



**Some topics to consider while reading *Rosie*:**

- Alcoholism
- Parenting
- The transition from childhood to adulthood/innocence to experience
- Mother-daughter relationships
- Female friendships
- Religion/spirituality

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## ROSIE

by Anne Lamott

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A year ago Rosie's dad died; but this young girl, wild of hair, smart of mouth and with an open heart, is busy embracing the world. Unfortunately her mother Elizabeth is finding the business of living much more difficult.

*Rosie* is the first of Anne Lamott's best-selling trilogy about a mother and daughter and how Elizabeth and Rosie, two forceful and complex people attempt to rebuild their family of two.



### About Anne Lamott

Anne Lamott is the author of the New York Times best sellers *Grace (Eventually)*, *Plan B*, *Traveling Mercies*, and *Operating Instructions*, as well as seven novels, including *Crooked Little Heart* and *Imperfect Birds*, the second and third books in the Ferguson family trilogy. She is also a columnist for Salon magazine, and a regular contributor to 'O' the Oprah Magazine. A past recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship, she lives in Northern California.

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**Discussion questions**

- 1 The novel opens with, 'There were many things about Elizabeth Ferguson that the people of Bayview disliked.' In your opinion, is Elizabeth a likeable, or relatable character?
- 2 Following Andrew's death Rosie begins to take care of Elizabeth and takes on the role of responsible parent/spouse. How does this impact on their mother-daughter relationship?
- 3 How does Anne Lamott portray alcoholism?
- 4 Elizabeth and Andrew teach Rosie about God, the afterlife and how to pray. When Andrew is no longer apart of their lives, how do Rosie and Elizabeth address their spiritual beliefs?
- 5 Discuss Elizabeth's friendship with Rae.
- 6 The narrator frequently shifts between Rosie and Elizabeth's points of view. While reading the book, did you find yourself identifying more/empathising with one character over the other?
- 7 Was Rosie's decision to take the ten dollars from her mother's purse a simple cry for attention? If you were Elizabeth, how would you have reacted?
- 8 Compare Elizabeth's personality and approach to parenting with Sybil Thackery's. Is one woman a better parent than the other?
- 9 How does James entering the family impact on Elizabeth and Rosie's relationship?