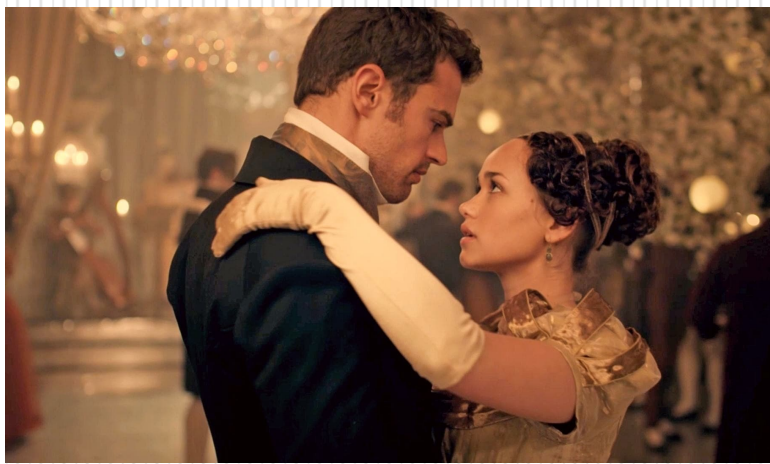


# #MeToo? Establishing Consent in Portrayals of the Regency Era



Dr. Christine D. Myers, Independent Scholar  
NEPCA 2022



Sidney & Charlotte, *Sanditon* S1 (2019)



Simon & Daphne, *Bridgerton* S1 (2020)



Alexander & Charlotte, *Sanditon* S2 (2022)



Kate & Anthony, *Bridgerton* S2 (2022)



“As we all know, there is nothing this author loves more than a scandal, and tonight's soiree promises more than its fair share, courtesy of the recently widowed Lady Trowbridge. Some may call her celebrations too provocative, and I would caution any young lady from getting caught up in the sensual nature of her fêtes. For one scandalous move between an unwed couple, a wayward touch or, heaven forbid, a kiss, would banish any young lady from society in a trail of ruin.”

~ Lady Whistledown, S1 Ep4



Sidney & Charlotte, *Sanditon* S1 (2019)



Simon & Daphne, *Bridgerton* S1 (2020)



Charlotte & Alexander, *Sanditon* S2 (2022)



Kate & Anthony, *Bridgerton* S2 (2022)





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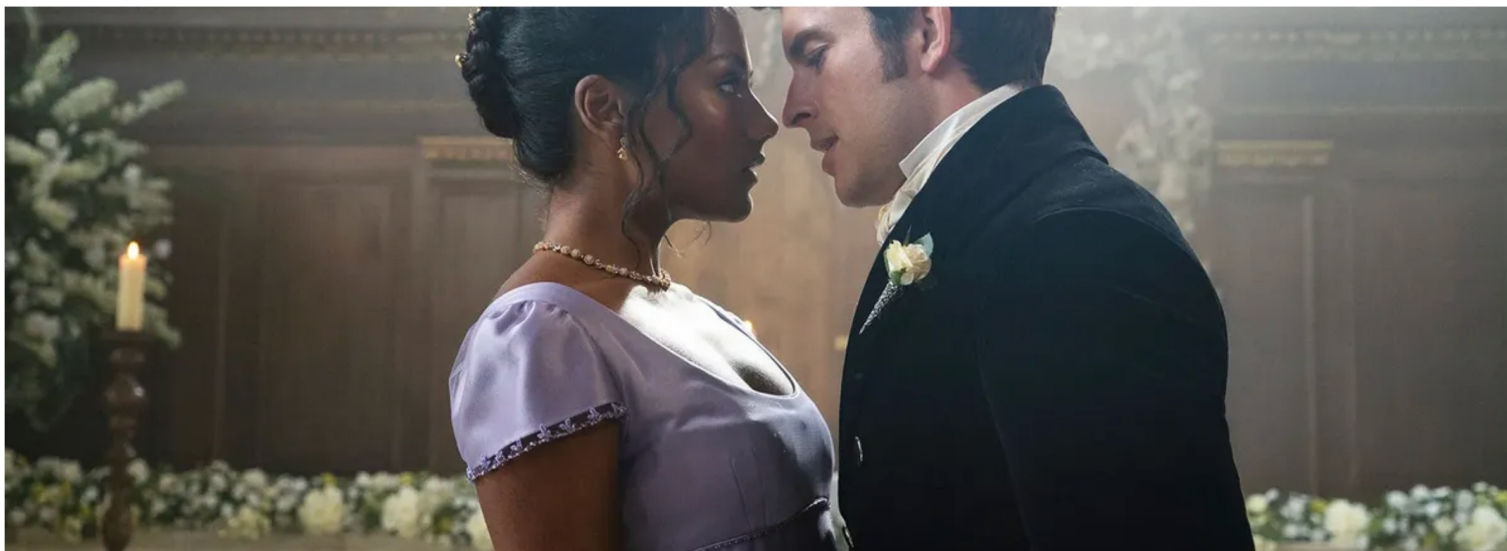
COMMENTARY

## Why "Bridgerton" and "Sanditon" dialed back the sex – and came out stronger for it

Despite the public outcry, viewers of Regency-era dramas are fine with fewer sex scenes, if it means more romance

By **MELANIE MCFARLAND**

PUBLISHED APRIL 3, 2022 3:30PM (EDT)





RadioTimes.com

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Monty

@MontyDeWitt · [Follow](#)



It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a hand job in the woods

**#Sanditon**

3:49 PM · Aug 25, 2019



♡ 182    💬 Reply    🔗 Copy link

[Read 5 replies](#)

And as some were happy to point out, it's not your usual Austen plot twist...



Sarah

@sarahvanpelt · [Follow](#)



Is this the 'Jane Austen' adaptation with the hand job?

**#sanditon**

3:03 PM · Aug 25, 2019



♡ 3    💬 Reply    🔗 Copy link

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*Sanditon S1 Ep 1*



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3:03 PM · Aug 25, 2019



♡ 3    💬 Reply    🔗 Copy link

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*Sanditon S1 Ep 2*

*Sanditon S1 Ep 1*



## Bridgerton has a rape scene, but it's not treated like one

Bridgerton wants to explore consent while it ignores its own glaring consent issue.

By Aja Romano | @ajaromano | Dec 26, 2020, 9:00am EST

f t SHARE



Regé-Jean Page as Simon Basset and Phoebe Dynevor as Daphne Bridgerton in *Bridgerton*. | Liam Daniel/Netflix

Simon & Daphne, *Bridgerton* S1 (2020)





“All is fair in love and war, but some battles leave no victor, only a trail of broken hearts that makes us wonder if the price we pay is ever worth the fight. The ones we love have the power to inflict the greatest scars. ...The bond between man and bride is private, sacred. But I must tell you, I have learned that a grave fraud is afoot. ...Desperate times may call for desperate measures, but I would wager many will think her actions beyond the pale. Perhaps she thought it her only option, or perhaps she knows no shame. But I ask you, can the ends ever justify such wretched means?”

~ Lady Whistledown, S1 Ep6



Anthony: “Please go inside.  
Go in...side.”

Kate: “What did I tell you  
about you and your  
orders?”

Anthony: “I will stop.”

Kate: “Do not stop.”

Anthony: “I will stop.”

Kate: “Do. Not. Stop.”

~ S2 Ep7



Kate & Anthony, *Bridgerton* S2 (2022)



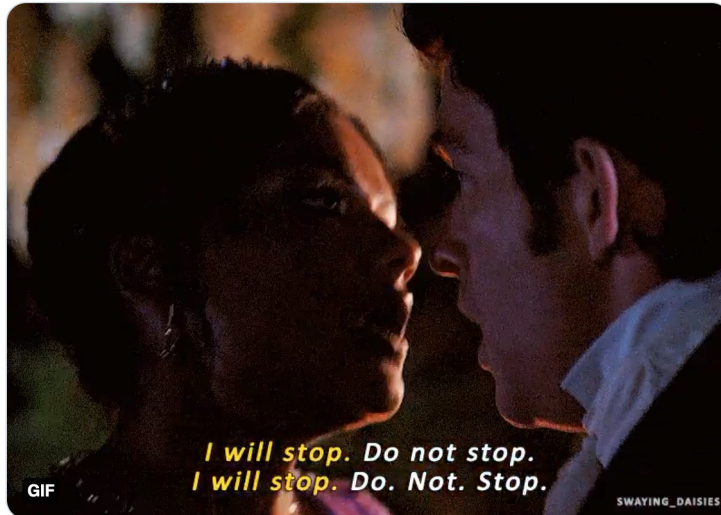
← Thread



kristen kathy era  
@swaying\_daisies

...

“There’s something incredibly sexy about consent generally. It wasn’t scripted, [the line where] Anthony is saying to her, “I will stop, I will stop.” And that’s something that we put in the sex scene, because I think it’s really important.” - Jonny Bailey  
[#Kanthony](#) [#Bridgerton](#)



12:19 PM · Apr 1, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

1,836 Retweets 695 Quote Tweets 13.2K Likes



kristen kathy era @swaying\_daisies · Apr 1

...

Replying to @swaying\_daisies

IT WASN'T SCRIPTED



29

1,086



Lona @lilies\_lady · Apr 1

...

Replying to @swaying\_daisies

We love a man who asks the woman he loves her consent before proceeding to devour her. Jonathan Bailey rose the bar high

1

47

1,031



future PhD @kelseyelaine\_ · Apr 1

...

A literal devouring

1

152





PD 🌟🌟🌟  
@TheBestParker\_

Perfect example of where a romance heroine's hands SHOULD be when she's actively participating in a passionate, consensual kiss with a partner she desires ❤️🔥 It's not rocket science 😊 #justsaying



8:06 AM · Apr 9, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



Mouse @MousePerla · 13m

Replying to @TheBestParker\_

🔥 Consent is everything!



1



4



PD 🌟🌟🌟 @TheBestParker\_ · 51s

It really is! It's bizarre that anyone would think otherwise, especially for a drama being written by modern day writers regardless of when it's set 🧑



Lola 🌸🧡🐝 @lolaanne1986 · 10m

Replying to @TheBestParker\_

I love how in the articles, the actors were the ones to bring consent into the scene, they really understood the assignment and the writing team for listening to them and their requests.



1



2



PD 🌟🌟🌟 @TheBestParker\_ · 2m

Yes! This tweet sums it up perfectly 🔥 Consent is sexy!

kristen 🐝 kathy era @swaying\_daisies · Apr 1

"There's something incredibly sexy about consent generally. It wasn't scripted, [the line where] Anthony is saying to her, 'I will stop, I will stop.' And that's something that we put in the sex scene, because I think it's really important." - Jonny Bailey

#Kanthony 🧡 #Bridgerton 🧡

[Show this thread](#)





**here for the donuts** @dizzyreader1 · Apr 11

...

No difference. Even the same aggressive neck grab. Charlotte did not deserve this.





**GoodLife809**  
@GLife809

Replying to @SanditonSister2 @alwaysonmymnd and @rekrapyendis

And so they trashed Charlotte too saying she “wanted it.” Thanks to Justin who set back the [#MeToo](#) movement for lots of women who experience men in power over them taking advantage of them. Interesting, Justin brings the “casting couch” aka sofa, to the regency era. [#JASanditon](#)

1:29 PM · Apr 20, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



**Nadia @nedwards338** · 5h

Replying to @begum\_saifa @BritBox\_UK and 2 others

He took her home (after someone kissed her against her will) and manipulated her, then kissed her (an employee).

This is a predatory character, NOT an Austen hero. Not even inspired. Maybe the inspiration was Willoughby.

[#SidlotteForever](#) [#LetSidlotteHaveTheirKidlottes](#)



2



12



24



**Emma @EmmaDanGee** · 4h

[#SidlotteForever](#) [#SidneyParker](#) [#LastAustenHero](#)  
[@masterpiecepbs](#) should be ashamed to be connected....





**Sanditonian Deb** ❤️👤 @DebandCo3 · Apr 5

...

This is not the story that [#JaneAusten](#) would have written. Young girls should not learn to be like "this" version of Charlotte. [@masterpiecepbs](#) [#cHARLOTte](#)





“The kiss was so huge for Colbourne, a real lead up of longing. He hasn’t been able to be like that with someone for such a long time, and he’s able to unload emotionally. Leading up to the kiss, so much baggage has been hanging over him for so long that it is incredibly powerful for him.”

~ Ben Lloyd-Hughes





“The kiss was so huge for Colbourne, a real lead up of longing. He hasn’t been able to be like that with someone for such a long time, and he’s able to unload emotionally. Leading up to the kiss, so much baggage has been hanging over him for so long that it is incredibly powerful for him.”

~ Ben Lloyd-Hughes

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**MASTERPIECE:**

Another big moment is Colbourne and Charlotte’s first kiss.

**BEN LLOYD-HUGHES:**

Yes, a big moment as a character, as an actor, both. It’s a real lead up of longing for Colbourne. Leading up to the kiss, so much baggage has been hanging over him for so long that it is incredibly powerful for him.



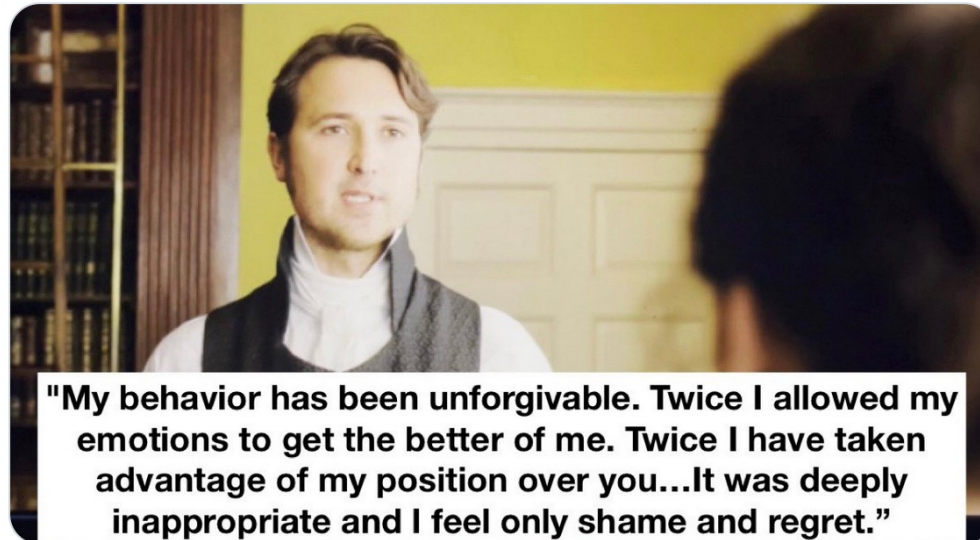
**Mimi\_the\_Cat** @Mimithe20536023 · 35m

...

So even this anti-hero acknowledges that he had taken advantage of his employee...hmm 🤔

I agree! This is a story of abuse not love!

It should've been [#SidlotteForever](#)



**"My behavior has been unforgivable. Twice I allowed my emotions to get the better of me. Twice I have taken advantage of my position over you...It was deeply inappropriate and I feel only shame and regret."**



**Lindsay Spread Qi** @QiSpread · 14s

...

Yes! 🌞🌞 I love it! LOL 😂 [#Sanditon](#) [#SanditonS2](#) (AVERT YOUR EYES IF YOU DON'T ENJOY A GOOD SNOG) [#Heybourne](#) is my happy place ❤️



**Justin Young** @YoungJustin · 8m

Replying to @itsalicetime

It's a kissing show. As you wish.



**Livie** 🍷 @Livie81 · 2h

...

If he had such a strong desire in this moment to kiss her like this just imagine what he'll be like on their wedding night 🤔😱 [#Rawr](#) [#TakeHerAgainstTheWall](#) [#GetMySmellingSalts](#) [#Sanditon](#) [#SanditonS2](#) [#SanditonS3](#)





**Sungirl**   
@sungirlaloha

Replying to @DebandCo3 @jenvan16 and 2 others

**#SanditonS2** is w/o a leading man of worth.  
Male characters served only to: assault, ruin & dismiss  
**#AustenHeroine** 🙄 She, who was once head  
strong/opinionated, reduced to flighty, fickle and  
desperate.

@wgbh @PBS @ITV This is your best? **#notbuyingit**  
**#SidlotteDeservedBetter**

9:09 AM · Oct 17, 2022 · Twitter for Android

...



**Shannon** @elsee11 · 3m

**#SidlotteForever** **#JASanditon** **#LastAustenHero**

...



**ValerieM** @Valerie8632 · 58m

...

Replying to @jenvan16 and @masterpiecepbs

Absolutely agree. Disgraceful messaging by @masterpiece for girls or  
anyone in this time period or another. AC abused the 1st wife & will do the  
same to the next no doubt. Safe to say **#JaneAusten** would never have  
written or condoned this. It should always be **#SidlotteForever**.