**FLEABAG**

Characters story origin reactions “You already know what you’re going to do. Everybody does.” Introduction Fleabag Fleabag is a bit of an oddball and people are often confused by her dark sense of humor. She maintains a snarky inner monologue that she tries to soften when she interacts with people, but she’s not always successful at tamping down her acerbic point of view. Though Fleabag can come across as awkward or even arrogant, deep down she has a good heart. She has been struggling to find joy in life ever since Boo’s death. She often thinks back on their happy memories together and seems unable to move forward in a health way. Underneath her sarcastic exterior, she’s clearly haunted by a sense of trauma and maybe ever guilt. She wants to get out of her funk and move on with life, but her issues feel too big and terrifying to truly confront. Fleabag describes Claire as a “super high-powered perfect anorexic super sister.” Claire needs to be in control at all times. She hates surprises so much that she takes over and plans her own surprise birthday party to avoid others disappointing her. She loves her sister, even though she has a hard time saying that. He is charismatic with a blunt personality. He often swears and jokes - unlike the "typical priest". He likes helping people with their troubles, even to the point that it comes as a default. He’s a “cool priest”: he swears, he drinks tequila, he smokes, and he has accepting views about religion and sex. He’s also funny—he jokes that he’s only in the priesthood for the outfits. And he's compassionate and a good listener. The Priest argues that “celibacy is a lot less complicated than romantic relationships.” Even after becoming a priest, though, he’s been no stranger to flirtatious relationships and temptation. But they’ve gone nowhere. Lately, though, he’s found it can be difficult to stand firm in his convictions in the face of a strong connection. Martin is flat-out abusive toward Fleabag and everyone else. His personality is best described as vulgar and offensive. He constantly belittles Fleabag, despite attempting to kiss her on his wife's birthday. He is disloyal, therefore, and an alcoholic. He has described himself as a "good guy" with a "bad personality." Martin is an art expert and dealer, and is married to Claire, the sister of the series' protagonist and titular character, "Fleabag". He has a son, Jake, who he has custody of from a previous marriage. He is despised by Fleabag, causing Fleabag to grimace every time she sees him or hears his name. Martin is the kind of man who will make an offensive joke, and then blame you for getting offended because you're being too touchy, "loosen up!". One could say, Martin, for all his flaws and faults, actually loves his wife Claire. Belinda said, "I feel like you can love someone and still treat them like shit. Just means you're a d\*\*khead. Dad and godmother Dad is the father of Fleabag and Claire. His first wife died of cancer and he remarried his daughter's Godmother. It's clear that he was deeply affected by the death of his wife and the girls' mother, but when it came time for him to step up and be their sole parent, he was not up for the challenge. He is a man who has an extremely difficult time sharing his emotions and offering fatherly words of advice and warmth to his daughters. Godmother is one of the most entertaining yet infuriating characters on the show. She presents herself as an extremely positive and warm person, but she can be horribly mean through her passive-aggressive ways. She is especially mean to Fleabag in this manner, making comments and putting her in situations, knowing full well how insulting she is being. BOO Boo was Fleabag's best friend, and co-owner of the cafe that the two of them ran. Boo accidentally killed herself after learning that her boyfriend had cheated on her. She intended to injure herself by stepping out into a bike lane, but the resulting crash caused the death of three people, including Boo. Boo was Fleabag’s everything; her number one. We meet Boo through flashbacks, like Fleabag’s memories, and during these scenes, Fleabag never acknowledges the viewer. She does not need to, because in these memories, Boo is that person that Fleabag can be herself with. Boo seemed like the perfect match for our imperfect Fleabag, displaying a similar quirky personality and humor. An original, Boo developed an endearing obsession with guinea pigs after being gifted one by Fleabag. She soon transformed the cafe she and Fleabag founded together into a guinea pig themed one. “She was a surprising person,” Fleabag puts it in the sixth episode. Over the course of six episodes, Fleabag, the owner of a struggling café, appears to apply for a business loan, has arguments with her courteously repulsive stepmother, engages in a love-hate relationship with her more seasoned sister, and juggles a dimwitted boyfriend and a hookup. Throughout the course of the season, she experiences flashbacks of a tragic event that includes her late best friend who was also her business partner. Furthermore, Fleabag, who is frequently enraged and grieving rejects anyone who even hints at trying to help her. As her guinea pig eatery continues to struggle throughout the season, she exposed and we get an unfiltered view of a person trying to cope with guilt. While Fleabag has changed a lot during the hiatus, in particular when it comes to her relationship with herself, her Father, Godmother, sister Claire, and brother-in-law Martin have been stuck in their own emotional holding patterns. While Claire loves working in Finland, her relationship with alcoholic Martin is worse than ever. Fleabag’s Father and Godmother are now engaged, with her Godmother still holding most of the power in their relationship. Fleabag finds a kindred spirit at the dinner table in the form of Hot Priest, the man who will be marrying Father and Godmother at their wedding. Like Fleabag, his pain and healing comes out in the form of socially-inappropriate honesty, often with a comedic and/or self-deprecating twist.

Fleabag is a British comedy-drama television series created and written by Phoebe Waller-Bridge, based on her one-woman show first performed in 2013 at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. It was originally produced by Two Brothers Pictures for digital channel BBC Three in a co-production agreement with Amazon Studios. Waller-Bridge stars as the title character, a free-spirited but angry and confused young woman in London. Sian Clifford stars as Fleabag's sister Claire, while Andrew Scott joined the cast in the second series as 'The Priest'. The protagonist frequently breaks the fourth wall to provide exposition, internal monologues, and a running commentary to the audience. The show premiered on 21 July 2016 and concluded its second and final series on 8 April 2019 It received widespread acclaim from critics, particularly for its writing, acting, and the uniqueness and personality of the title character. Many critics and viewers have called it one of the greatest comedy series of all time. Waller-Bridge won the British Academy Television Award for Best Female Comedy Performance for the first series. The second series received 11 Primetime Emmy Award nominations and won six, with Waller-Bridge earning Outstanding Comedy Series, Outstanding Lead Actress, and Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series; additional acting nominations were received by Clifford, Olivia Colman, and guest stars Fiona Shaw and Kristin Scott Thomas. The series received the Golden Globe Award for Best Television Series and Best Actress for Waller-Bridge, and a nomination for Scott. The show is adapted from Waller-Bridge's 2013 Edinburgh Festival Fringe one-woman play of the same name which won a Fringe First Award. The initial idea of the character of Fleabag came from a challenge by a friend, where Waller-Bridge was given the task of creating a sketch for a 10-minute section in a stand-up storytelling night. Waller-Bridge's sister, Isobel Waller-Bridge, composed the music for both series. Both series of Fleabag received widespread acclaim from television critics, and the show as a whole is considered one of the greatest of the 21st century. At review aggregation website Rotten Tomatoes, both series received approval ratings of 100%. The first series received an average rating of 8.5/10, based on 42 reviews, with the site's critical consensus reading: "Clever and viciously funny, Fleabag is a touching, wildly inventive comedy about a complicated young woman navigating the aftermath of trauma." The second series received an average rating of 9.3/10, based on 97 reviews, with the critical consensus stating: "Fleabag jumps back into the fray with a bracing second season that upholds its predecessor's frenzied wit and delicate heart, replete with Phoebe Waller-Bridge's indefatigable charisma". At Metacritic, the first series received a weighted average score of 88 out of 100, based on 19 critics, while the second series received a score of 96, based on 21 critics, both signifying "universal acclaim".