

April 2014

## How I Met Your Mother Buying Guide

Are you searching for a new sitcom to fill the gap in your life where Friends used to go? With nine Emmy awards under its belt don't miss out on How I Met Your Mother (BBFC rating 15), the comedy from 20th Century Fox that knows how to tug on your heartstrings, and find the perfect gift for the biggest of fans.

Let me tell you a story

In the year 2030 the protagonist Ted Mosby is telling his teenage children about how he and his wife came together. That, and various anecdotes about his time living in New York City. It's safe to say that he covers every last detail as we journey through his life until we, the audience, ever see her, so it's a good job every last minute is packed with laughs and the occasional tear. Over the 9 years in which we view these characters you'll witness their development – Ted learning harsh lessons from his mistakes, Lily and Marshall learning the depths of their love, and Robin slowly leave her relationship cocoon. Soon you'll even forget about Ted finding his one true love as the others and their stories become just as enthralling.

While this might seem like your standard sitcom affair, there is one secret ingredient that'll keep you hooked: the very fact that it's a recounted story opens up the series for some truly creative moments. One example of this is having a girl be called "blah blah" for an entire episode due to forgetting her name. Being as he's also telling this to his children there's some clever censoring, so all they know is that Ted once called Lily a "grinch". As an audience you might be experiencing it linearly but Ted jumps back and forth between the important times in his life and gives them some wise insight, giving the series a definite emotion punch.

Things to consider when buying

Of course, any true fan is going to want (or already have) the DVD boxsets; there are eight seasons – distributed by 20th Century Fox – to pick up for anyone missing any in their collection, or the compilation of all them with over 65 hours of content, including bloopers, deleted scenes and behind-the-scenes documentaries. Don't forget that these are also available on Blu-Ray if you're looking to upgrade yours or a friend's collection to HD.

Being a small phenomenon over in the United States there's an entire mountain of merchandise to go along side it. One example that will make any fan happy is the Bro Code, a book 'written' by the character Barney Stinson that dictates how someone lives to be the "perfect bro" (there's even a specific Bro Code for Parents, so you can raise the perfect bro too). If it's Barney himself you can't get enough of then don't forget to pick up the impeccably-dressed bobblehead so you can have a bro with you at all times.

The team behind the clothing have as much of a sense of humour as the show itself, releasing pieces that's sometimes straight from the series, like the feared ducky tie that Marshall challenges fashion-conscious Barney to wear for an entire year. Any fan of the show would love a t-shirt based on [Slapsgiving and the slap bet](#), one of the most celebrated plot-lines of the show. For those looking for something a little bit more subtle but still iconic then why not consider purchasing the yellow umbrella that the fabled mother herself carries, something instantly recognisable between fans.

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## The cast of characters

You might have heard of the show before and seen the DVDs but who exactly are the players in this story? Here's some information for the uninitiated:

Ted (played by Josh Radnor) is a lovesick architect in the greatest city of the world: after multiple flings, girlfriends and fizzled-out old flame he's fed up of 'playing the game' and just wants to settle down with his perfect girl. Robin Sherbatsky (played by Cobie Smulders) finds herself moving to New York to pursue a career in TV journalism – a endless source of humour for the gang when she winds up on a new show so early that only drunk students watch. Barney Stinson (played by Neil Patrick-Harris) is almost the exact opposite of Ted, forging his lifestyle and his impeccable wardrobe to conquering every last woman he can find. The perfect bachelor, he's always insisting Ted "suits up" so he can have a night that's "[legen-- wait for it... dary!](#)" Marshall Eriksen (played by Jason Segal) and Lilly Aldrin (played by Alyson Hannigan) look like the perfect couple, spontaneously bursting into song and cute nicknames (amongst other things). As the show goes on you see just how far they're willing to go for each other and tackle the problems every couple faces, such as breaking in to a school prom to scout the band for their wedding.

During the meandering story you can look forward to spotting the doppelgangers of each character in season five, Marshall and Lily's powder keg of a wedding in season two and the agonising love triangle between Barney, Robin and Ted that reaches fever pitch in season seven. Whether your laughing or crying it's never too late to get into *How I Met Your Mother*, one of the modern television classics of our time.