

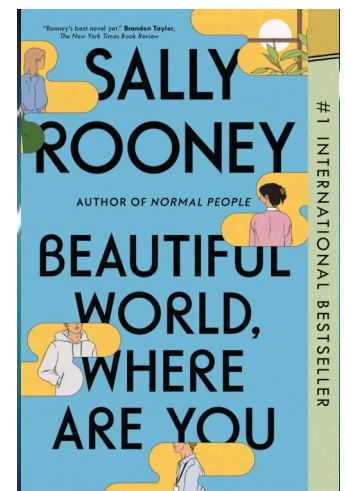
# BOOK CLUB in a bag



## Beautiful World, Where Are You Sally Rooney

### Discussion Questions

1. This is largely a book about relationships—between Alice and Eileen, Alice and Felix, Eileen and Simon— but there are many significant connections throughout the book. Discuss these relationships, how they're formed, and how they evolve over the course of the book.
2. How does technology shape the way the characters communicate with each other? How does Rooney describe technology?
3. Why do you think the author decided to tell parts of this story in the form of letters? DO you think this added or took away from the book?
4. A lot of the characters have feelings and opinions about religion, politics, and art—what did you think of these discussions? Who did you find yourself agreeing with the most? Who do you find yourself disagreeing with the most?
5. Many have said there is an autobiographical element to this book, with Alice and her life being compared to the author's. Do you think this could be true?
6. Are Alice and Eileen two distinct people? Are they two possible lives for one person? Do their emails read like they're written by two different personalities?
7. How do Lola and Damian contrast with their siblings? How does our early family live colour who we become—and who we are determined not to become?
8. Did you like the ending of the book, why or why not?
9. In her acknowledgements, the author describes the multiple origins of the novel's title. What does the beautiful world finally mean to Alice, Felix, Eileen, and Simon? Do the find it? Would the title mean something else if it ended with a question mark?
10. How does this work compare to the author's previous works? Do you like this more or less?



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## About the Author

Sally Rooney is the author of the novels *Conversations with Friends*, *Normal People* and *Beautiful World, Where Are You*. She was the editor of the *Stinging Fly* in 2018 and a Cullman Center Fellow at the New York Public Library from 2019–20. She was nominated for an Emmy for her work on the television adaptation of *Normal People*, which was broadcast on CBC Gem in 2020.

Via Penguin Random House Canada (<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/authors/2144569/sally-rooney>)

Sources: <https://the-bibliofile.com/beautiful-world-where-are-you/>; [https://www.bookbrowse.com/reading\\_guides/detail/index.cfm/book\\_number/4315/beautiful-world-where-are-you#reading\\_guide](https://www.bookbrowse.com/reading_guides/detail/index.cfm/book_number/4315/beautiful-world-where-are-you#reading_guide); <https://mytbr.co/beautiful-world-where-are-you-book-club-questions/>; <https://bookclubs.com/discussion-guides/beautiful-world-where-are-you-a-novel>

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