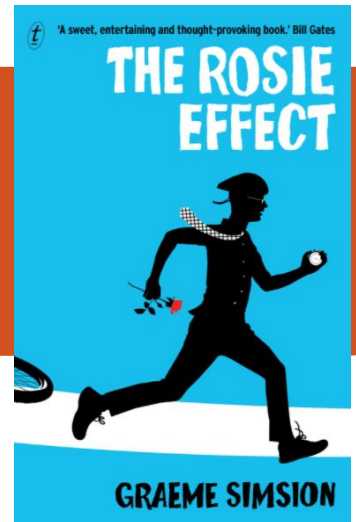




The Rosie Effect

Graeme Simsion



Author Background

Graeme Simsion admires Bob Dylan, drinks too much, talks too much, has walked the Camino de Santiago, driven a Kombi van around Australia, and once gave a conference presentation dressed as a duck!

Graeme was born in New Zealand and moved to Australia when he was 12 years old – naturally, Australia has embraced him as one of their own! As well as a writer of novels, Graeme is a screenwriter, playwright, and IT consultant. He has produced some of his screenplays for film.

Before deciding to write full-time, Graeme founded IT consulting firm, Simsion Bowles & Associates. He travelled the world to lecture and consult on data modelling and wrote several core texts on the subject.

He resides in Melbourne, is the partner of Anne Buist, psychiatrist and novelist, and a father of two.

Book Summary

The Rosie Effect is the sequel to *The Rosie Project*. Don Tillman and Rosie Jarman are now married and living in New York. Don has been teaching while Rosie completes her second year at Columbia Medical School. Just as Don is about to announce that Gene, his philandering best friend from Australia, is coming to stay, Rosie drops a bombshell: she's pregnant.

In true Tillman style, Don instantly becomes an expert on all things obstetric. But in between immersing himself in a new research study on parenting and implementing the Standardised Meal System (pregnancy version), Don's old weaknesses resurface. And while he strives to get the technicalities right, he gets the emotions all wrong, and risks losing Rosie when she needs him most.

The Rosie Effect is as charming and hilarious as its predecessor.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ At the beginning of *The Rosie Effect*, we see Don has made significant progress in allowing more flexibility in his life. What do you think is the most impressive change?
- ❖ Don notes that Rosie can compartmentalise her organisation skills – she’s in control of her thesis but leaves her bath towel around the house. How are you different at work versus home?
- ❖ Discuss the scene in which Rosie tells Don that she is pregnant. How does Rosie want Don to react? How do you think his sister’s fatal ectopic pregnancy affects his feelings about her pregnancy?
- ❖ Discuss Don’s ability to sympathise versus his inability to empathise. Do you think this problem is exclusive to Don?
- ❖ Don has multiple mechanisms in place to maintain order. Do you have any similar systems or habits that you rely on to help keep your life organised?
- ❖ As he and Rosie hurdle toward her due date, Don realises that change is unstoppable. He thinks change is a bad thing. Do you think change can be good? Discuss some examples.
- ❖ Discuss the relationship between George and his son, who both abused drugs. How much can a parent blame themselves for their child’s shortcomings? At what point must a child be held accountable for their actions?
- ❖ Some readers suggest Rosie is unreasonably intolerant of Don. Do you agree? Has Rosie changed in this book?

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