

BOOK CLUB in a bag

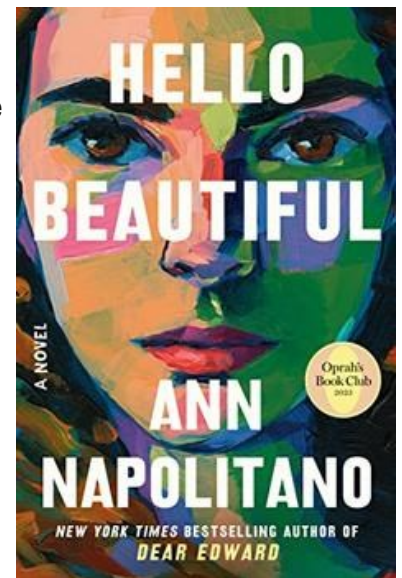


Hello Beautiful

Ann Napolitano

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the rift that occurs between William, Julia, and Sylvie, and the choices each character makes to contribute to that rift. If you were involved in a similar situation, what might you have done?
2. How did the ending make you feel? What do you think might happen for William and Alice next?
3. Ann Napolitano has said that *Hello Beautiful* is an homage to Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. Have you read *Little Women*—and, if so, what traces of Alcott's classic novel of sisterhood do you see in Napolitano's?
4. *Hello Beautiful* is initially narrated from three perspectives: William's, Julia's, and Sylvie's. Why do you think the author chose these particular characters to tell the story? Whose voice did you enjoy or relate to the most? How did you feel when Alice's voice entered the story?
5. Discuss how mental health plays a role in the story of *Hello Beautiful*. Did William's depressive experience feel "real" to you, for example? What about his parents'?
6. Sylvie imagined her life to be full of "third doors," or unexpected ways of living that allow her to choose her own path. What third doors can you see in your own life? Have you ever wanted to make an unexpected decision? What did you choose?
7. Charlie described his daughter Julia as his "rocket"—an ambitious, independent woman who follows her own dreams. What about his other daughters: Do you think they fit that description as well, and how? What about Rose? You may take this opportunity to talk about the mother-daughter relationships in the novel as well.
8. *Hello Beautiful* highlighted a series of romantic partnerships: Charlie and Rose's, Julia and William's, Sylvie and William's, Emeline and Josie's. Which relationship do you think was the ideal in terms of love and connection, and why? Which were the most challenging?
9. Discuss the character of Alice. In what ways was she like her mother? Her father? Sylvie, the aunt she doesn't remember?
10. While family was at the center of most of these characters' lives, friendships were also of great, life-affirming importance. Kent and Carrie, for example, were vital to William's and Alice's existence. What do you think friends add to our lives that families don't or can't? Do you have a best friend like Kent or Carrie?



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About the Author

Ann Napolitano is the bestselling author of *Hello Beautiful* which was selected as Oprah's 100th Book Club pick; *Dear Edward*, an instant *New York Times* bestseller, a *Read with Jenna* selection, and an Apple TV+ series; *A Good Hard Look*, and *Within Arm's Reach*. For seven years, Napolitano was the associate editor of the literary magazine *One Story*, and she received an MFA from New York University. She has taught fiction writing at Brooklyn College's MFA program, New York University's School of Continuing and Professional Studies, and Gotham Writers Workshop.

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