

Good Material

by Dolly Alderton



About the Book

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *GHOSTS* and *EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT LOVE*: a story of heartbreak and friendship and how to survive both.

Andy loves Jen. Jen loved Andy. And he can't work out why she stopped. Now he is without a home, waiting for his stand-up career to take off, and wondering why everyone else around him seems to have grown up while he wasn't looking.

Set adrift on the sea of heartbreak, Andy clings to the idea of solving the puzzle of his ruined relationship. Because if he can find the answer to that, then maybe Jen can find her way back to him. But Andy still has a lot to learn, not least his ex-girlfriend's side of the story.

In this sharply funny and exquisitely relatable story of romantic disaster and friendship, Dolly Alderton offers up a love story with two endings, demonstrating once again why she is one of the most exciting writers today, and the true voice of a generation.

Discussion Guide

1. You may have read any of Dolly Alderton's previous works, especially her *Times UK* column, "Dear Dolly." If you have, what are the differences and similarities between her fiction and nonfiction? Do you think one informs the other?
2. What did you make of Morris and his relationship with Andy? Did he surprise you in the end?
3. There are a lot of interesting passages from Andy's point of view about the differences between men and women, and specifically his insecurity that women are able to access a deeper or more complex plane of emotion than he seems to be,

or at least that women think that of him. What do you make of this? Do you suspect it's a common anxiety? How should we address it either on an individual or a collective level?

4. ?I soon realised that inevitably of every relationship: that the things that initially draw you to each other become the exact things that irritate you the most.? Do you agree or disagree? If so, how do you cope with that in a healthy partnership?

5. In the end, who did you find yourself empathizing with more --- Andy or Jen?

Author Bio

Dolly Alderton is an award-winning author, screenwriter and journalist based in London. She is a columnist for *The Sunday Times Style* and has also written for *GQ*, *Red*, *Marie Claire* and *Grazia*. She is the former co-host and co-creator of the podcast "The High Low."

Her first book, *EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT LOVE*, became a top five *Sunday Times* bestseller in its first week of publication, won a National Book Award (UK) for Autobiography of the Year, and was made into a BBC One TV Series. *GHOSTS*, her first novel, was published in 2021. *DEAR DOLLY*, a collection of her agony aunt columns from the *Sunday Times Style* magazine, was published in 2022 and was also a *Sunday Times* bestseller.

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