Somebody apologetically" (p. 109).

Definition: If you do something apologetically, you do it in a way that shows you are sorry about something.

**appreciatively** (adverb) /ə'pri:ʃiətɪvli/ uh-PREE-shee-uh-tiv-lee: "Britt-Marie nods appreciatively at this, and says she thought this was a wise decision, because one really shouldn't drink and drive" (p. 105).

Definition: If you do something appreciatively, you do it in a way that shows you recognize the value or quality of something.

**argue** (verb) /'ɑ:rgju:/ AR-gyoo: "Instead, his gaze alights on what is clearly a foreign carton of cigarettes, left on the counter next to the register after Somebody and Britt-Marie's argument about smuggling" (p. 113).

Definition: If you argue with someone about something, you disagree with them about it, sometimes in an angry way.

**arrangement** (noun) /ə'reɪndʒmənt/ uh-RAYNJ-munt: "Britt-Marie opens the cutlery drawer and starts arranging the cutlery in the right order" (p. 107).

Definition: If you arrange things, you place them in a particular position, usually in order to make them look attractive or tidy.

**assistance** (noun) /ə'sɪstəns/ uh-SIS-tunss: "'Can we be of assistance?' asks Britt-Marie, in every way mindful of providing good service" (p. 112).

Definition: If you give someone assistance, you help them.

**balcony box** (noun) /'bælkəni bɒks/ BAL-kuh-nee boks: "For Britt-Marie now has somewhere to put her balcony boxes" (p. 105).

Definition: A balcony box is a container used for growing plants on a balcony.

**beaten** (adjective) /'bi:tən/ BEE-tun: "Sven stays where he is, beaten" (p. 115).

Definition: If you are beaten, you have been defeated.

**beaten-up** (adjective) /'bi:tən ʌp/ BEE-tun up: "The boy is wearing a beaten-up tracksuit top, on which the name of the town twelve miles away is written followed by the word 'Hockey'" (p. 113).

Definition: A beaten-up object is old and in bad condition.

**bemused** (adjective) /bɪ'mju:zd/ bih-MYOOZD: "They look bemused, but comply" (p. 110).  
If you are bemused, you are confused or puzzled by something.

**burgle** (verb) /'bɜ:rgəl/ BUR-gul: "She stops in the doorway and looks as if she's come to the wrong place. 'What's . . . happened here?' she pants, as if the pizzeria has been burgled in the night by a group of pedants who have cleaned it up as a way of making a political statement" (p. 111).

Definition: If a building is burgled, a thief enters it by force and steals things. [In American English, we would usually say "break into" instead of "burgle."]

**carton** (noun) /'kɑ:rtən/ KAR-tun: "Instead, his gaze alights on what is clearly a foreign carton of cigarettes, left on the counter next to the register" (p. 113).

Definition: A carton is a plastic or cardboard container in which food or drink is sold.

**ceiling** (noun) /'si:lɪŋ/ SEE-ling: "Somebody mumbles something incoherent, throws her arms up at the ceiling as if it's the fault of the ceiling" (p. 108).

Definition: A ceiling is the top inside surface of a room.

**change** (noun) /tʃeɪndʒ/ chaynj: "'I'm six kronor short here,' he says grimly at Vega, after examining the change she's flung back" (p. 114).

Definition: Change is the money that you receive back when you pay for something with more money than it costs.

**clench** (verb) /klɛntʃ/ klench: "The man clenches his fist on the counter, but from the corner of his eye he sees Karl getting out of his chair" (p. 114).

Definition: When you clench your fist, you curl your fingers up tightly.

**coins** (noun) /kɔɪnz/ koinz: "'We don't have any coins left,' Vega says through her teeth" (p. 114).

Definition: Coins are small pieces of metal money.

**color-coded** (adjective) /'kɒlə 'kɔʊdɪd/ KUL-ur KOH-did: "Britt-Marie asks Britt-Marie and goes over to the cash register, where she starts sorting cartons of cigarettes into color-coded piles" (p. 108).

Definition: Things that are color-coded use different colors to represent different things or different categories.

**comply** (verb) /kəm'plaɪ/ kum-PLY: "They look bemused, but comply" (p. 110).

Definition: If you comply, you do what you have been asked to do.

**condition** (noun) /kən'dɪʃən/ kun-DISH-un: "Somebody explains as well as she can in her condition—eyes half-closed, with various scraps of food on her jersey" (p. 105).

Definition: If someone is in a particular condition, they are in a particular state of health or fitness.

**considerately** (adverb) /kən'sɪdərətli/ kun-SID-ur-ut-lee: "'I've never put up a picture before, you have to understand,' explains Britt-Marie, very considerately, when she notices that Somebody is looking exhausted" (p. 106).

Definition: If you do something considerately, you do it in a way that shows you are thinking about other people's wishes and feelings.

**contempt** (noun) /kən'tɛmpt/ kun-TEMPT: "He looks at Vega with interest and she looks at him with contempt" (p. 113).

Definition: If you have contempt for someone or something, you have no respect for them or think that they are unimportant.

**contraband** (noun) /'kɒntrəbænd/ KON-truh-band: "'You mean they're contraband?'" (p. 109).

Definition: Contraband refers to goods that are brought into or taken out of a country illegally.

**cornflakes** (noun) /'kɔːrnflɛɪks/ KORN-flayks: "When she goes out of the kitchen, she finds Somebody sitting in the shop eating fist-sized piles of cornflakes straight from the pack" (p. 108).

Definition: Cornflakes are small flat pieces of corn which are eaten as a breakfast cereal with milk.

**crack open** (phrasal verb) /kræk 'oʊpən/ krak OH-pun: "'No problem,' he says, his face cracking open in a scornful smile as he stuffs his hand into the vase" (p. 115).

Definition: If someone's face cracks open in a smile, they suddenly smile.

**crockery** (noun) /'krɒkəri/ KROK-uh-ree: "The tables are covered in dirty glasses and crockery" (p. 107).

Definition: Crockery is the plates, cups, saucers, and dishes that you use at meals. [This word is not commonly used in American English.]

**cushion** (noun) /'kʊʃən/ KOOSH-un: "Britt-Marie cannot find any tea towels, so she takes two paper towel rolls, carefully lifts Somebody's head, and pushes the paper towel rolls into the cutlery drawer as cushions" (p. 110).

Definition: A cushion is a fabric case filled with soft material, which you put on a seat to make it more comfortable.

**cutlery** (noun) /'kʌtləri/ KUT-luh-ree: "Britt-Marie opens the cutlery drawer and starts arranging the cutlery in the right order" (p. 107).

Definition: Cutlery consists of the knives, forks, and spoons that you eat your food with. [In American English, we typically say "silverware."]

**damp** (adjective) /dæmp/ damp: "Britt-Marie took it inside the recreation center and cleaned it with a damp rag and baking soda" (p. 106).

Definition: Something that is damp is slightly wet.

**decamp** (verb) /dɪ'kæmp/ dih-KAMP: "Somebody seems to have decamped to the kitchen, so in the meantime Britt-Marie does what she always does in these types of situations: she cleans" (p. 109).

Definition: If you decamp, you leave a place secretly or suddenly. [We do not commonly use this word in American English.]

**decent** (adjective) /ˈdiːsənt/ DEE-sunt: "It looks quite decent when she's finished, it really does" (p. 109).

Definition: Decent means of a satisfactory standard or quality.

**decorative** (adjective) /ˈdekəreɪtɪv/ DEK-ur-uh-tiv: "Somebody massages her temples, spins the wheelchair around, and disappears back into the kitchen. Britt-Marie keeps working on the coins in the vase to make them look even more decorative" (p. 110).

Definition: Something that is decorative is intended to look pretty or attractive.

**demarcation** (noun) /ˌdiːmɑːrˈkeɪʃən/ dee-mar-KAY-shun: "Britt-Marie stays in the demarcation area between the groceries and the pizzeria, rearranging cans and cigarette cartons" (p. 109).

Definition: A demarcation is a border or boundary between two places or things.

**deter** (verb) /dɪˈtɜːr/ dih-TUR: "But, as we already said, Britt-Marie is enthusiastic and will not be deterred" (p. 105).

Definition: To deter someone from doing something means to make them not want to do it or continue doing it.

**detention center** (noun) /dɪˈtɛnʃən ˈsɛntər/ dih-TEN-shun SEN-tur: "'I thought the council had closed it down? Bloody waste of taxpayers' money if you ask me. Invest it in juvenile detention centers, that's where the kids end up anyway!'" (p. 115).

Definition: A detention center is a place where young people who have committed crimes are kept as a punishment.

**diffidently** (adverb) /ˈdɪfɪdəntli/ DIF-ih-dunt-lee: "He diffidently asks if Britt-Marie has time to do his hair" (p. 111).

Definition: If you do something diffidently, you do it in a way that shows you are not very confident and are slightly embarrassed.

**disdainfully** (adverb) /dɪsˈdeɪnfəli/ dis-DAYN-fuh-lee: "The man snivels disdainfully and slaps a five-hundred krona note on the counter" (p. 114).

Definition: If you do something disdainfully, you do it in a way that shows you think something or someone is not important or is not worth your respect.

**displeased** (adjective) /dɪsˈpliːzd/ dis-PLLEEZD: "Somebody, extremely displeased, eats fist-sized piles of cornflakes straight from the plate" (p. 108).

Definition: If you are displeased with something, you are annoyed or dissatisfied with it.

**discovery** (noun) /dɪˈskʌvəri/ dis-KUV-uh-ree: "Britt-Marie was having trouble sleeping, what with all the emotions surfacing after the discovery of the balcony" (p. 106).

Definition: If someone makes a discovery, they become aware of something or find something that they did not know about before.

**dramatically** (adverb) /drə'mætɪkli/ druh-MAT-ik-lee: "Vega answers acidly, then, pretending to have suddenly realized something, slaps her forehead dramatically" (p. 114).

Definition: If you do something dramatically, you do it in an exaggerated way to attract attention.

**drill** (noun) /drɪl/ dril: "It's six in the morning and Britt-Marie is enthusiastic. It's a new experience for her. Somebody's state of mind would rather have to be described as the hungover, irascible kind. Britt-Marie has woken her by knocking on the door of the pizzeria at six o'clock to ask her, excitedly, for a drill" (p. 105).

Definition: A drill is a tool for making holes.

**eagerly** (adverb) /'i:gərlɪ/ EE-gur-lee: "He nods so eagerly it's a wonder he doesn't bite his tongue" (p. 111).

Definition: If you do something eagerly, you do it with much interest or enthusiasm.

**effective** (adjective) /'ɪfektɪv/ ih-FEK-tiv: "'A pizzeria without pizzas, seems a pretty effective business venture you have here'" (p. 114).

Definition: Something that is effective works well and produces the results that were intended.

**emotion** (noun) /'ɪmoʊʃən/ ih-MOH-shun: "Britt-Marie was having trouble sleeping, what with all the emotions surfacing after the discovery of the balcony" (p. 106).

Definition: An emotion is a feeling such as happiness, love, fear, anger, or hatred, which can be caused by the situation that you are in or the people you are with.

**enthusiastic** (adjective) /ɪn.θu:zi'æstɪk/ in-thoo-zee-AS-tik: "It's six in the morning and Britt-Marie is enthusiastic" (p. 105).

Definition: If you are enthusiastic about something, you show how much you like or enjoy it by the way that you behave and talk.

**eventually** (adverb) /ɪ'ventʃuəli/ ih-VEN-choo-uh-lee: "'If you're just going to stand there you may as well help out,' says Britt-Marie eventually" (p. 111).

Definition: Eventually means in the end, especially after a lot of delays, problems, or arguments.

**examine** (verb) /ɪg'zæmɪn/ ig-ZAM-in: "'I'm six kronor short here,' he says grimly at Vega, after examining the change she's flung back" (p. 114).

Definition: If you examine something, you look at it carefully.

**exceedingly** (adverb) /ɪk'si:dɪŋli/ ik-SEE-ding-lee: "Then she makes herself exceedingly, exceedingly busy with rearranging a shelf in the grocery section" (p. 113).

Definition: Exceedingly means very or very much.

**excitedly** (adverb) /ɪk'saɪtɪdli/ ik-SY-tid-lee: "Britt-Marie has woken her by knocking on the door of the pizzeria at six o'clock to ask her, excitedly, for a drill" (p. 105).

Definition: If you do something excitedly, you do it in a way that shows you are very happy, interested, or enthusiastic about something.

**exhausted** (adjective) /ɪg'zɔːstɪd/ ig-ZAWS-tid: "'I've never put up a picture before, you have to understand,' explains Britt-Marie, very considerately, when she notices that Somebody is looking exhausted" (p. 106).

Definition: If you are exhausted, you are very tired.

**expense** (noun) /ɪk'spɛns/ ik-SPENSS: "Britt-Marie doesn't know where to look. Sven and Vega are still laughing loudly, which makes her uncomfortable. She assumes it must be at her expense" (p. 115).

Definition: If you do something at someone's expense, you do it in a way that makes them seem foolish or that harms them in some way.

**eyebrow** (noun) /'aɪbrəʊ/ EYE-brow: "Somebody raises her eyebrows at the information chart when Britt-Marie mentions 'art'" (p. 107).

Definition: Your eyebrows are the lines of hair which grow on the ridges of bone above your eyes.

**fetch** (verb) /fɛtʃ/ fech: "And in fact Somebody does own one. She fetches it" (p. 106).

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

**fingerprint** (noun) /'fɪŋgəprɪnt/ FING-gur-print: "'I work at the recreation center,' says Britt-Marie, glaring at the fingerprints on the newly polished vase for the tips" (p. 115).

Definition: Fingerprints are the marks made by a person's fingers which show the lines on the skin.

**fist-sized** (adjective) /fɪst saɪzd/ fist syzd: "When she goes out of the kitchen, she finds Somebody sitting in the shop eating fist-sized piles of cornflakes straight from the pack" (p. 108).

Definition: Something that is fist-sized is about the same size as a fist.

**flee** (verb) /fliː/ flee: "'I have time for your hair now,' she whispers to Pirate and then flees across the parking area" (p. 115).

Definition: If you flee from something or someone, or flee a person or thing, you escape from them.

**flicker** (verb) /'flɪkər/ FLIK-ur: "The BMW does a wheelspin as it leaves the parking area. Britt-Marie doesn't know where to look. Sven and Vega are still laughing loudly, which makes her uncomfortable. She assumes it must be at her expense. So she also hurries towards the door. 'I have time for your hair now,' she whispers to Pirate and then flees across the parking area. The door closes with a merry tinkling. The boy runs out, the man marches behind him and slams the door so hard that the fluorescent tube on the ceiling flickers" (p. 115).

Definition: If a light flickers, it shines unsteadily.

**fling** (verb) /flɪŋ/ fling: "'I'm six kronor short here,' he says grimly at Vega, after examining the change she's flung back" (p. 114).

Definition: If you fling something somewhere, you throw it there using a lot of force.

**fluorescent tube** (noun) /flʊ'resənt tu:ɪb/ floo-RES-unt toob: "The boy runs out, the man marches behind him and slams the door so hard that the fluorescent tube on the ceiling flickers" (p. 115).

Definition: A fluorescent tube is a glass tube containing a gas that produces light when electricity passes through it. [In American English, we would call this a "fluorescent light" or "fluorescent lightbulb."]

**fluffy** (adjective) /'flʌfi/ FLUF-ee: "She tries to make them look fluffy, as if they were potting soil" (p. 109).

Definition: Something that is fluffy is soft and light.

**foreseeable** (adjective) /fɔ:ri'si:əbl/ for-SEE-uh-bul: "The men look a little as if she has asked whether they're planning on using their kidneys in the foreseeable future or if she can take them" (p. 111).

Definition: If something is foreseeable, you can predict that it will happen or that it is likely to happen.

**forehead** (noun) /'fɔ:r'hɛd/ FOR-hed: "Vega answers acidly, then, pretending to have suddenly realized something, slaps her forehead dramatically" (p. 114).

Definition: Your forehead is the area at the front of your head between your eyebrows and your hair.

**frantic** (adjective) /'fræntɪk/ FRAN-tik: "'Frantic business activity here, as usual?'" (p. 114).

Definition: If an activity is frantic, things are done quickly and in an energetic but disorganized way.

**gently** (adverb) /'dʒɛntli/ JENT-lee: "Britt-Marie cannot find any tea towels, so she takes two paper towel rolls, carefully lifts Somebody's head, and pushes the paper towel rolls into the cutlery drawer as cushions, onto which she gently lowers Somebody's head" (p. 110).

Definition: If you do something gently, you do it carefully and kindly.

**glare** (verb) /glɛər/ glair: "I work at the recreation center,' says Britt-Marie, glaring at the fingerprints on the newly polished vase for the tips" (p. 115).

Definition: If you glare at someone, you look at them with an angry expression on your face.

**grin** (noun) /grɪn/ grin: "Your husband has good taste,' says the man with a grin" (p. 115).

Definition: A grin is a broad smile.

**grimly** (adverb) /grɪmli/ GRIM-lee: "I'm six kronor short here,' he says grimly at Vega, after examining the change she's flung back" (p. 114).

Definition: If you do something grimly, you do it in a serious and determined way.

**groceries** (noun) /grəʊsəriz/ GROH-suh-reez: "Britt-Marie stays in the demarcation area between the groceries and the pizzeria, rearranging cans and cigarette cartons" (p. 109).

Definition: Groceries are foods you buy at a grocer's or at a supermarket.

**grudgingly** (adverb) /grʌdʒɪŋli/ GRUJ-ing-lee: "Somebody grudgingly opens up and informs Britt-Marie that the pizzeria and all its other financial activities are closed at this time of day" (p. 105).

Definition: If you do something grudgingly, you do it unwillingly because you do not want to do it.

**grunt** (verb) /grʌnt/ grunt: "Somebody roots around behind the counter, grunting something to the effect of, 'Headache tablets . . . where does Vega keep that shit?'" (p. 107).

Definition: If you grunt, you make a low sound, especially because you are annoyed or not interested in something.

**half-closed** (adjective) /hæf kloʊzd/ haf klohzd: "Somebody explains as well as she can in her condition—eyes half-closed, with various scraps of food on her jersey" (p. 105).

Definition: If your eyes are half-closed, they are only partly open.

**harangue** (noun) /hə'ræŋ/ huh-RANG: "She opens the cutlery drawer and swears very loudly, then a long harangue follows in which Britt-Marie can only make out, 'Comes here for to borrow drill and hang picture'" (p. 109).

Definition: A harangue is a long, forceful, and often aggressive speech. [This word is found in literature but less commonly in normal conversation.]

**headache** (noun) /'hedeɪk/ HED-ayk: "Somebody roots around behind the counter, grunting something to the effect of, 'Headache tablets . . . where does Vega keep that shit?'" (p. 107).

Definition: If you have a headache, you have a pain in your head.

**helpfully** (adverb) /'hɛlpfəli/ HELP-fuh-lee: "The men stare at her as if she has just addressed them without using vowels, then go back to their newspapers. Britt-Marie nods helpfully" (p. 110).

Definition: If you do something helpfully, you do it in a way that is useful to someone.

**hint** (noun) /hɪnt/ hint: "'Can we be of assistance?' asks Britt-Marie, in every way mindful of providing good service, without any hint of incrimination" (p. 112).

Definition: A hint of something is a very small amount of it.

**hangover** (adjective) /'hʌŋəʊvər/ HUNG-oh-vur: "It's six in the morning and Britt-Marie is enthusiastic. It's a new experience for her. Somebody's state of mind would rather have to be described as the hangover, irascible kind" (p. 105).

Definition: Someone who is hangover is unwell because they drank too much alcohol on the previous day.

**hygienic** (adjective) /'haɪ'dʒɛnɪk/ hy-JEN-ik: "Britt-Marie then questions why Somebody is there at all, because, as far as Britt-Marie can see, it can't possibly be hygienic to live in a pizzeria" (p. 105).

Definition: Something that is hygienic is clean and unlikely to cause illness.

**ice hockey** (noun) /aɪs 'hɒki/ ys HOK-ee: "The boy is wearing a beaten-up tracksuit top, on which the name of the town twelve miles away is written followed by the word 'Hockey'" (p. 113).

Definition: Ice hockey is a game played on ice between two teams who use long curved sticks to try to hit a small rubber disk, called a puck, into the opposing team's goal.

**incoherent** (adjective) /ɪnkoʊ'hɪərənt/ in-koh-HEER-unt: "Somebody mumbles something incoherent, throws her arms up at the ceiling as if it's the fault of the ceiling" (p. 108).

Definition: If someone is incoherent, they are talking in a confused and unclear way.

**incrimination** (noun) /ɪnˌkrɪmɪ'neɪʃən/ in-krim-ih-NAY-shun: "'Can we be of assistance?' asks Britt-Marie, in every way mindful of providing good service, without any hint of incrimination" (p. 112).

Definition: Incrimination is when you say or do something that makes someone appear guilty of a crime or wrongdoing.

**information chart** (noun) /ɪnfər'meɪʃən tʃɑ:rt/ in-fur-MAY-shun chart: "Somebody finishes her drilling and then hangs up the picture. It's not actually a painting, just a very, very old information chart with a black-and-white map of Borg" (p. 106).

Definition: An information chart is a poster or diagram that provides information about something.

**inhale** (verb) /ɪnˈheɪl/ in-HAYL: "Somebody rolls forward and closes the cutlery drawer. Britt-Marie inhales patiently" (p. 107).

Definition: When you inhale, you breathe in.

**inquiringly** (adverb) /ɪnˈkwɑːrɪŋli/ in-KWY-ur-ing-lee: "Interesting letters, those . . ." he says inquiringly" (p. 113).

Definition: If you do something inquiringly, you do it in a way that shows you want information about something.

**irascible** (adjective) /ɪˈræsɪbəl/ ih-RAS-ih-bul: "It's six in the morning and Britt-Marie is enthusiastic. It's a new experience for her. Somebody's state of mind would rather have to be described as the hungover, irascible kind" (p. 105).

Definition: If you describe someone as irascible, you mean that they become angry very easily. [This word is found in literature but less commonly in normal conversation.]

**jeeringly** (adverb) /dʒɪərɪŋli/ JEER-ing-lee: "The man smiles jeeringly at the men in the corner, and they look back at him as if hoping that by doing so they'll eventually set him on fire" (p. 113).

Definition: If you do something jeeringly, you do it in a way that shows you are laughing at someone in an unkind way.

**jug** (noun) /dʒʌg/ jug: "Pirate is already on his way with the jug" (p. 112).

Definition: A jug is a container with a handle used for holding and pouring liquids.

**juvenile** (adjective) /dʒuːvənəl/ JOO-vuh-nyl: "'I thought the council had closed it down? Bloody waste of taxpayers' money if you ask me. Invest it in juvenile detention centers, that's where the kids end up anyway!'" (p. 115).

Definition: Juvenile means relating to young people who are not yet adults.

**kidney** (noun) /ˈkɪdni/ KID-nee: "The men look a little as if she has asked whether they're planning on using their kidneys in the foreseeable future or if she can take them" (p. 111).

Definition: Your kidneys are the two organs in your body that remove waste matter from your blood and make urine.

**lactose** (noun) /ˈlæktəʊs/ LAK-tohs: "'I am, what's-it-called? Lactose intolerant'" (p. 108).

Definition: Lactose is a type of sugar that exists in milk.

**lactose intolerant** (adjective) /ˈlæktəʊs ɪnˈtɒlərənt/ LAK-tohs in-TOL-ur-unt: "'I am, what's-it-called? Lactose intolerant'" (p. 108).

Definition: Someone who is lactose intolerant has difficulty digesting milk and foods containing milk.

**layer** (noun) /'leɪər/ LAY-ur: "The picture had been leaning up against the wall behind an unmentionable pile of rubbish, covered in a layer of dust so thick that it looked like volcanic ash" (p. 106).

Definition: A layer of a substance or material is a quantity or piece of it that covers a surface or that is between two other things.

**light up** (phrasal verb) /laɪt ʌp/ lyt up: "The next person who steps inside is Sven. A smile lights up his round little face when he catches sight of Britt-Marie" (p. 112).

Definition: If someone's face or eyes light up, they show pleasure or excitement.

**loathe** (verb) /loʊð/ lohth: "For someone who loathes traveling, Britt-Marie has always had a great love of maps" (p. 106).

Definition: If you loathe something or someone, you dislike them very much.

**march** (verb) /mɑːrtʃ/ march: "The boy runs out, the man marches behind him and slams the door so hard that the fluorescent tube on the ceiling flickers" (p. 115).

Definition: If you march somewhere, you walk there quickly and in a determined way, for example because you are angry.

**massage** (verb) /mə'sɑːʒ/ muh-SAHJ: "Somebody massages her temples, spins the wheelchair around, and disappears back into the kitchen" (p. 110).

Definition: If you massage a part of someone's body, you squeeze and rub it in order to make them relax or to stop their muscles from hurting.

**meantime** (noun) /'miːntaɪm/ MEEN-tym: "Somebody seems to have decamped to the kitchen, so in the meantime Britt-Marie does what she always does in these types of situations: she cleans" (p. 109).

Definition: In the meantime means while a particular thing is happening.

**merry** (adjective) /'mɛri/ MAIR-ee: "The door closes with a merry tinkling" (p. 115).

Definition: If you describe someone's character or behaviour as merry, you mean that they are happy and cheerful.

**mindful** (adjective) /'maɪndfəl/ MYND-ful: "'Can we be of assistance?' asks Britt-Marie, in every way mindful of providing good service, without any hint of incrimination" (p. 112).

Definition: If you are mindful of something, you think about it and consider it when taking action.

**mop** (verb) /mɒp/ mop: "'I have to ask you to wipe your feet outside,' Britt-Marie informs them at once. 'I've just mopped the floor, you see'" (p. 110).

Definition: If you mop a surface such as a floor, you clean it with a mop.

**mumble** (verb) /'mʌmbəl/ MUM-bul: "Somebody mumbles something incoherent, throws her arms up at the ceiling as if it's the fault of the ceiling" (p. 108).

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

**mutter** (verb) /'mʌtər/ MUT-ur: "Somebody mutters and tries to close the door" (p. 105).

Definition: If you mutter, you speak very quietly so that you cannot easily be heard, often because you are complaining about something.

**negotiate** (verb) /nɪ'gəʊʃieɪt/ nih-GOH-shee-ayt: "Karl stops. The men at the table look at him as if to clarify that, as far as they are concerned, he should not be negotiating with terrorists" (p. 112).

Definition: If people negotiate with each other, they talk about a problem or a situation in order to reach an agreement.

**object** (verb) /əb'dʒɛkt/ ub-JEKT: "'You're putting in wrong place!' Somebody objects" (p. 108).

Definition: If you object to something, you express your dislike or disapproval of it.

**obliged** (adjective) /ə'blɪdʒd/ uh-BLYJD: "Somebody keeps sleeping in the kitchen; possibly it is Britt-Marie's fault because she's made her too comfortable, but nonetheless Britt-Marie feels obliged to take care of the customers until Vega comes in" (p. 111).

Definition: If you feel obliged to do something, you feel that it is your duty to do it.

**offended** (adjective) /ə'fɛndɪd/ uh-FEN-did: "'What are you trying to say?' says Britt-Marie, a bit offended" (p. 111).

Definition: If you are offended by something, you feel upset, insulted, or annoyed because of it.

**overwhelming** (adjective) /ˌoʊvər'wɛlmɪŋ/ oh-vur-WEL-ming: "Inside there's an overwhelming smell of cigarette smoke and beer" (p. 107).

Definition: If something is overwhelming, it affects you very strongly.

**pack** (noun) /pæk/ pak: "When she goes out of the kitchen, she finds Somebody sitting in the shop eating fist-sized piles of cornflakes straight from the pack" (p. 108).

Definition: A pack is a small container in which a quantity of something is sold.

**pant** (verb) /pænt/ pant: "She stops in the doorway and looks as if she's come to the wrong place. 'What's . . . happened here?' she pants" (p. 111).

Definition: If you pant, you breathe quickly and loudly with your mouth open, because you have been doing something energetic.

**paper towel** (noun) /'peɪpər 'taʊəl/ PAY-pur TOW-ul: "Britt-Marie cannot find any tea towels, so she takes two paper towel rolls, carefully lifts Somebody's head, and pushes the paper towel rolls into the cutlery drawer as cushions" (p. 110).

Definition: A paper towel is a small piece of thick soft paper that you use to dry your hands or to wipe up small amounts of liquid.

**parallel dimension** (noun) /'pærələl dɪ'menʃən/ PAIR-uh-lel dih-MEN-shun: "'Coffee?' the men manage to say and look around as if they have stepped into a parallel dimension where there's a pizzeria just the same as the one where they usually drink their coffee, except this one is clean" (p. 110).

Definition: A parallel dimension is an imaginary universe that exists at the same time as our own but is different from it.

**patiently** (adverb) /'peɪʃəntli/ PAY-shunt-lee: "Somebody rolls forward and closes the cutlery drawer. Britt-Marie inhales patiently" (p. 107).

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

**peals of laughter** (phrase) /pi:lz əv 'læftər/ peelz uv LAF-tur: "Then Vega first, and Sven after, burst into peals of laughter" (p. 115).

Definition: Peals of laughter are loud bursts of laughter.

**pedant** (noun) /'pɛdənt/ PED-unt: "She stops in the doorway and looks as if she's come to the wrong place. 'What's . . . happened here?' she pants, as if the pizzeria has been burgled in the night by a group of pedants who have cleaned it up as a way of making a political statement" (p. 111).

Definition: If you say that someone is a pedant, you mean that they are too concerned with unimportant details or traditional rules, especially in connection with academic subjects. [This word is found in literature but less commonly in normal conversation.]

**pedantic** (adjective) /pɪ'dæntɪk/ pih-DAN-tik: "Or any at all, you might say, if you were being pedantic about it" (p. 111).

Definition: If you say someone is pedantic, you mean that they are too concerned with unimportant details or traditional rules.

**percolator** (noun) /'pɜːrkəleɪtər/ PUR-kuh-lay-tur: "She makes coffee in an entirely normal coffee percolator unaffected by flying stones, and serves this to the men with caps and beards" (p. 110).

Definition: A percolator is a pot for making and serving coffee, in which boiling water is forced up through a tube and falls back down through the coffee.

**pile** (noun) /paɪl/ pyl: "When she goes out of the kitchen, she finds Somebody sitting in the shop eating fist-sized piles of cornflakes straight from the pack" (p. 108).

Definition: A pile of things is a quantity of things that are lying on top of each other.

**pizzeria** (noun) /ˌpɪtsəˈriːə/ peet-suh-REE-uh: "Britt-Marie has woken her by knocking on the door of the pizzeria at six o'clock to ask her, excitedly, for a drill" (p. 105).

Definition: A pizzeria is a restaurant that specializes in pizzas.

**polish** (verb) /ˈpɒlɪʃ/ POL-ish: "'I work at the recreation center,' says Britt-Marie, glaring at the fingerprints on the newly polished vase for the tips" (p. 115).

Definition: If you polish something, you rub it with a cloth to make it shine.

**potting soil** (noun) /ˈpɒtɪŋ sɔɪl/ POT-ing soyl: "She tries to make them look fluffy, as if they were potting soil" (p. 109).

Definition: Potting soil is soil used for planting seeds or plants in containers.

**prattle** (verb) /ˈprætl/ PRAT-ul: "'Please Britt-Marie, don't move shit,' whispers Somebody, like you do when you have a severe headache" (p. 108).

Definition: If you say that someone prattles on, you are criticizing them because they are talking a lot without saying anything important.

**pretend** (verb) /prɪˈtend/ prih-TEND: "Vega answers acidly, then, pretending to have suddenly realized something, slaps her forehead dramatically" (p. 114).

Definition: If you pretend that something is the case, you act in a way that is intended to make people believe that it is the case, although in fact it is not.

**rag** (noun) /ræg/ rag: "Britt-Marie took it inside the recreation center and cleaned it with a damp rag and baking soda" (p. 106).

Definition: A rag is a piece of old cloth which you can use to clean or wipe things.

**raise** (verb) /reɪz/ rayz: "Somebody raises her eyebrows at the information chart when Britt-Marie mentions 'art'" (p. 107).

Definition: If you raise a part of your body, you move it to a higher position.

**reach** (verb) /ri:tʃ/ reech: "His sideburns reach all the way to his chin, Britt-Marie notes" (p. 112).

Definition: When someone or something reaches a place, they arrive there.

**reassuring** (adjective) /ˌriːəˈʃʊərɪŋ/ ree-uh-SHOOR-ing: "There's something reassuring about them, she's always found, ever since Ingrid used to speak to her at night about Paris when they were children" (p. 106).

Definition: If you find someone's words or actions reassuring, they make you feel less worried about something.

**regain** (verb) /rɪˈgeɪn/ rih-GAYN: "'We're having pizzas as well,' says the man, trying to regain the upper hand" (p. 114).

Definition: If you regain something that you have lost, you get it back again.

**relief** (noun) /rɪˈliːf/ rih-LEEF: "'Has everything worked out with the room at Bank's?' asks Sven behind her, but to Britt-Marie's relief he's interrupted by Vega groaning" (p. 113).

Definition: If you feel a sense of relief, you feel glad because something unpleasant has not happened or is no longer happening.

**root around** (phrasal verb) /ruːt əˈraʊnd/ root uh-ROWND: "Somebody roots around behind the counter, grunting something to the effect of, 'Headache tablets . . . where does Vega keep that shit?'" (p. 107).

Definition: If you root around, you search for something by moving other things.

**round** (adjective) /raʊnd/ rownd: "The next person who steps inside is Sven. A smile lights up his round little face when he catches sight of Britt-Marie" (p. 112).

Definition: Something that is round is shaped like a circle or ball.

**rumble** (verb) /ˈrʌmbəl/ RUM-bul: "'Coffee,' Karl rumbles at last" (p. 112).

Definition: If someone rumbles, they say something in a low rough voice.

**sarcastically** (adverb) /sɑːrˈkæstɪkli/ sar-KAS-tik-lee: "'A bit like a trucking company with one manager and no drivers,' Vega responds sarcastically" (p. 114).

Definition: If you say something sarcastically, you say it in a way that shows you mean the opposite of what you are saying.

**scornful** (adjective) /ˈskɔːrnfəl/ SKORN-ful: "'No problem,' he says, his face cracking open in a scornful smile as he stuffs his hand into the vase" (p. 115).

Definition: If you are scornful of someone or something, you show contempt for them.

**scrap** (noun) /skræp/ skrap: "Somebody explains as well as she can in her condition—eyes half-closed, with various scraps of food on her jersey" (p. 105).

Definition: A scrap of something is a very small piece or amount of it.

**sense** (verb) /sɛns/ senss: "Britt-Marie is tentatively reaching for two dirty plates when Somebody, as if she can sense what she is up to, yells" (p. 107).

Definition: If you sense something, you become aware of it or you realize it, although it is not very obvious.

**severe** (adjective) /sɪˈviəɪr/ sih-VEER: "'Please Britt-Marie, don't move shit,' whispers Somebody, like you do when you have a severe headache" (p. 108).

Definition: You use severe to indicate that something bad or undesirable is great or intense.

**short** (adjective) /ʃɔːrt/ short: "'I'm six kronor short here,' he says grimly at Vega, after examining the change she's flung back" (p. 114).

Definition: If you are short of something or short on something, you do not have enough of it.

**shrug** (verb) /ʃrʌɡ/ shrug: "Vega shrugs. 'She's hungover. She always is when soccer's been on'" (p. 112).

Definition: If you shrug or shrug your shoulders, you raise your shoulders to show that you are not interested in something or that you do not know or care about it.

**sideburns** (noun) /ˈsaɪdbɜːrnz/ SYD-burnz: "His sideburns reach all the way to his chin, Britt-Marie notes" (p. 112).

Definition: Sideburns are areas of hair that grow down the sides of a man's face in front of his ears.

**slam** (verb) /slæm/ slam: "The boy runs out, the man marches behind him and slams the door so hard that the fluorescent tube on the ceiling flickers" (p. 115).

Definition: If you slam a door or window or if it slams, it shuts noisily and with great force.

**slap** (verb) /slæp/ slap: "Vega answers acidly, then, pretending to have suddenly realized something, slaps her forehead dramatically" (p. 114).

Definition: If you slap something, you hit it with the palm of your hand.

**snatch** (verb) /snætʃ/ snatch: "'Those are mine!' Britt-Marie exclaims and snatches up the cigarettes" (p. 113).

Definition: If you snatch something, you take it or pull it away quickly.

**snivel** (verb) /ˈsnɪvəl/ SNIV-ul: "The man snivels disdainfully and slaps a five-hundred krona note on the counter" (p. 114).

Definition: If you say that someone is sniveling, you mean that they are crying or complaining in a way that annoys you.

**sober up** (phrasal verb) /ˈsoʊbər ʌp/ SOH-bur up: "In actual fact she only meant to buy some baking soda and Snickers and then leave, but as it doesn't seem responsible to purchase baking soda from someone who is clearly drunk, she has decided to wait until Somebody sobers up" (p. 109).

Definition: If someone sobers up, they become sober after being drunk.

**soberly** (adverb) /ˈsoʊbərli/ SOH-bur-lee: "She nods soberly at Somebody" (p. 106).

Definition: If you do something soberly, you do it in a serious and thoughtful way.

**spectacularly** (adverb) /spɛk'tækjʊləri/ spek-TAK-yuh-lur-lee: "The man's eyes go black. The boy looks spectacularly uncomfortable" (p. 114).

Definition: If something happens spectacularly, it happens in a very noticeable or impressive way.

**spin** (verb) /spɪn/ spin: "Somebody massages her temples, spins the wheelchair around, and disappears back into the kitchen" (p. 110).

Definition: If something spins or if you spin it, it turns quickly around a central point.

**stare** (verb) /stɛər/ stair: "The men stare at her as if she has just addressed them without using vowels, then go back to their newspapers" (p. 110).

Definition: If you stare at someone or something, you look at them for a long time.

**storage room** (noun) /'stɔːrɪdʒ ru:m/ STOR-ij room: "She found it in the recreation center storage room early this morning" (p. 106).

Definition: A storage room is a room used for storing things.

**stuff** (verb) /stʌf/ stuf: "'No problem,' he says, his face cracking open in a scornful smile as he stuffs his hand into the vase and fishes out six kronor" (p. 115).

Definition: If you stuff something somewhere, you push it there quickly and roughly.

**stylish** (adjective) /'stɑːlɪʃ/ STY-ish: "Britt-Marie took it inside the recreation center and cleaned it with a damp rag and baking soda. It looks very stylish now" (p. 106).

Definition: Someone or something that is stylish is elegant and fashionable.

**surface** (verb) /'sɜːrfs/ SUR-fiss: "Britt-Marie was having trouble sleeping, what with all the emotions surfacing after the discovery of the balcony" (p. 106).

Definition: If a feeling or problem surfaces, it becomes obvious.

**swear** (verb) /swɛər/ swair: "She opens the cutlery drawer and swears very loudly" (p. 109).

Definition: If someone swears, they use language that is considered to be rude or offensive.

**tablet** (noun) /'tæblɪt/ TAB-lit: "Somebody roots around behind the counter, grunting something to the effect of, 'Headache tablets . . . where does Vega keep that shit?'" (p. 107).

Definition: A tablet is a small solid round mass of medicine which you swallow.

**tape** (noun) /teɪp/ tayp: "Unfortunately there are no flowers, but there is a vase on the counter next to the register with a white piece of tape stuck to it, where someone has written, 'Tips'" (p. 109).

Definition: Tape is a sticky strip of plastic used for sticking things together.

**tax authority** (noun) /tæks ə'θɔːrɪti/ takz uh-THOR-ih-tee: "'Not together!' whines Somebody and points at one brand of cigarettes with foreign letters on the cartons, and another that doesn't have foreign letters. 'Because of tax authority!' says Somebody" (p. 108).

Definition: A tax authority is a government organization responsible for collecting taxes.

**taxpayer** (noun) /'tækspeɪər/ TAKS-pay-ur: "'I thought the council had closed it down? Bloody waste of taxpayers' money if you ask me'" (p. 115).

Definition: Taxpayers are people who pay a percentage of their income to the government as tax.

**tea towel** (noun) /ti: 'taʊəl/ tee TOW-ul: "Britt-Marie cannot find any tea towels, so she takes two paper towel rolls" (p. 110).

Definition: A tea towel is a cloth used for drying dishes after they have been washed. [In American English, we use the word "dish towel" or "dish cloth."]

**temple** (noun) /'tɛmpl/ TEM-pul: "Somebody massages her temples, spins the wheelchair around, and disappears back into the kitchen" (p. 110).

Definition: Your temples are the flat parts on each side of the front part of your head, near your forehead.

**temporarily** (adverb) /,tɛmpə'rɛrəli/ tem-puh-RAIR-uh-lee: "'The pizza baker is temporarily out of order'" (p. 114).

Definition: If something happens or exists temporarily, it happens or exists only for a short time.

**tentatively** (adverb) /'tɛntətɪvli/ TEN-tuh-tiv-lee: "Britt-Marie is tentatively reaching for two dirty plates when Somebody, as if she can sense what she is up to, yells" (p. 107).

Definition: If you do something tentatively, you do it hesitantly and cautiously.

**terrorist** (noun) /'tɛrərɪst/ TAIR-ur-ist: "Karl stops. The men at the table look at him as if to clarify that, as far as they are concerned, he should not be negotiating with terrorists" (p. 112).

Definition: A terrorist is a person who uses violence, especially murder and bombing, in order to achieve political aims.

**thump** (verb) /θʌmp/ thump: "The man thumps two soft-drink cans on the counter" (p. 114).

Definition: If you thump something, you hit it hard, usually with your fist or with a heavy object.

**tinkle** (verb) /'tɪŋkl/ TING-kul: "The door makes a tinkling sound and a man more or less the same age as Somebody and a boy more or less the same age as Vega come walking in" (p. 113).

Definition: If something tinkles, it makes a clear, high-pitched, ringing noise.

**tips** (noun) /tɪps/ tips: "Unfortunately there are no flowers, but there is a vase on the counter next to the register with a white piece of tape stuck to it, where someone has written, 'Tips'" (p. 109).

Definition: If you give a tip to someone such as a waiter or taxi driver, you give them some money to thank them for their services.

**tolerantly** (adverb) /'tɒləərəntli/ TOL-ur-unt-lee: "'Ha,' says Britt-Marie tolerantly, and rearranges a few cans on a shelf" (p. 108).

Definition: If you do something tolerantly, you do it in a way that shows you accept people's behavior and opinions even if you do not agree with them.

**tongue** (noun) /tʌŋ/ tung: "He nods so eagerly it's a wonder he doesn't bite his tongue" (p. 111).

Definition: Your tongue is the soft movable part inside your mouth which you use for tasting, eating, and speaking.

**top-up** (noun) /'tɒpʌp/ TOP-up: "'Ha,' says Britt-Marie and decides not to offer them a top-up" (p. 111).

Definition: A top-up is an amount of liquid that you add to a container in order to fill it again.

**tracksuit** (noun) /'træksu:t/ TRAK-soot: "The boy is wearing a beaten-up tracksuit top, on which the name of the town twelve miles away is written followed by the word 'Hockey'" (p. 113).

Definition: A tracksuit is a loose, warm outfit consisting of trousers and a top which people wear to relax or when playing sports. [In American English, we use the word "sweats" or "sweatsuit."]

**transmit** (verb) /træns'mɪt/ trans-MIT: "Britt-Marie and Vega's eyes meet, and the girl's sense of panic transmits back" (p. 113).

Definition: When something is transmitted, it is passed or sent from one person or place to another.

**uncomfortable** (adjective) /ʌn'kʌmfətəbl/ un-KUM-ftur-bul: "The man's eyes go black. The boy looks spectacularly uncomfortable" (p. 114).

Definition: If you are uncomfortable, you are slightly worried or embarrassed, and not relaxed and confident.

**unmentionable** (adjective) /ʌn'menʃənəbl/ un-MEN-shun-uh-bul: "The picture had been leaning up against the wall behind an unmentionable pile of rubbish" (p. 106).

Definition: If you describe something as unmentionable, you mean that it is too embarrassing or unpleasant to talk about.

**unsure** (adjective) /ʌnˈʃʊər/ un-SHOOR: "Sven is standing beside them now. He looks unsure of himself" (p. 114).

Definition: If you are unsure of yourself, you lack confidence.

**upper hand** (noun) /ˈʌpər hænd/ UP-ur hand: "'We're having pizzas as well,' says the man, trying to regain the upper hand" (p. 114).

Definition: If you have the upper hand in a situation, you have more power than the other people involved and can make decisions about what happens.

**various** (adjective) /ˈvɛəriəs/ VAIR-ee-us: "Somebody explains as well as she can in her condition—eyes half-closed, with various scraps of food on her jersey" (p. 105).

Definition: If you say that things are various, you mean that there are several different types of them.

**venture** (noun) /ˈvɛntʃər/ VEN-chur: "'A pizzeria without pizzas, seems a pretty effective business venture you have here'" (p. 114).

Definition: A venture is a project or activity which is new, exciting, and difficult because it involves the risk of failure.

**volcanic ash** (noun) /vɒlˈkæntɪk æʃ/ vol-KAN-ik ash: "The picture had been leaning up against the wall behind an unmentionable pile of rubbish, covered in a layer of dust so thick that it looked like volcanic ash" (p. 106).

Definition: Volcanic ash is the powdery substance that is thrown into the air when a volcano erupts.

**vowel** (noun) /ˈvaʊəl/ VOW-ul: "The men stare at her as if she has just addressed them without using vowels, then go back to their newspapers" (p. 110).

Definition: A vowel is a sound such as the ones represented by the letters 'a', 'e', 'i', 'o', and 'u', which you pronounce with your mouth open, allowing the air to flow through it.

**wheelspin** (noun) /ˈwiːlspɪn/ WEEL-spin: "The BMW does a wheelspin as it leaves the parking area" (p. 115).

Definition: If a vehicle's wheels do a wheelspin, they spin on the spot without the vehicle moving forward, because the driver is pressing the accelerator too hard.

**whine** (verb) /waɪn/ wyn: "'Not together!' whines Somebody and points at one brand of cigarettes with foreign letters on the cartons" (p. 108).

Definition: If you say that someone is whining, you mean that they are complaining in an annoying way about something unimportant.

**whisper** (verb) /'wɪspər/ WIS-pur: "'Please Britt-Marie, don't move shit,' whispers Somebody, like you do when you have a severe headache" (p. 108).

Definition: When you whisper, you say something very quietly, using your breath rather than your throat.

**wipe** (verb) /waɪp/ wyp: "'I have to ask you to wipe your feet outside,' Britt-Marie informs them at once. 'I've just mopped the floor, you see'" (p. 110).

Definition: If you wipe something, you rub its surface to remove dirt or liquid from it.

**wonder** (noun) /'wʌndər/ WUN-dur: "He nods so eagerly it's a wonder he doesn't bite his tongue" (p. 111).

Definition: If you say it is a wonder that something happened, you mean that it is very surprising and unexpected.

**yogurt** (noun) /'jɒʊgərt/ YOH-gurt: "'I don't suppose you're having any natural yogurt with that, are you?'" (p. 108).

Definition: Yogurt is a food with a slightly sour taste which is made by adding bacteria to milk.