



# Discussion Guide



## About the Book

Book Title: *The Rosie Project*

Author: Graeme Simsion

Author Website: <http://graemesimsion.com/>

Book Website: <http://books.simonandschuster.com/The-Rosie-Project/Graeme-Simsion/9781476729091>

## Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of the book?
2. What did you think the author was trying to communicate with this story?
3. Did you relate to the main character, Don? Why or why not?
4. Did you find this to be a realistic interpretation of Asperger's Syndrome? Explain.
5. The book's theme seemed to be revolving around the limits of science and the importance of relationships. How did this theme play out around Rosie and Don, Claudia and Gene, Rosie and her search for her father, and the other characters?
6. Do you think that persons with Asperger's Syndrome can function well in relationship? Why or why not?
7. Would you recommend this book for other Book Clubs? Why or why not?
8. In what ways, if any, will this book change your life or perspective?
9. With which of the MAMs do you most agree about this book?

*Other Links...*

<http://www.litlovers.com/reading-guides/13-fiction/9442-rosie-project-simsion>

## Nancy and the MAMs discuss the book...



**NANCY:** At a time when we have growing concern about the rise of autism in our society and the challenges it creates, this book helps give us hope that there are ways for people with autism to live fulfilling lives and even train themselves to move toward loving relationships.

I found the book a fun and quick read. I was drawn into the inner life of a man with Asperger's Syndrome, a most enjoyable person, so easy to identify and like as he pursued projects of finding fathers and a wife with his meticulous approach and keen intellect. Graeme Simsion crafts a good tale with remarkable twists and turns, as we realize the imperfections in relationships, and also the love.



**SALLIE:** As you know, I love to laugh! So I did laugh a lot reading this book. Starting off the author had Don Tillman begin by giving a lecture on Asperger's Syndrome. But, when Claudia asked, "Sound familiar?", you realized Don had no awareness of his problem. Then the search for Rosie's father included many humorous escapades. And Don's attempts to find the perfect wife, with a questionnaire, also made me laugh. Human life confounds and transcends scientific method, which to me seemed to be the message of this book. Keep laughing and work with our imperfections!



**ABIGAIL:** I loved when Rosie and Don visited the museum of natural history in New York... and walked the 110 meter spiral staircase from the Big Bang to the present... Rosie said, "Wow!" "Then in this vanishingly small moment in the history of the universe, she took my hand, and held it all the way to the subway." (p. 216). Beautifully written. And remember that Don could have quite happily spent the whole time in NYC in the Museum of Natural History!



**MOLLY:** Yes, but look at what opened up to him, when Rosie took him out of his comfort zone! Love takes us places we'd never imagined. Don Tillman perhaps wasn't capable of feeling love, and yet he did seem to be drawn to spending time with Rosie and the serendipities of letting go of control and scheduling for adventure! Don't you think this book was saying life is more than the science? More than the sum of the parts?



**PRISCILLA:** Well, the morals were somewhat lacking in this book. Although I did appreciate that at least Rosie and Don wanted to be monogamous. And in the end, Don seemed to tell Gene off for his nonstop womanizing. And also, Don, realized he had done some illegal things and seemed to be sorry for what he had done.



**KATHARINE:** Well, I of course focused on the academic community. Quite a cast of characters, between the men in Rosie's mother's medical class, and Gene's escapades with women from different countries. And then we have the Dean trying to keep Don under control, seeking funding for research and keeping the students happy, too. In the end, it was a nice touch that Don began to understand how hard the Dean's job could be, and also in helping the international student, he seemed to look beyond his own rigidity. We hope these things happen in academia!



**JANE:** Well, well, well. I'm trying to figure out what I thought about this book. I guess I'd have to say, "Go Rosie!" for holding out as a feminist, and "Yeah, Don!" for trying hard to support her in that. Although sometimes he got it wrong! Like when he didn't tell her she looked beautiful, so she wouldn't think he was viewing her as an object.